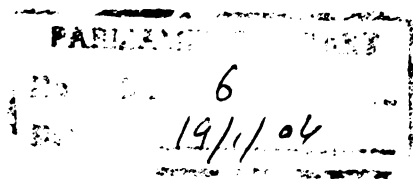


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, May 9, 2003/Vaisakha 19, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.)
Hon. Speaker, Sir, the condition of sugarcane growers has become pitiable. They are in distress. Discussions have been held constantly on this subject in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* The Minister of Food has given a wrong statement that sugar mills would not be closed down until the crushing of sugarcane is over...*(Interruptions)*. On the basis of information available with me I would like to say that several sugar mills have been closed down in U.P. ...*(Interruptions)* The crop of sugarcane of the farmers is still standing in their fields. ...*(Interruptions)* Yesterday the farmers burnt the effigy of Prime Minister in front of the Rashtrapati Bhawan to express their resentment and lodged their protest by burning the sugarcane and potato.

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is very important point. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East): Sir, the issue of sugarcane growers has been discussed not once, but several times in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Hon. Minister leaves the House after giving here assurance but nothing happens. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received three notices of Adjournment Motion. The first notice is regarding resentment among the sugarcane, potato and wheat

growers for not redressing their problems. The second notice which I have received is from Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. It is about denial of State honour to Shri Jagdish Bhai, renowned freedom fighter, by the UP Government. The third notice is given by Shri C.N. Singh regarding threat to life and alleged harassment to a Member on making a statement in Lok Sabha on the functioning of UP Government.

The same hon. Members have also given me notices for suspension of Question Hour. I have disallowed the Adjournment Motions and also the notices for suspension of Question Hour. But, at the same time, all these issues can be raised during 'Zero Hour. Particularly on the issue of sugarcane, potato and wheat growers, being the last day of the Session, I have requested the hon. Minister to be present and he will be replying on this issue.

These are the notices which I have received.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I have give a privilege notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I have received your privilege notice also. Your privilege notice can also be taken up later.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, hon. Minister of Food said yesterday that the sugar mills would not be closed down as long as the crop of sugarcane is standing in the fields. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please raise it during Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh ji, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important matter of privilege in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, Mr. Malhotra speaks in a different tone when he comes in the meeting of leaders. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The matter can be raised after the Question Hour.

[English]

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no quarrel between the two groups of Members.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have seen and the entire House has witnessed that they were repeatedly asked to leave the House. They were repeatedly intimidated and asked to tender their apology later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me know what he has to say.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not going into the details as to why we could not hold discussion on the question of defence, the security of the country has been compromised. I do not want to say that some members are behaving irresponsibly and working in an undemocratic manner. This is a separate thing. But it is a grave matter of privilege and I want you to take note of it and refer this matter to the Committee of Privileges. ...*(Interruptions)*

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, all of us have given the notice jointly. We want that all of us should be given a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, when a question was addressed to George Saheb, four hon. Members were asking questions, but they were repeatedly asked to leave the House and they were intimidated too when they refused to leave the House, action was taken against them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

[English]

Sir, page 255 of the Fourth Edition of Kaul and Shakhder's *Practice and Procedure of Parliament* says:

MR. SPEAKER: I am not starting a debate on this.

"Any attempt to intimidate Members by threats with a view to influencing them in their parliamentary conduct is a breach of privilege."

[Translation]

The Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party have committed a grave breach of privilege by reprimanding four Members of Parliament for doing their duty with diligence and integrity.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a request to you about the question which has been raised by hon. Malhotra ji that every member has certain privileges in the House. Hon. Members were raising questions before the hon. Minister of Defence in the context of these privileges of Members in this House in respect of the security of the country. The questioner had to apologise for asking questions as reported in the newspaper. This amounts to breach of privileges only and tendering apology by him in the matter is as good as punishment for him. Notices have been issued to other persons also. So I want to request that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it a crime if any hon. Member asks a question in the House or raises a question on Calling Attention Motion and as to whether whip can be issued against hon'ble Member on this count. It can be understood to issue the whip at the time of voting, but when a question or Calling Attention Motion of a Member is listed for the day and he remains present in the House to ask his question. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): This is an internal matter of the party. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will you prefer to respond on behalf of the Congress party. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not received notices from the Members. The Members have not made any complaint to me.

[Translation]

Please take your seat. Discussion is going on another matter.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, has the hon. Member given you in writing.

MR. SPEAKER: I am telling the same. I did not receive any of letter from him. Mr. Jha, you please speak.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Shri Mulayam Singh ji and we people have given you the notice of privilege.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have information to that effect but this is not the time to give notice. I just want to know.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: They have been intimidated not to participate in the proceedings of the House.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges; this has been written in the book written by Kaul and Shakhder.* You please refer it to the Committee of Privileges. Hon. Members are compelled to tender apology for asking questions here, they are intimidated.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received notices from several Members on the Privilege Motion which is before us. Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Shri Prabhunath Singh, Shri Raghunath Jha and a number of other Members have given the Notices.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): My name is also there. You forget my name.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received the notices from Renu Kumari and Jasodaji. How can I forget your name.

[English]

After receiving these notices, I am going to consider them and I will reply to you in due course of time.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This is a bogus notice.

...(Interruptions)

11.10 hrs.

(At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table)

11.10½ hrs.

(At this stage Shri Prabhunath Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your respective seats. I have to maintain discipline in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your respective seats and speak from there.

...(Interruptions)

11.11 hrs.

(At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

11.11½ hrs.

(At this stage Shri Prabhunath Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

*Expunged as order by the chair.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shivraj Patil, would you like to say anything?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. I have said that the privilege notice is under my consideration. Everybody must occupy his seat first. Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot give you time more than this. You have placed your matter before the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have not completed my point. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told you that the points submitted by you is under my consideration.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is a member free to speak anything. ...(Interruptions) We can also speak and also want to respond to the points raised here. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli): What is this. ...(Interruptions) Is this the way. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been watching for the last one year...* You do not talk about that. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will remove it from the record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever thing is not relevant, will be removed from the record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shivraj Patil, may I go to the Question Hour? I think that is the only way out.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen to Shri Shivraj Patil. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had called my name first. ...(Interruptions) Please let me complete first, I have given a notice of privilege motion. ...(Interruptions) Shri Shivraj Patil has not given any notice whereas I have given the notice, so please allow me to speak first. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not to be able to allow each and every Member on their notices because it is not possible as per the rules.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have called my name. ...(Interruptions) I am on my legs. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have risen on my asking and now when I am asking to you to sit down, you should take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: You first called my name. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I called your name, but I called the name of Shri Raghunath Jha also after you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: You please give me two minutes to speak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already given two minutes time to all of you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I will conclude within two minutes. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. ...(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the chair.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are in Question Hour. Therefore, there is no point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my point of order is that when any member utters unparliamentary words you expunge that particular word from the proceedings but what about the unparliamentary gesture by any member? I want your ruling on this. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are raising your point of order in Question Hour. Therefore, I am not allowing you to raise this.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my point of order may please be heard. When any hon'ble member uses unparliamentary expression the Chair expunge that from the proceedings of the House to conduct the House but when there is unparliamentary gesture in the House on the part of any hon'ble Member then it is a point of order. I want your ruling on this because there is unruly scene in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you go by rules I cannot allow any hon'ble Member to speak on any of the subjects at this point of time. Despite being aware of the rules you are raising point of order. Are you not aware of the rules.

[English]

We take up the Question Hour first. After that, during the 'Zero Hour', I am prepared to allow him to speak on the notice that he has given, not now.

[Translation]

Why are you talking about rules? It can't be that whatsoever you talk in the House shall become a rule.

[English]

Please co-operate. In the interest of the smooth conduct of the House, we sometimes allow the Members to speak. But, it does not mean that the entire time of the Question Hour will be taken on this. Whether from this side or that

side, we must all co-operate. It is a matter of one minute and you can say that this is your matter.

Shri Prabhunath Singh, I have given you one minute. After one minute, I will not allow you to continue.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that when any member from any political party exercises his right in the House as happened yesterday, some hon'ble Members from Congress asked questions from the Defence Minister. Protesting against his reply. Congress party members boycotted the House keeping with their old tradition, but four hon'ble members from the Congress party stayed back and asked questions from the Defence Minister. Today it has been reported in the newspapers that one of those four hon'ble Members had to tender apology and remaining three members have been asked to clarify their position. Shri Malhotraji has just told, referring to page 255 of the book written by Kaul and Shakhder, a case of breach of privilege can be made out against Congress leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the deputy leader of the Congress. This matter may be referred to the Committee of Privileges and you should take action in this regard as per rule. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that it is the right and duty of every member to ask questions and get reply thereto in the House towards execution of his Parliamentary responsibility. Earlier they used to resort to boycott but yesterday when four of their members asked questions during the course of discussion under the calling attention motion and then listened to the replies thereto, it was in exercise of their parliamentary functions but even then they have been reprimanded and intimidation they were subjected to, clearly makes out a case of breach of privileges as Shri Malhotraji has quoted from Kaul and Shakhder. For breach of privilege Shrimati Soniaji and Shri Patilji. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have to take up the Question Hour. Shri Shivraj Patil please speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): It is like the pot calling the Kettle black. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, I want to say that it is provided in tenth schedule of our Constitution that every political party has a right to direct its members

as to the manner in which vote or not to vote in the House. It has been our tradition to protest any wrong doing of the Government or any member and the most civilized manner of protest is to walk out from the House and not to rush to the well of the House. Today those people are raising the issue of privilege who use to rush to the well of the House. ...*(Interruptions)* We have been resorting to walkouts. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Your members always rush to the well of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you. The hon'ble member is also speaking with my permission.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: As per provisions of the anti defection law, constitutional provisions and the decision taken by our party we can ask our members to abide by the decision taken by our party. If they do not abide by that we are free to deal with them in the House as well as outside in such manner as the party decides. I don't know how it has become a matter of privilege. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. He has a right to speak. Let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Privilege motion should be moved against those who rush to the well of the House, who use vulgar language and intimidate others by flashing muscles here in the House. Their behaviour is not being considered as a matter of privilege, on the other hand what we are doing outside the House has become a matter of privilege. Sir, the notice is before you and if you want to give your ruling on that we will speak later on. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 683—Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda—Not present.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Enough is enough, please sit down. There is limit to everything.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice regarding freedom fighters.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given my ruling on that I will allow you to speak during Zero Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, who will take care of the farmers. It is the last day of the session today.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the hon'ble Minister here. He will be coming here after 'Zero Hour' and tell about it.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given my ruling. There is no need to repeat it. I have told thrice that.

[English]

I will examine it and give my ruling.

11.18 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Economic Cost of Wheat/Rice of FCI

*684. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment in regard to economic cost of wheat and rice with the Food Corporation of India during 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the heads of expenditure which are taken into account while working out the economic cost; and

(d) the percentage of increase registered in annual expenditure incurred under each head during the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The economic cost of wheat and rice of the Food Corporation of India for 2002-03 (RE) is as under:—

Wheat — Rs. 891.73 per qtl.
Rice — Rs. 1223.17 per qtl.

(b) and (c) The details of the economic cost under different heads of expenditure of wheat and rice are given at Annexure-I.

(d) Details of the percentage variation registered in annual expenditure (Rate per qtl.) incurred in the last three years are given at Annexure-II and III.

Annexure I

Details of Economic Cost for 2002-03 (RE)

	Wheat Rate Rs. Qtl.	Rice Rate Rs. Qtl.
	1	2
1. Pooled cost of Grain	596.30	994.71
2. Procurement Incidentals		
A. Statutory/Obligatory cost:		
(i) Mandi charges	38.45	6.51
(ii) Purchase Tax	24.77	8.33
(iii) Gunny Cost	39.52	50.19
Total	102.74	65.03
B. Labour & Transport charges	23.75	12.15
C. Storage & Interest charges paid to State Agencies:		
(i) Storage Charges	2.30	0.08
(ii) Interest	9.51	0.25
(iii) Previous year Arrears	3.73	7.05
Total	15.54	7.38
D. Admn. charges to State/Agencies	15.50	3.09
E. Others (Guarantee Fee etc.)	0.74	N.A.
Total Proc. Incidentals	158.27	87.65
3. Acquisition cost	754.57	1082.42
4. Distribution cost:		
(i) Freight	42.40	23.68
(ii) Handling charges	25.96	25.96

	1	2
(iii) Storage Charges	16.84	16.84
(iv) Interest	36.10	51.75
(v) Shortages	2.06	8.72
(vi) Admn. Overhead of FCI	13.80	13.80
Total Distribution cost	137.16	140.75
5. Economic cost	891.73	1223.17

Annexure II

The percentage of increase registered in annual expenditure (rate per qtl.) under each head during last three years

	Rate Rs. Qtl. 1999-2000	Qtl. 2000-01	% of increase/ decrease over last year	2001-02 (Prov.)	% of increase/ decrease over last year	2002-03 (RE)	% of increase/ decrease over last year	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
WHEAT								
1.	Pooled cost of Grain	518.08	542.41	4.70	578.29	6.61	596.30	3.11
2.	Procurement Incidentals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
A. Statutory/Obligatory cost:								
(i)	Mandi charges	29.76	33.41	12.26	34.13	2.16	38.45	12.66
(ii)	Purchase Tax	19.42	21.04	8.34	23.65	12.40	24.77	4.74
(iii)	Gunny Cost	29.70	34.06	14.68	36.36	6.75	39.52	8.69
	Total	78.88	88.51	12.21	94.14	6.36	120.74	9.14
B.	Labour & Transport charges	16.16	17.64	9.16	21.44	21.54	23.75	10.77
C. Storage & Interest charges paid to State Agencies:								
(i)	Storage Charges	1.80	2.10	16.67	1.76	-16.19	2.30	30.68
(ii)	Interest	9.21	6.89	-25.19	7.59	10.16	9.51	25.30
(iii)	Previous year Arrears	0.14	1.18	742.85	2.56	116.97	3.73	45.70
	Total	11.15	10.17	-8.79	11.91	17.11	15.54	30.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	D. Admn. charges to state/ Agencies	9.92	11.14	12.29	15.25	36.89	15.50	1.64
	E. Others (Octroi, Gunny trans., Guarantee Fee etc.)	0.95	0.74	-22.11	10.40	1305.41	0.74	-92.88
	Total Proc. Incidentals	117.06	128.20	9.52	153.14	19.45	158.27	3.35
	F. Carryover charges to State Govts.*	50.37	46.72	-7.25	—	—	—	—
3.	Acquisition cost	685.15	717.33	4.64	731.43	1.97	754.57	3.16
4.	Distribution cost:							
	(i) Freight	92.66	59.25	-36.06	39.02	-34.14	42.40	8.66
	(ii) Handling charges	28.52	27.27	-4.38	24.00	-11.99	25.96	8.17
	(iii) Storage Charges	15.01	12.66	-15.66	14.29	12.88	16.84	17.84
	(iv) Interest	41.14	46.68	13.47	33.00	-29.31	36.10	9.39
	(v) Shortages	8.40	3.64	-56.67	2.39	-34.34	2.06	-13.81
	(vi) Admn. Overhead to FCI	16.27	16.65	2.34	15.07	-9.49	13.80	-8.43
	Total Distribution cost	202.00	166.15	-17.75	127.77	-23.10	137.16	7.35
5.	Economic cost	887.51	883.48	-0.45	859.20	-2.75	891.73	3.79

*Carryover charges have been included in buffer carrying cost as per recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission from 2001-02.

Annexure III

*The percentage of increase registered in annual expenditure (rate per qtl.)
under each head during last three years*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		<u>Rate Rs. Qtl.</u> 1999-2000	<u>Qtl.</u> 2000-01	% of increase/ decrease over last year	2001-02 (Prov.)	% of increase/ decrease over last year	2002-03 (RE)	% of increase/ decrease over last year
RICE								
1.	Pooled cost of Grain	831.24	877.27	5.54	987.66	12.58	994.77	0.72
2.	Procurement Incidentals—							
	A. Statutory/Obligatory cost:							
	(i) Mandi charges	5.50	6.22	13.09	5.43	-12.70	6.51	19.89

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	(ii) Purchase Tax	7.09	7.90	11.42	7.47	-5.44	8.33	11.51
	(iii) Gunny Cost	30.42	36.05	18.51	45.01	24.85	50.19	11.51
	Total	43.01	50.17	16.65	57.91	15.43	65.03	12.29
	B. Labour & Transport charges	8.81	10.13	14.98	10.49	3.55	12.15	15.82
	C. Storage & Interest charges paid to State Agencies:							
	(i) Storage Charges	0.07	—	—	0.08	—	0.08	0.00
	(ii) Interest	0.20	0.10	-50.00	0.22	120.00	0.25	13.64
	(iii) Previous year Arrears	1.55	6.67	330.32	11.35	70.16	7.05	-37.89
	Total	1.82	6.77	271.98	11.65	72.08	7.38	-36.65
	D. Admn. charges to state/ Agencies	2.42	2.79	15.29	3.21	3.09	3.09	-3.74
	E. Others (Guarantee Fee etc.)				Not Applicable			
	Total Proc. Incidentals	56.06	69.86	24.62	83.26	19.18	87.65	5.27
	F. Carryover charges to State Govts.				Not Applicable			
3.	Acquisition cost	887.30	947.13	6.74	1070.92	13.07	1082.42	1.07
4.	Distribution cost:							
	(i) Freight	58.32	59.82	2.57	16.36	-72.65	23.68	44.74
	(ii) Handling charges	28.52	27.27	-4.38	24.00	-11.99	25.96	8.17
	(iii) Storage Charges	15.01	12.66	-15.66	14.29	12.88	16.84	17.84
	(iv) Interest	53.12	61.74	16.23	48.33	-21.72	51.75	7.08
	(v) Shortages	16.26	11.80	-27.43	6.58	-44.24	8.72	32.52
	(vi) Admn. Overhead to FCI	16.27	16.65	2.34	15.07	-9.49	13.80	-8.43
	Total Distribution cost	187.50	189.94	1.30	124.63	-34.38	140.75	12.93
5.	Economic cost	1074.80	1137.07	5.79	1195.55	5.14	1223.17	2.31

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was as to whether the Government had made any estimate about the economic cost of wheat and rice of the Food Corporation of India for 2002-03. The overall cost of foodgrains as worked out in 1999-2000 was Rs. 831.24 per quintal, it was Rs. 877.27 in 2000-2001,

in 2001-02, it was Rs. 887.68 per quintal and similarly it was Rs. 994.77 per quintal in 2002-03. As per the estimates for 2002-03, the economic cost of wheat and rice of the Food Corporation of India was Rs. 891.73 and Rs. 1223 respectively per quintal. I want to say through you, Sir, that the concept of the Public Distribution

system was that common consumers should get wheat and rice at cheaper rates. But the situation now is that wheat is purchased at the rate of Rs. 550 of Rs. 600 per quintal from the farmers, they are not even getting Rs. 550 per quintal. But the cost of the same wheat goes up to Rs. 900 per quintal till it reaches the Food Corporation of India. The most important question today is that the Public Distribution System has lost its utility. When a common consumer gets wheat at Rs. 9 per kg from a ration-shop, then what is the utility of the PDS? I would like to submit through you that a committee was set up last time. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You ask your question.

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: I am asking the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Why don't you ask straight. You are wasting your time and the time of other hon. Members as well.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I am asking the question only.

I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what efforts the Government are making to reduce the economic cost of the Food Corporation of India.

[*English*]

Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad has recommended reconstruction of the Food Corporation of India to reduce the cost of operating the country's foodgrains management system.

[*Translation*]

This institution has in its report recommended that the economic cost should be reduced. What measures have you taken to implement the recommendations of Hyderabad-based staff college. What meaningful initiatives have been taken by the Government to check the wasteful and unnecessary expenditure of the Food Corporation of India?

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: The hon. Member wants to know in detail about the heads which are being taken into account while calculating the economic cost and the increase in expenditure on these heads, the hon. Member wants to know about that in particular. If we go through the increase of expenditure on these heads during the last three years, we see that the full details are given therein right from the MSP to procurement and distribution

under the PDS and also about maintenance, freight etc. The economic cost as worked out in 1999-2000 was Rs. 887.51 per quintal for wheat taking all these heads in account. This cost went up to Rs. 883 in 2000-2001. Then in 2001-02 it was Rs. 859 slightly lower than the previous year and again it went up to Rs. 891 in 2002-03 and in 2003-04, it will not go up beyond Rs. 920. If we see it closely the increase in the MSP was Rs. 50 in 1999-2000 and it was only Rs. 20 in 2001-02. SMP includes the mandi tax besides the tax given by the State Governments. As a result of which the MSP is automatically bound to increase with the increase in the cost. But as regards the storage charges and administrative expenses of the FCI, a decline of 27 per cent was registered in 2000-01 as compared to 1999-2000 on these heads. Then again in 2002-03 there was also some decline in the above expenses. Where storage charges and administrative expenses showed a constant decline, there was increase in maintenance charges due to increase in freight. Now, we have started packaging foodgrains in bags of 50 kg capacity. This has resulted in minimising transportation losses. The question which the hon. Member has asked is certainly a very good question. ...(*Interruptions*) Every common man of the country should know about it. You wanted to know as to what efforts we have made to reduce this cost as recommended by the Hyderabad-based institute. Instructions have been issued to the State Governments that the foodgrains should reach the common man at the minimum of the price. We are trying to make proper arrangement right from the level of purchase officer to the Distribution officer.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: What I want to say is that the basic concept of the Public Distribution is that the ration should reach the consumers at cheaper price. Expenses have gone up in the FCI due to mismanagement and corruption. Wheat is purchased from a farmer at Rs. 500-550 per quintal and it is available at Rs. 600 per quintal in the market, then why anybody will go to ration shop to purchase it at Rs. 9 per kg. The Government itself had constituted a committee to see that the consumer gets ration at cheaper rates and the said committee had made several recommendations. What action the Government have taken to implement the same. Secondly, I want to know that reports are pouring in from several states about starvation deaths. You have sent the teams in nine states. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Why don't you ask a straight question? Don't make a speech. I will not allow any member to make a speech. I will also not allow you to ask a lengthy question.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: When the reports of starvation deaths started pouring in, the Government of India sent their team in nine states and this team revealed several loopholes in the Public Distribution System. I want to know as to what meaningful efforts the Government are taking to plug these loopholes and as also to make available wheat and rice to the consumers at cheaper rates.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: The hon. Member has asked two questions. In one question, he wanted to know as to why the charges are more on the foodgrains procured from the farmers. I would like to explain a bit for the knowledge of the hon. Member about the charges which are to be borne after procurement from the farmers. Freight comes to Rs. 42, Rs. 26 are incurred on handling, Rs. 17 on storage, Rs. 36 on the interest count and shortage comes to only Rs. 2. Administrative charges which used to be substantial earlier, now that come around Rs. 14. The hon. Member wanted to know as to whether distribution was more or less. If I tell you on the basis of figures, then 170 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been provided for export purpose this year as compared to the last year. One lakh tonnes have been provided for the open market and 42 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been provided for the welfare schemes which is more than the last year. You have also asked about the buffer stock. The question of buffer stock is linked with your main question. We have also increased foodgrains quota for the BPL and APL families and we have allocated more quota of foodgrains for the AMI Scheme and the Antyodya Scheme.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards Annexure I, II and III. My question is that you have told us about wheat that

[English]

Administrative charges paid to the state agencies is Rs. 45 per quintal. In Annexure III they have mentioned that administrative charges paid to state agencies is just Rs. 3 per quintal. I would like to know why so much of difference is there.

[Translation]

You give Rs. 45 per quintal on wheat to the states. You have stated so in your reply and you have also given figures therein that the distribution cost and state administrative charges have been lowered. For this I would to thank you. The farmers used to get Rs. 500 for wheat

earlier but now this amount has been raised to Rs. 600. The amount for rice has also been raised from the earlier Rs. 800 to Rs. 1000 now. This signifies that more money has been given to the farmers.

[English]

They have minimised the administrative cost.

[Translation]

This resulted in cost reduction but particularly some states have increased the distribution cost during the last three years. I request the hon. Minister to inform me in his regard and especially about increasing the administrative charges to the state agencies to Rs. 45 per quintal for rice and wheat.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards the question raised by the hon. Member about giving money to the State Governments, I have given every detail or that in the list and state that Rs. 9.92 was given as administrative charges during 1999-2000. Then it was raised to Rs. 12.29 and now this has increased to Rs. 15.50 during 2002-03. As regards his question of giving Rs. 45 per quintal to the State Governments, it is true that we give this money to them and it is given as per the discussions held from time to time with the State Governments. But despite that I will apprise the hon. Member of this in detail separately.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: How it is Rs. 15 for wheat and Rs. 3 for rice, please make it clear.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is willing to make a detailed reply.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Wheat is cultivated in many areas of the country while in a number of areas rice has to be brought from far off places. This amount is given for the paddy and not for the rice.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: There was a small question which is still unreplied. Sumanji had asked whether any action was taken by you with regard to the corruption in FCI as has been admitted by the committee of the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad, and if not, the reasons therefor.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Hon. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav ji has desired to know about the Hyderabad Committee. I would like to state that we have held meetings in that regard from time to time and the FCI

has taken many steps to cut down the cost of handling, etc. The procurement of foodgrains is seasonal. We utilize an average capacity of upto 75% to bring down the storage cost. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Kindly tell us the names of the persons responsible for the corruption, the action taken against them and if no action was taken what are the reasons therefor?

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: We have made all out efforts to utilize 75% capacity of it and we have achieved success in that. Whatever shortcomings exist in handling, we are making efforts to remove them. We are also working on the suggestions contained in the report of the Administrative Staff College of Hyderabad.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Shri Mulayam Singh Yadavji has referred to the Administrative Staff College of Hyderabad. I have gone through its report. The FCI corruption cases find little space in that report. It has been recommended therein to make the FCI a commercial organisation. This means that the FCI should procure foodgrains from the open market as other businessmen do. If I accept the recommendations contained therein, this House will not last long. The concept of FCI is for the poor people of the country.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: My question was restricted to the issue of corruptions only.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: The number of persons against whom action was taken and the number of persons who were dismissed in this regard, the figures in this regard are not available with me at present. But you might hardly have heard of any irregularity in the FCI for quite sometime now. We have tried our best to plug the gaps. And so far as your query about the Administrative Staff College of Hyderabad is concerned, if you go through that entire report, you will get furious.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I did not ask about the entire report. I wanted to know only about the issue of corruption.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: The infrastructure of the FCI is big enough. Whatever irregularities or difficulties are there, we will try to remove them.

MR. SPEAKER: So far as stalling the business of the House is concerned, as you said that the House

won't function, you need not worry about that. I will run the House.

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: The hon. Minister has stated about the wheat and rice prices in this reply. Even today, the farmers in several states are not getting the minimum support price for their produce. So far as corruption in the FCI is concerned, I would like to say that a news was published in the national newspapers last month that shortage of wheat and rice worth about Rs. 8 thousand crores was detected in the godowns of Punjab. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will assure the House that action will be taken against the persons responsible for this bungling, for the shortage. Are you committed to take action in this regard.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: The hon. Member has desired to know about Punjab. In this regard my Ministry has already clarified it publicly that there was an error in the calculation of figures.

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: This is not a matter of figures. This is a case of large scale corruptions. Bungling of Rs. 8 thousand crores has taken place in the FCI.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: As regards this 50 lakhs tonnes or Rs. 8 thousand crores, team was sent to Punjab to look into that. This team found out that only an error in calculation had occurred. In this regard the Ministry has also issued a statement publicly. As regards your question as to the volume of procurement in Punjab. I would like to state the Punjab is the largest producer of foodgrains in the country and the FCI procures the largest quantity of foodgrains from the villages there.

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: The inquiry that has been conducted is a departmental inquiry. This should be investigated through the CBI or any other organisation because this is a very big scandal.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, before asking my question, on behalf of my Party and on my own behalf, I would like to convey my felicitations to you on the occasion of your completing one year as the Presiding Officer of this august House. I assure you of my Party's fullest cooperation for the conduct of the proceedings of the House efficiently.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask two, three questions now.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the revised estimate, they have given the economic cost of wheat and rice. Ultimately, the Government of India has to provide the Minimum Support Price to the farming community in this country. Last year, on the representations made by the Chief Ministers of Haryana, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh, without increasing the MSP to the farming community, they had added a special drought relief amount of Rs. 20 in the procurement price. This year, the same drought is continuing to prevail in this country. *Rabi* season has already started. The paddy growers are not getting the Minimum Support Price. On the one side, you are giving the economic cost but the farmers are not getting the MSP. Even *Rabi* season has started and the farmers are not getting the MSP. I would like to know whether you are giving the same drought relief amount of Rs. 20 to these growers this year also. Still you have not given any intimation to the FCI in this regard and they are not paying the MSP with this additional amount of Rs. 20. I would like to know whether the Government is willing to send this intimation to all the FCI agencies or not.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member's contention that MSP of wheat and paddy which is Rs. 775 and Rs. 1082 respectively should be increased is an altogether different issue, it is not related to the main question. If we take a look at MSPs, there was an increase of Rs. 50, Rs. 20 and Rs. 20 in the MSP of paddy in the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively as well as we have sanctioned funds for drought relief. We have sanctioned Rs. 20 as drought relief over and above the MSP of paddy. There is also an increase of Rs. 10 in the MSP of wheat during the current year.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: For wheat you have already increased it for the *rabi* season but for paddy you have not increased it. Andhra Pradesh and other States are producing large quantities of paddy and they are not getting the MSP. This Question relates to economic cost. That is why, I asked this question. My question relates to the farming community. That is why, immediate decision is required in this regard. Otherwise, the farming community will get distressed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Q. No. 685—Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have spent 20 minutes on this Question. We are short of time. Please sit down. Now, Q. No. 685—Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav.

Asbestos Cement Plants in the Country

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

- (a) the number of Asbestos Cement plant in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of cases of lung cancer among workers of these Asbestos Cement plant detected during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check issuance of fresh licences to the manufacturing units of asbestos related industries in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (a) The number of Asbestos Cement Plants in the country, State-wise is given in Annexure.
- (b) No separate information is collected and maintained on the incidence of lung cancer in asbestos industries centrally.
- (c) Asbestos and asbestos products manufacturing industries have been delicensed with effect from 11.3.1998.

However, setting up of asbestos based industries require prior environmental clearances, irrespective of the size of the plant and level of investment. The provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 1994 relating to medical health care of the workers, occupational health & hygiene have to be adhered to by all asbestos based units. Further, these units have to comply with various BIS safety and health related standards for the use of asbestos and asbestos products.

Annexure*State-wise distribution of number of Asbestos Cement Plants in the country*

S.No.	Name of States	No. of chrysotile plants
1.	Assam	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3
3.	Gujarat	1
4.	Jharkhand	1
5.	Haryana	1
6.	Karnataka	1
7.	Kerala	1
8.	Madhya Pradesh	2
9.	Maharashtra	9
10.	Orissa	1
11.	Tamil Nadu	6
12.	Uttar Pradesh	1
13.	West Bengal	2
14.	Rajasthan	1
15.	Union Territory of Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1
Total		32

Source: The Asbestos Cement Products Manufacturers' Association.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Hon. Speaker, Sir, you have completed one year as the Presiding Officer of this august House, on behalf of Shiv Sena and on my own behalf, I extend hearty felicitations to you.

MR. SPEAKER: Still you can ask only one question.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Why are you undermining the status of hon. Speaker, by extending felicitation on behalf of Shiv Sena only. He is Presiding Officer of this House and not of you only. You extend the felicitation on behalf of the entire House.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Ram Vilas ji, I am speaking on behalf of the entire House.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I thought that you were extending felicitation on behalf of Shiv Sena only. Hon. Speaker, Sir, we extend felicitation to you on behalf of the entire House.

MR. SPEAKER: Your felicitation will be accepted only when no Member shall come to the well of the House. Only that will be my felicitation.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: We too extend our felicitations to you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Felicitation from Mr. Ramdas Athawale is very important for me. If he has felicitated, then, I think the entire House has felicitated me.

[*English*]

DR. V. SAROJA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Members of the AIADMK Party, I also associate with other members in extending our felicitations to you on completion of one year as the Presiding Officer of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Sir, my question relates to production of asbestos cement and the labour engaged in this industry. I, through you sir, want to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government have endeavoured to find alternative to asbestos so that technology can be made available to asbestos based manufacturing units and in order to save the employees from the situations arising out of their retrenchment due to closure of asbestos based units. Hon. Minister should tell whether he has details in this regard, and if not, why?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, directly or indirectly, approximately 20 thousand employees are engaged in asbestos industry. This question relates to employees. Based on the studies world over, it is concluded that the work of asbestos mining is a major health hazard. Further there is some problem in manufacturing too. Therefore, in order to discourage this industry the Government have taken a decision not to extend the existing mining leases and give new ones. This is one step taken by the Government to discourage

this industry. The other step is that the asbestos imported from outside, cannot be traded but only the genuine users can import it. The third step is that owing to its requirement in the industries, wherever it is manufactured, the strict health norms are made more stringent according to environment and emission norms. Pollution Control Board too has made its recommendations in this regard but the Government are studying it further to make it more difficult. There are 32 industries in the country—small or big—strict medical and health norms are being enforced there too.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has just informed that strict norms are being enforced, despite this there is an increase in the cases of long cancer amongst the labourers. Through you, Sir, I would like to ask the Government whether they have taken up the issue of providing medical facilities and compensation to and rehabilitation of the workers who are rendered ill during the course of manufacturing asbestos with the State Governments? If so, what are the details? My second question on the same issue is that when following the advice of United Nations Organisation and International Labour Organisation, most of the countries in the world have banned the asbestos based units, then, I would like to ask hon. Minister whether the Government propose to ban it at the earliest in India too? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of imposing a ban is concerned, the asbestos found in foreign countries is a different type of asbestos which is more dangerous. They have imposed ban of this type of asbestos. Strict measures have been taken in our country too. For this, I have said that health standard and emission norms are being made more strict. The Government has another proposal. The Bureau of Indian Standard has given some suggestions on health and safety conditions. Ministry of Commerce through a notification will make it mandatory and applicable to all the states in the country so that the remaining industries find it mandatory to work according to the health standards set in this regard.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: The answer given itself is slightly contradictory. It says, 'asbestos and asbestos products manufacturing industries have been delicensed with effect from 11.3.1998.' At the same time, 32 industries are functioning. However, delicensed products can be manufactured by these existing 32 factories. That is one thing.

Another thing is, whatever be the stand of the Government, it has now been proved reasonably that asbestos is a health hazard. In many developed and under-developed countries, asbestos has been totally banned. Even today, very dangerously, drinking water pipes are manufactured by using asbestos. It is being used in many States. My question to the Government is, will the Government be kind enough to take steps to totally ban asbestos in the future? Also, the existing water pipes manufactured by using asbestos may be replaced. Instructions should be given to the States to take steps to replace the water pipes immediately because the powder itself is dangerous, and that is being proved.

The water coming through the asbestos sheet would be more dangerous than any other thing. So, would the Government be kind enough to take immediate steps to see that there is no more water that comes through asbestos pipes and that asbestos is banned totally?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, as far as the use of asbestos in certain material in construction and in relation to water pipes is concerned, there is some cost effectiveness of the product and therefore the industry has been accepting the use of this product. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS: What is this cost effectiveness? It is very dangerous.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Whatever steps are for the present required to be taken are being taken. On the basis of studies with regard to elimination of the use of asbestos dust, which was particularly found in the mining sector, mining has been discouraged. As I mentioned to the hon. Member, no new mining leases are being granted and no old leases are being continued. There are about 32 old units employing 20,000 workers. For those units, strict emission norms have been fixed so that this dust emission does not take place and therefore that health hazard is not caused. The Government is keeping in very strict watch. As I mentioned, we are also thinking of further tightening and making it mandatory for the BIS norms to be applicable throughout the country. In case we find that it does not show any improvement, the Government would review the policy again subsequently.

Indo-Sri Lanka Trade Relations

+
*686. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

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

(a) the specific areas under which Indo-Sri Lanka trade relations exist at present;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to expand the Indo-Sri Lanka trade relations; and

(c) if so, programmes drawn up in this direction for 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Sri Lanka was signed on 28th December, 1998 in New Delhi. The FTA covers the area of trade in goods only and envisages phasing out of tariffs on all products, over a period of time, except for a limited number of items in the Negative List. With effect from 18th March 2003, India has granted duty free access to Sri Lanka on all the goods except those covered under the negative list and those under the Tariff Rate Quota. Sri Lanka will provide duty free entry on all Indian goods except those covered under its negative list by 2008.

(b) Yes, Sir, both sides have agreed in-principle to include trade in services to widen the ambit of the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

(c) A Task Force has been set up in this regard to draw up its future programmes.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister in his reply has informed that by the year 2008, Sri Lanka will allow free trade of all the Indian commodities except the items covered in the negative list. Through you, Sir, I want to know the items covered in the negative list. What is the quantum of export from and import to India after entering into the Free Trade Agreement? Whether it has been profitable or otherwise?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter is raised frequently. Ever since entering into Free Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka, this question has been raised whether this is profitable or not? For the information of hon. Member, I would like to tell you that when we compare the figures of November, 2002-03, with that of April-November, 2001-02, we find that export of India to

Sri Lanka has increased from 368 million US dollars to 586 million US dollar while import from Sri Lanka has increased from 40 million US dollars to 62 million US dollars. If we compare the figures as on date, we find that exports have increased after FTA. As we are aware, an agreement was signed between the Prime Minister of India and the President of Sri Lanka on 28.12.1998. Both India and Sri Lanka have signed FTA with only one country in the entire world. There was an increase of 26% in exports in 1996-97, which is 58% now. It is clear from the figures that India's export to Sri Lanka has increased after this agreement. So far as the items are concerned, it is a long list. If the hon. Member needs it, I will make it available to him.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, by which time the task force constituted to chalk out the prospective programme of India and Sri Lanka will give its report? What are the works entrusted to this task force?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a task force is yet to be constituted for this purpose. India has constituted its task force but Sri Lanka has not constituted its task force as yet. As soon as the action is initiated to constitute the task force, I will make available the information in this regard to him.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Free Trade Agreement between India and Sri Lanka has been existing from 1998 onwards. As a result of the free import of certain items, especially coconut, tea and other coconut products like coir fibre, the Indian farmers are affected. I would like to know whether the Government of India has studied the impact of this import from Sri Lanka on the Indian farmers. Take the example of tea.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We have a very short time.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sri Lankan tea is also coming in large quantity. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any impact of this on Indian items and the Indian farmers and, if so, whether the Government will take appropriate steps to give more assistance to the farmers.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: The hon. Member has raised a very valid question and it is very important to ally his fear.

Let us take the example of tea. The total production of tea in this country is around 900 million tonnes, the total consumption is around 600 million tonnes, and the exports are around 200 million tonnes.

As far as Sri Lanka is concerned, the total import, which is permitted, under the tariff regime, is just 7.5 million tonnes, out of which 0.3 million tonnes had been imported, and that also through restricted ports in the country. There are only four ports which are permitted.

So, it is very important that the House must know that the FTA, which has been signed with Sri Lanka, has had no effect. In fact, there has been a positive effect and because of the success of FTA with Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Commerce in the Government of India has also proposed an FTA with Bangladesh. I think, it is a very beneficial and positive step. Our bilateral trade as well as our relationship has improved. I think, it is very important also.

Smuggling of Cardamom

*687. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Cardamom from Guatemala is being smuggled to India through Nepal and Calcutta airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases booked during the last two years;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Cardamom as a commodity is prone to being smuggled across the Indo-Nepal border. Details of the cases of smuggling of Cardamom, detected across Indo-Nepal border and Kolkata airport during the last two years are furnished in the table given below:—

TABLE

Year	Number of cases booked	Quantity of Cardamom seized (in quintals)*	Value of seizures (Rs. in lakhs)
2001-2002	9	10.40	2.15
2002-2003	122	26.62	23.02

(*country of origin not known)

All customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have been alerted to take necessary steps to thwart attempts at smuggling of any goods into India, including Cardamom.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Cardamom pepper and spices are mainly grown in Kerala. It has been answered just now that because of Sri Lankan import policy, there is not much of a problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, please ask your question straightway.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: A very serious issue being faced by the farmers is smuggling. The smuggling of cardamom from Nepal and also from Kolkata port has been increasing. From the figures shown also, it is seen that as against nine cases in 2001-02, last year, that is, in 2002-03, 122 cases have been booked and we are sure that many are escaping also from all these cases, without being booked also.

The best quality of cardamom, which is being produced in the world, is in India—in Kerala and in some parts of the rural areas. So, I would like to know what action would be taken to safeguard the interests of India and the Indian farmers to see that the price of cardamom is not affected by undue smuggling by some unscrupulous elements.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The Government is aware that there have been incidents of smuggling of Guatemala cardamom first by air up to Kolkata; from Kolkata by road to Kathmandu and thereafter from Kathmandu to India. We have recognised and assessed measures of how much of this is likely to be misdirected towards India because we have an assessment of how much cardamom is normally imported by Nepal for its own use, other than from India. The two Customs Authorities, that

is, the Customs of Royal Nepal Airlines as also the Indian Government are in close cooperation in this regard. As the hon. Member would know, it is an open border, but with limited points through which an access can be had. So, we are fully aware of these things.

As at present, the Indian cardamom is far superior in quality and colour and the colour of its seeds. The price has had no effect whatsoever. However, we are extremely watchful that this activity must not be continued.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: The price has also been
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over. Now, Papers to be laid on the Table. Shri Jaswant Singh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, is there no provision to extend the time of the Question Hour? ...(Interruptions)
We should find a provision to extend the time for the time lost. ...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Production Limit of Tobacco

*683. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of tobacco in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the ceiling fixed for production of tobacco, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether a delegation of tobacco growers recently urged the Government to increase the maximum production limit of tobacco;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Total Production of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco, State-wise, in the country during last three years is given below:

Year	FCV Tobacco production in million kilograms					Remarks
	Andhra Pradesh	Orissa	Maharashtra	Karnataka	Total	
2000-01	2.52	0.72	—	41.98	45.22	2000-01 crop holiday in Andhra Pradesh & Maharashtra
2001-02	119.48	0.46	0.11	57.68	177.73	—
2002-03	115.85*	0.45*	0.03*	63.26	179.59	*Estimated production. Auctions in progress.

(b) Year-wise and State-wise FCV tobacco crop size fixed in the country during last three years is given below:

(Million kilograms)

State	Crop size fixed (year-wise)			
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Andhra Pradesh*	Crop holiday	101.45	105.48	—
Karnataka	25.00	38.07	50.00	53

Note:- (*) includes Maharashtra & Orissa for which crop size is not fixed separately. For 2003-04 crop size will be fixed in May-June, 2003.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Foreign Debt

*688. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign debt on India as on April 30, 2003, country-wise;

(b) the amount of money being repaid as a annual instalment for the above debt and the percentage of it consisting of Gross-Domestic Product;

(c) the amount being paid annually as interest on the above debt and how much of it constitutes annual GDP in percentage;

(d) the concrete efforts by the Government during the last three years to reduce the burden of foreign debt; and

(e) the further steps proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the debt burden of the country during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) As per information available, India's total external debt as at end-September, 2002, was US \$ 101.97 billion. Information on country-wise debt outstanding is maintained only in respect of Government debt. Donor-wise details of outstanding external debt on Government Account as on 30th April, 2003 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Details of external debt service payments (Principal and Interest payments) during the last three years are as under:

Year	Debt Service Payments (US \$ million)			Principal Repayment as percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	Interest payments as percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
	Principal	Interest	Total		
2000-01	8,317	3,822	12,139	1.81	0.83
2001-02	6,995	4,081	11,076	1.45	0.85
2002-03*	4,799	1,559	6,358	0.96	0.31

(d) and (e) The Government follows a prudent external debt management policy focusing on external borrowing only from multilateral and bilateral sources; concentrating on concessional and less expensive debt; keeping the maturity structure of the total external debt under manageable limits; limiting short term debt; encouraging non debt creating financial flows; particularly foreign direct investment; and emphasizing the growth of exports and invisibles on current account. Besides, taking advantage of foreign exchange reserves and lower domestic interest rates, the Government has effected premature repayment of high cost currency pooled loans of the World Bank (IBRD) and of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) totaling around US \$ 3 billion. The Government intends to continue with this policy of prudently managing external liabilities and of proactively liquidating relatively high cost component of country's external debt portfolio.

Statement

Details of Outstanding External Debt on Government account as on 30.4.2003

S.No.	Country/Donor	(Rs. Crores)	(US \$ Million)
1	2	3	4
1.	Asian Development Bank	7,971.81	1,682.17
2.	EEC (SAC)	188.79	39.84
3.	Austria	140.89	29.73
4.	Australia	26.47	5.59
5.	Belgium	162.98	34.30
6.	Canada	1,407.57	297.02
7.	Rep. of Czech & Slovak	8.55	1.81

1	2	3	4
8.	Germany	11,330.58	2,390.92
9.	Denmark	395.57	83.47
10.	Spain	123.21	26.00
11.	France	2,896.78	611.26
12.	Italy	463.95	97.90
13.	Japan	39,667.95	8,370.54
14.	Kuwait Fund	132.32	27.92
15.	Netherlands	2145.42	452.72
16.	Russian Federation	1,918.85	404.91
17.	Saudi Arabia	33.62	7.09
18.	Switzerland	40.37	8.52
19.	Sweden	502.86	109.91
20.	United States of America	4,849.68	1,023.35
21.	IBRD	18,953.72	3,999.52
22.	IDA	100,930.13	21,297.78
23.	IFAD	1,163.24	245.46
24.	OPEC	71.99	16.19
	Total	195,545.33	41,263.01

Debt Recovery Tribunals

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

(a) the number of cases pending with Debt Recovery Tribunals with amount involved therein as on date;

(b) whether the debtors are taking advantage of existing loopholes in the system of Debt Recovery Tribunals;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to plug these loopholes;

(e) the steps taken for speedy disposal of cases of Debt Recovery Tribunals; and

(f) the details of achievement made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) As per the information furnished by Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), there are 33,622 cases pending with various DRTs involving an amount of Rs. 1,05,517 crores as on 31.12.2002.

(b) to (d) The DRT Act was amended in 2000 to strengthen the functioning of Tribunals. Consequent upon these amendments, the DRT rules have also been amended and notified on 21.1.2003. The Supreme Court had declared the DRT Act as valid vide its order dated 14.3.2002. Thus hurdles in the smooth functioning of DRTs have been removed.

(e) The following steps further have been taken for speedy disposal of cases by DRTs:—

(i) constitution of 15 more DRTs since 1st April, 2000 thereby taking the total number of DRTs in the country to 29;

(ii) increasing the staff strength of DRTs;

(iii) further delegation of administrative and financial powers to Presiding Officers to improve their functioning;

(iv) arranging adequate infrastructure for DRTs;

(v) close coordination between DRTs and Banks/ FIs; and

(vi) office computerization in DRTs.

(f) As a result of the various measures taken, disposal of cases has increased from 4637 in 2000-01 to 8931 in 2001-02 and to 7603 during 2002-03 (upto 31.12.2002). Similarly recoveries made through DRTs has also gone up from Rs. 1185 crores in 2000-01 to Rs. 2153 crores during 2001-02 and Rs. 2014 crores during 2002-03 (upto 31.12.2002).

Anti-Dumping duty on Bed Linen

*690. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether there was a dispute with the European Union regarding imposition of anti-dumping duty on bed linen importers;

- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) the present status of the disputes; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to take up the issue with WTO's Dispute Settlement Body?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) India had resorted to the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and challenged the anti-dumping duty imposed by European Communities (EC) in December 1997 on imports of cotton-type bed linen from India. The Panel and Appellate Body Reports concluded that the EC's imposition of definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of cotton-type bed linen from India had been inconsistent with the Anti-Dumping Agreement. On 12 March, 2001 the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the WTO adopted the Appellate Body Report and the Panel Report as modified by the Appellate Body, in this dispute. Pursuant to the recommendations of these Reports, the DSB requested the EC to bring its measure into conformity with its obligations under the Anti-Dumping Agreement. Following this the EC and India mutually agreed on a reasonable period of five months and two days *i.e.* up to 14 August 2001 for EC to implement the recommendations and rulings of the DSB in this dispute.

Subsequently the EC undertook a review of the anti-dumping measure and re-determined the level of anti-dumping duty. However, the application of the duty was suspended. India strongly disagreed that this re-determination complied with the rulings of the DSB.

India requested consultations with EC on 8 March, 2002 under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the WTO regarding re-determination. These consultations were held at Geneva on 25-26 March 2002. Subsequently, India sought the establishment of a Compliance Panel to examine the existence or consistency of action taken by EC to implement the DSB decision in the dispute. The Compliance Panel was established on 22 May 2002.

The Compliance Panel concluded that EC had implemented the recommendations of the original Panel and Appellate Body to bring its measures into conformity with the Anti-Dumping Agreement. On 8 January 2003 India appealed some of the findings and legal interpretations developed by the Compliance Panel in this case.

While reversing certain findings of the Compliance Panel, the Appellate Body in its Report dated 8 April 2003 has concluded that in analysing injury EC's determination that *all* imports attributable to *non*-examined producers were dumped—even though the evidence from *examined* producers showed that producers accounting for 53 percent of imports attributed to examined producers were *not* dumping—did not lead to a result that was *unbiased, even-handed, and fair*. Therefore, EC did not satisfy the requirements of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 3 of the Anti-Dumping Agreement to determine the volume of dumped imports on the basis of an examination that is "*objective*". The Appellate Body recommended that DSB request EC to bring its measure, found to be inconsistent with its obligations under the *Anti-Dumping Agreement*, into conformity with the Agreement.

During its meeting held on 24 April 2003, the DSB of the WTO adopted the Compliance Panel and Appellate Body Reports in the Compliance dispute. During the meeting, EC indicated its intention to implement the Appellate Body findings as soon as possible after the adoption of Compliance Panel and Appellate Body Reports in the Compliance dispute.

[*Translation*]

Patent to Indian Goods

*691. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) the details of cases brought to the notice of Government wherein European countries have obtained patents of Indian goods;

(b) the names of the goods out of these, the patent rights of which have been restored to India;

(c) whether the Jute Manufacturing Development Council set up for the sick jute industry has recently got the patent rights restored for jute from the London-based firm Giyo Hase;

(d) if so, whether the Government provide any kind of assistance to the entrepreneurs of the country in such cases; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) Data on patented India goods/items as well as patents revoked in European countries, as also worldwide, is not maintained.

Patents are sought and obtained by applicants/inventors, both Indian and foreign, in different countries to safeguard and promote their commercial and other interests. Such patents are granted under the sovereign prerogative of countries according to their respective patent laws and have territorial effect, that is, they are effective only in the country of grant. In order to qualify for grant of patent in any country an invention, whether process or product, has to meet the criteria of patent ability, namely, novelty, inventiveness and industrial applicability. Indian goods/items, which are already in public knowledge/domain, cannot be patented.

As patents are essentially private rights they are normally challenged, in accordance with the patent laws of the country concerned, by the person(s) whose interests are affected/jeopardized.

As and when information is received about patents being obtained on certain items which are not considered patentable and which affect Indian interests, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of such patent can be challenged under the patent laws of the country concerned. Earlier a patent granted in the United States of America on the use of turmeric in wound healing was successfully challenged and was also cancelled by the Patent Office of the country concerned. Similarly, a patent on the fungicidal property of neem, granted in Europe, was successfully challenged. The claims of the patent on Basmati Ricelines and grains granted in the United States of America which had the potential of affecting India's commercial interest were also challenged. The said claims were subsequently cancelled by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the title of the patent was also amended.

The patent on waste treatment using Hessian (jute product) granted to M/s Geo Hess (UK) Ltd. has been revoked in August 2002 based on the opposition petition filed by the Jute Manufacturers Development Council.

[English]

Special Courts for Speedy Trial

*692. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Union Government for establishment of more special courts for speedy trial of cases;

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

(c) whether the Eleventh Finance Commission had recommended the establishment of additional courts known as Fast Track Courts for the speedy disposal of cases;

(d) if so, the number of Fast Track Courts established as on March 31, 2003 under the scheme and funds released to the State Governments, State-wise;

(e) the time by which the remaining Fast Track courts are likely to be established and funds likely to be released to the States for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal before the Union Government for establishment of more special courts for speedy trial.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement showing the number of Fast Track Courts established, and funds released to the State Governments as on March 31, 2003, state-wise, is enclosed.

(e) The primary responsibility of setting up Fast Track Courts is that of the State Governments and the High Courts. The Central Government is constantly persuading the State Governments and the High Courts to make all the Fast Track Courts functional as soon as possible. As for release of funds, the states are expected to comply with the guidelines of the Eleventh Finance Commission in order to avail the grant.

Statement

Sr.No.	Name of the State	No. of Fast Track Courts established	Funds released to the States (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	86	2250.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	52.69
3.	Assam	20	530.10
4.	Bihar	183	4766.40
5.	Chhattisgarh	31	791.10
6.	Goa	3	125.10
7.	Gujarat	62	1939.41
8.	Haryana	12	422.31
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	27.15
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	43	300.60
11.	Jharkhand	89	2319.30
12.	Karnataka	13	2431.80
13.	Kerala	27	465.95
14.	Madhya Pradesh	85	2223.90
15.	Maharashtra	131	2175.10
16.	Manipur	2	40.22
17.	Meghalaya	3	90.00
18.	Mizoram	3	90.00
19.	Nagaland	2	54.90
20.	Orissa	39	1866.60
21.	Punjab	16	746.10
22.	Rajasthan	83	2166.30
23.	Sikkim	—	10.60
24.	Tamil Nadu	49	1151.90
25.	Tripura	3	73.80
26.	Uttaranchal	45	1173.60
27.	Uttar Pradesh	242	6319.80
28.	West Bengal	59	1331.48
	Total	1334	35935.67

Schemes/Programmes for Removal of Poverty

*693. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced any special programme for removal of poverty among tribals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to implement the above schemes for the welfare of tribals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs supplements the schemes of States and UTs by providing cent percent grant under the Scheme for Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan for filling critical gaps under income generating projects, and granting loans through the National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation and through State channelising agencies.

[Translation]

Production/Consumption/Export of Tea

*694. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) the total production/consumption/export of tea during each of the last three years, upto March 31, 2003;

(b) the reasons for gap between production and domestic consumption;

(c) whether there has been a sharp decline in production and export of tea during 2002-03;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the loss of revenue in terms of rupee due to fall in export;

(f) whether certain countries like China are well ahead in the field of tea export than India;

(g) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(h) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the production/domestic consumption/export of tea?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Details of production, consumption and export of tea in the last three years are as follows:

(Figures in million Kgs.)

Year	Production	Domestic Consumption*	Export
1999-2000	836.50	638	192.44
2000-01	848.36	658	203.55
2001-02	847.25	679	190.00
2002-03 (April-February)	792.46 (811.11)	634	170.45 (169.47)

Figures in brackets indicate the position in the corresponding period of 2001-02

*The figures of consumption are based on the survey conducted by the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata.

(b) India has been a tea exporter all along. As such, the domestic consumption has been always less than the production.

(c) and (d) There has been a decline in the production of tea during the year 2002-03 (April-February) as compared to the production in the corresponding period of the previous year due to the drought that prevailed in the tea growing areas of North and South India. However, there was a marginal increase in physical terms in the export of tea during 2002-03 (April-February) as compared to the corresponding period of 2001-02.

(e) There is no loss as such in Government revenue due to exports of tea. In Exports of all merchandise goods duties and taxes are rebated. So far as the tea industry is concerned, export realisation in value during April-February of 2002-03 was less by Rs. 55.57 crore compared to the same period of 2001-02.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The details of export of tea from China, Sri Lanka and Kenya as compared to India are given below:

(Figures in million Kgs.)

Name of the country	2002	2001
India	198.1	182.6
China	252.3	249.7
Sri Lanka	291.8	294.0
Kenya	266.3	258.1

(h) Several steps have been taken to increase production, domestic consumption and export of tea. In order to increase production. Tea Board is implementing a number of developmental schemes under which financial assistance is provided for activities like re-planting, rejuvenation pruning, infilling, creation of irrigation facilities, drainage etc. For improving consumption of tea within the country, the Tea Board launched a generic promotion campaign in collaboration with the Indian tea industry.

The steps taken to boost the export of tea include:

- implementation of a medium term export strategy.
- encouraging production of quality teas for export, especially teas of orthodox variety.
- extension of financial assistance to the tea exporters towards meeting a part of the cost of handling, packaging, transport/freight charges & value addition.
- registration of a Tea Board Logo & Speciality Tea Logo in major tea importing countries.
- participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad, organizing buyer-seller meets and in store promotion of Indian tea at speciality stores & in principal markets; and
- organizing media campaigns to increase consumer awareness of speciality Indian teas & to popularise the Tea Board marketing logo.

The 10th Plan schemes of the Tea Board has also been formulated with particular emphasis on improving the productivity, quality and marketability of Indian tea.

[English]

**Computer Aided Design Centres in
Powerloom Sector**

*695. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a scheme for setting up "Computer Aided Design Centres" in various powerloom clusters/centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of centres set up as on December 31, 2002, state-wise;

(c) whether training is also being imparted to handloom weavers and other artisans at these centres;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the new designs/patterns developed at these centres are also being supplied to handloom sector;

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

(g) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) As on December 31, 2002, Government had setup seventeen Computer Aided Design Centres at following powerloom clusters:

S.No.	Location of CAD Centre	State
1.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
2.	Surat	Gujarat
3.	Panipat	Haryana
4.	Bangalore	Karnataka
5.	Doddaballapur	Karnataka
6.	Solapur	Maharashtra
7.	Ichalkaranji	Maharashtra
8.	Bhiwandi	Maharashtra
9.	Mumbai	Maharashtra
10.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
11.	Burhanpur	Madhya Pradesh
12.	Bhilwara	Rajasthan
13.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
14.	Karur	Tamil Nadu
15.	Komarapalayam	Tamil Nadu
16.	Somanur	Tamil Nadu
17.	Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh

These CAD centres have been set upto facilitate the diversification of products and markets of the decentralised powerloom industry by the use of new designs, improved designs and computerized punching of the jacquard cards.

The Government provides annual recurring grant of Rs. 6.75 lakhs to each centre for meeting the expenditure on salaries of staff etc. for a period of five years after which the centre is expected to be self-sufficient.

(c) to (f) Though these centres are set up for the powerloom industry, they provide their services and designs to artisans and weavers who are free to use their skills on handlooms or powerlooms. Training is provided to use the computer to develop designs and graphs to weavers or designers.

(g) The amount spent under the scheme during last three years are:

S.No.	Year	Outlay (Rs. in Lakhs)	Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	2000-01	210.00	81.26
2.	2001-02	100.00	65.73
3.	2002-03	74.00	67.50

FDI Inflow

*696. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is far behind in attracting FDI inflow in comparison to China;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a low inflow of FDI into India;

(c) the FDI attracted by India during the first quarter of 2003; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows have registered consistent growth since 1991. These inflows during 2002 were US\$ 4434.5 Million as against US\$ 4281 Million in 2001. A direct comparison between India and China is inappropriate for several reasons. These include China opening up its markets a decade early, its preferential treatment to FDI in taxation, labour policy, and also that India's FDI statistics do not include reinvested earnings, subordinated debt, overseas commercial borrowings by FDI companies, and other capital inflows as per the IMF definition.

(c) The FDI inflows attracted by India in the first two months of January-February 2003 are Rs. 2695.7 crore.

(d) Government has put in place a liberal FDI policy and most of the sectors have been put on the automatic route. Efforts are being constantly made to induce a climate of investment and to facilitate the inflows through streamlined procedures. FDI policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis by a Group of Ministers (GOM) constituted for this purpose.

[*Translation*]

Trade Deficit

*697. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the trade deficit has been widening in the country;

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

(c) the efforts made by the Government to deal with the situation; and

(d) the extent to which the trade deficit has been brought down on account of the aforesaid efforts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No Sir. The trade deficit has come down from the level of US\$ (-) 12.85 billion in 1999-2000 to US\$ (-) 7.68 billion in 2002-2003. However, the trade deficit has increased by 10.56% from US\$ 6.95 billion in 2001-02 to US\$ 7.68 billion in 2002-03. This rise is mainly due to value of oil imports on account of higher oil prices. Oil imports constituted 30% of India's total imports in 2002-03 registering a growth of 26.77% during the year. Non-oil imports showed a growth of only 13.31% during 2002-03. Among the non-oil imports, the items showing high import growth rates are vegetable oil (28%), machinery, electrical & non-electrical (15%), transport equipment (89%), pearls & semi precious stones (28%), etc. While items like vegetable oil are necessities, others are mainly inputs or exports or needed for industrial activity.

(c) and (d) Constant efforts are made by the Government to deal with the situation by both promoting

exports and monitoring the imports of sensitive items. For promoting exports, a number of programmes/schemes have been launched which include schemes like Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure (ASIDE), establishing Agri Export Zones, Market Access Initiative, strengthening, "Focus LAC" programme, introducing "Focus Africa" programme, etc. In the Exim Policy 2003-04, besides the focus on Service exports, policies have been devised to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs), 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU's), etc. A new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. These measures taken from time to time, increase India's exports and reduce the trade deficit.

[English]

Lending to Rural Industry

*698. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently asked banks to reorient their policies to ensure more lending to the rural industries;

(b) if so, whether the banks in rural areas are still reluctant to provide loans to rural industries and to the people living in the rural areas;

(c) if so, whether any strategy is to be adopted to make the loans to the rural people/industries without any hassles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) As per data available the net bank credit outstanding in respect of industries in rural areas has increased consistently as per details given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Rural	14803	17279	20689
Semi Urban	21634	23878	30737
Urban	35996	41356	52632
Metropolitan	141346	153917	167567
Total	213779	236430	271625

Small Scale Industries sector constitute most of the rural industries including cottage and village industries, handicrafts, handloom weaving, tiny enterprises, etc.

Government/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have taken several measures to provide relief and better loan facilities to small scale industries sector which also includes industries in rural areas, khadi and village industries, tiny enterprises. These measures include:

- (i) Computation of working capital requirements of SSI units on the basis of simplified method of minimum 20% of the projected annual turnover.
- (ii) Earmarking of the 60% of the fund of SSI financing for the benefit of tiny sector.
- (iii) Raising the composite loan limit from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs.
- (iv) Introduction of new credit guarantee scheme for small industries by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- (v) Introduction of penal provisions to take care of delayed payments to SSI Units etc.

Takeover of IFCI by Punjab National Bank

*699. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the Punjab National Bank to take over IFCI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Punjab National Bank has opposed this move;

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

(e) whether the Government have offered any financial incentives to Punjab National Bank to takeover the IFCI: and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Industrially Backward States

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

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the request submitted by the study team constituted to identify the industrially backward districts;

(b) if so, the detail, thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to identify the backward districts after the review?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The report has been reviewed by a study group in 1996.

(b) The study group of 1994 suggested the benchmark criterion of backwardness at 500 points of a composite index comprising certain industrial, infrastructural and financial parameters. The review group suggested the benchmark criterion at 250 points, with minor modification in the parameters.

(c) Based on the review, separate package of tax concessions were offered to category-A and for category-B districts. Category-A districts include districts having the benchmark level below 250 points. Inaccessible hill area districts, districts with no rail heads are also included in Category 'A', even if they exceed the benchmark level of 250 points, provided they have benchmark level of less than 500 points. 'No industries districts', regardless of the benchmark level, are also included in this category. Category-B consists of districts which have a benchmark level of less than 500 points and more than 250 points.

[*English*]

Revamping on DGFT

*701. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High Level Committee was set up to revamp the Directorate General of Foreign Trade;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether the Government have given more powers to DGFT to undertake anti-dumping investigation, etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the recommendations of the Committee have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) A Group under Shri P.P. Prabhu, Former Commerce Secretary has been constituted to consider and to recommend on the role and restructuring of Directorate General of Foreign Trade in the present liberalized policy environment. The Group is yet to submit its Report.

Security Margin for Home Loans

*702. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has taken a decision to make it mandatory for all banks to insist on a Security Margin for their Home Loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any directives have been issued to all banks in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India had issued guidelines in 1997 regarding norms for margin money and security for housing loans falling in the priority sector. These are:

Margin Money:

Amount of Loan	% of Margin
(i) Up to Rs. 20,000/-	20
(ii) From Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-	25
(iii) From Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 1,00,000/-	30
(iv) Above Rs. 1,00,000/-	35

The banks are imposing margin money requirements up to the limits stated above.

Security: Mortgage of properties or Government guarantee. Where neither is feasible, Banks may accept, at their discretion, securities of adequate value in the form of Life Insurance Policies, Government Promissory Notes, Shares and Debentures, gold ornaments or such other security as deemed appropriate.

Bank Loans to Women

6771. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has issued directions to all public sector banks to set up one specialized branch in every district to cater exclusively to women entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time limit fixed by RBI to implement these directives; and

(c) the bank-wise number of such branches set up so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) advised public sector banks to open specialized branches for women in identified areas for catering exclusively or at least predominantly to the requirement of women entrepreneurs in an integrated manner. RBI has reported that some of the Banks have set up specialized women branches as per details given below:

Name of the Bank	No. of Specialized Branches
1. Allahabad Bank	1
2. Oriental Bank of Commerce	5
3. Union Bank of India	1
4. State Bank of Travancore	1

Further as per information available, Canara Bank has also since opened one Mahila Banking Branch at Bangalore catering exclusively to the women clients.

[Translation]

Bank Loans to Industries/Companies

6772. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2937 on August 2, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the information sought has since been collected;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be laid on the table?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The information is still being collected and is yet to be received from some banks/ financial institutions. As soon as the complete information is received, the same shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Chilli

6773. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether green chilli, red chilli and chilli power are being exported to other countries;

(b) if so, the amount of such items exported separately, the amount of foreign exchange earned with names of destination countries during each of the last three years; and

(c) the regions which are main producer of chilli and names of important auction centres in the country and volume of chilli handled in such auction centres with the sale price amount during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated quantity of chilli items exported and the value realized during the last three years are given in table below:

Quantity (Qty): Tons
Value: Rs. crores

Items	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03 (P)*	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Chilly	37191	122.46	39973	125.12	40743	129.65
Chilly Power	15977	62.76	24991	89.00	22392	82.26
Green Chilly	3212	5.95	1195	2.86	1034	2.24

Source: DGCI & S, Calcutta

(P) Provisional

* Pertains to period April-December, 2002-2003

Major export destinations for these items include Sri Lanka, USA, Bangladesh, Malaysia, UK, UAE, Saudi Arabia, etc.

(c) Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are major producers of chilli. There are no auction centres operating in chilli trade in the country.

Recovery of Service Tax

6774. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the I.T. Department Mumbai have undertaken any survey of income of cable operators in Mumbai;

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

(c) the number of cable customers operating in Mumbai;

(d) the details of service tax, entertainment tax deposited and income tax paid by cable operators at Mumbai;

(e) whether any cognisable offence has been registered against the cable operators for collecting Government taxes from cable customers and not depositing the same with the Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Income Tax Department, Mumbai conducted survey of 2 cable operators wherein it was found that they had not maintained books of accounts properly. Cash of Rs. 70,350/- was found in the case of one assessee. In the second case, as a result of discrepancy found during survey, the assessee offered to pay income tax of Rs. 60,000/- for the financial year 2002-03.

(c) Details of cable customers in Mumbai are not available.

(d) For the year ending 31.03.2003, service tax of Rs. 111.53 lakh, has been paid by the cable operators in Mumbai. Details of income tax paid by cable operators in Mumbai are, however, not maintained by the Income

Tax Department. As per Entry 62 of the State List of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India, tax on entertainment is a State subject. Hence, the Central Government does not maintain any details in this regard.

(e) Under section 66 of the Finance Act 1994 service tax is leviable. Non-payment of service tax is not a cognisable offence under this Act.

(f) Does not arise.

Permission for Retail Business

6775. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether this Ministry has given permission to another MNC to enter into wholesale cash and carry retail business recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the clauses, guidelines, norms followed for this permission;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaint against manipulation and violation by Shoprite;

(e) if so, the nature of complaints;

(f) whether any inquiry/investigation has been made;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(h) the corrective steps taken by the Government to stop such blatant violation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) As per the extant Foreign Direct Investment policy, FDI upto 100% is permitted in cash & carry wholesale trading through Foreign Investment Promotion Board route. However, Government's Policy on retail trading since 1997 is not to permit FDI in retail trading.

(d) to (g) Yes, Sir. A complaint has been received alleging that the company is entering into a manipulative arrangement for undertaking retail trade in the garb of wholesale trade. The case has been referred to the competent authority for taking appropriate action.

(h) Any violation of the foreign collaboration approval is liable for penal action under FEMA regulations. Such

cases are handled by the Administrative Ministries concerned and the Reserve Bank of India.

Trade Deficit

6776. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite a huge accumulation of foreign money during the last seven months of the current fiscal, India's trade deficit increased at 62.4765 crore dollars;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The foreign exchange reserves (including Gold and SDRs) have increased from \$54.1 billion in end-March 2002 to \$75.4 billion in end-March 2003. During the same period, according to Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), merchandise trade deficit has increased from \$6950 million in 2001-02 to \$7685 million or \$768.5 crore in 2002-03.

(b) Overall foreign exchange reserves position represent the net outcome of India's international transactions on both the current and the capital accounts of balance of payments. Merchandise trade deficit, which reflects the excess of merchandise imports over merchandise exports, constitutes only a part of the transactions on current account of balance of payments. Along with trade in invisibles, the current account balance shows a surplus as per recent trends.

(c) While imports are related to the needs to the economy, exports depend, *inter alia*, on various factors such as international market conditions, tariff and non tariff barriers, domestic infrastructure, cost of export credit, policy framework etc. The gap between export and import expenditure is sought to be reduced through export promotion measures, which are taken by the Government through various policy and promotional schemes.

[Translation]

Recommendation of Official Language Implementation Committee

6777. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks and financial institutions fully comply with orders relating to recommendations of the Official Language Implementation Committee;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for cent per cent use of Hindi in the banking sector and financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Banks and Financial Institutions by and large comply with the recommendations of the Official Language Implementation Committee.

(c) With a view to ensuring compliance of the Constitutional and legal provisions regarding Official Language and to promote the use of Hindi in Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have been making various efforts. The Annual Programme of the Department of Official Language is circulated among all Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions to achieve the targets prescribed. The Quarterly Progress Report regarding the use of Hindi of Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions are reviewed regularly and shortcomings are brought to the notice of the concerned. Regular inspections of Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions are carried out by the Department of Official Language, Banking Division and Reserve Bank of India to make an assessment of the implementation of the various requirements of the Official Language Policy. Banking Division, Reserve Bank of India and all Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions have their own Official Language Implementation Committees, which meet regularly to review the progress made in the use of Hindi. These efforts accelerate the progressive use of Hindi in Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions.

[English]

Foreign Funding Projects

6778. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign aided projects that have been reviewed by the supporting agencies after their shelving during the post-nuclear experiment era;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to get all such pending/shelved projects through; and

(c) the names of countries/organisations that have irrevocably shelved projects during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO

VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The details of projects, which were not approved due to sanctions imposed on India after the nuclear tests, are as under. These were again taken up after lifting of sanctions and were approved by their respective donors:

S. No.	Name of the Project	Donor	Loan/Grant Currency	Loan/Grant Amount (in million)
1.	Gujarat State Highway Project	World Bank	US Dollar	381
2.	Second Renewable Energy Project	World Bank	US Dollar	121
3.	Power Grid System Development Project II	World Bank	US Dollar	450
4.	Financial Institutions Reform and Expansion Project	USAID	US Dollar	20
5.	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (IV)	Japan	Japanese Yen	34012
6.	Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project (IV)	Japan	Japanese Yen	5684
7.	Punjab Afforestation Project (II)	Japan	Japanese Yen	5054
8.	Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Units 4 & 5 Extension Project	Japan	Japanese Yen	36771
9.	Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project	Japan	Japanese Yen	9054
10.	Yamuna Action Plan Project (II)	Japan	Japanese Yen	13333
11.	Ajanta-Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project II	Japan	Japanese Yen	7331

(c) None of the countries/organisations had irrevocably shelved the projects during the period.

Board of Directors of LIC

6779. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of members on the Boards of Directors of the Life Insurance Corporation of India;

(b) whether the Board has not been fully constituted and many vacancies are yet to be filled up by the Government; and

(c) if so, the number of vacancies thereof and the reasons for delay in appointing all the directors on the Board of LIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) According to the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, the Board of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India can have maximum of 16 Members.

(b) and (c) The Board, at present, has six members. Proposals for filling up the vacant positions are under consideration of the Government.

Lord Krishna Bank

6780. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether serious violations of banking rules and regulations by the Management of the Kerala Board Lord

Krishna Bank Ltd. has come to the notice of the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon by the RBI in this regard;

(c) whether these irregularities has caused an increase in the Non Performing Assets (NPAs) of the bank; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to correct these irregularities by the Management of the Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Lord Krishna Bank Ltd. was inspected with reference to its position as on 31st March, 2002 and no serious irregularities were noticed.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Proposal to Modify D.A. Formula

6781. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dearness Allowance to Government employees has already been cross to 50 per cent;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up Sixth Pay Commission for the Government employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there was any discussion held on this issue in the JCM meeting; and

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) No discussion regarding Sixth Pay Commission was held in the meeting of Standing Committee of the JCM as this was not an agenda item.

SEBI Investigation on TFL

6782. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigation by SEBI into the complaint filed by Tata Finance Limited (TFL) for illegal carry forward transactions of 85,000 shares of Global Tele Limited (GTL) by former Managing Director and others on behalf of M/s Inshaalah Investments Limited and Niskalp Investment and Trading Co. Limited has been completed;

(b) if so, the complete details of outcome of the finding by SEBI;

(c) whether any show cause notice have been issued by SEBI against found guilty under SEBI Act and rules framed thereunder; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether SEBI propose to pass adjudication orders against the guilty; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

Advisory Group on Problems of Tribals

6783. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted an advisory group on tribals to consider the problems of tribals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the advisory group; and

(e) the extent to which the recommendations have been accepted and implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Directors of Vanishing Companies

6784. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has given a proposal that directors of vanishing companies should be identified and their names publicised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

CWC Venture into Flower Exports

6785. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) is preparing to venture into flower exports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the countries with which agreements have been signed in this regard alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The Central Warehousing Corporation plans to bring up infrastructure required for floriculture related business. However, it is not venturing into exports of flowers.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Investment in Foreign Stocks

6786. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently announced any scheme allowing the resident Indian individuals, companies and mutual funds to invest in stocks abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow NRIs to take upto US \$ 1 million from the sale of properties and other assets they may own in India;

(d) if so, the details of the decisions taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government have proposal to make some amendments in foreign exchange rules; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Government has recently decided to allow Indian Mutual Funds to invest in equity of listed overseas companies.

(b) According to Guidelines issued by SEBI, the Mutual Funds can invest in those overseas listed companies which have a shareholding of at least 10% in an Indian Company listed on a recognized Stock Exchange in India (As on January 31, of the year of Investment). The overall cap for the entire Mutual Funds industry to invest in ADRs/GDRs issued by Indian Companies and Foreign Equity and debt securities, is US \$ 1 Billion.

(c) to (f) Reserve Bank has issued instructions to authorize dealers on January 13, 2003 to allow remittance/s upto US\$ 1 million, per calendar year, out of the balances held in NRO account/sale proceeds of assets of NRIs/PIOs/foreign nationals.

IFCI Defaulters

6787. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Debt Recovery Tribunals has allowed Industrial Finance Corporation of India to attach the office of State co-operative and textile secretary for the Government of Maharashtra for default of rupees over fifty crore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for initiating such action against Maharashtra Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Financial Institutions (IFCI, IDBI and ICICI), filed a joint recovery application before Mumbai Debts Recovery Tribunal on 12th September, 2000 for recovery of dues, against one sugar co-operative (Shindkheda Taluka SSK Limited) and the State Government of Maharashtra (Guarantor). DRT issued recovery certificate in September 2001 for a total amount of Rs. 50.68 crores along with interest at 20% p.a. till the date of payment plus costs. Recovery Officer passed an Order on the 6th January, 2003 for attachment of the Office of Secretary, Co-operative & Textile Department, Government of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, and also issued show-cause notice to the State Government as to why the treasury and its account with RBI should not be attached. The appeal filed by the Government of Maharashtra before Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal was first heard on 17.1.2003 and the DRAT directed the State Government to deposit 75% of the decretal amount and fixed the case for 17.3.2003 for final bearing. The State Government, however, filed a Writ Petition in Mumbai High Court and at the time of admission of Writ Petition, allowed the State Government to deposit Rs. 10 crores within seven days and stayed further recovery proceedings. The State Government deposited Rs. 10 crores and the Writ Petition is now fixed for hearing 11.6.2003.

Credit-Lines for Sub-Saharan African Countries

6788. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to enhance the credit lines for trade with Sub-Saharan African countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government also propose to favour an increased interaction between Government and business of the two regions; and

(c) if so, the details of credit line extended by the Exim Bank in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

FCI Wheat Stock

6789. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FCI wheat stocks have surpassed the 25.00 million tonne mark;

(b) whether FCI does not store wheat in non-wheat producing states or ports of export where the demand for wheat is higher;

(c) whether traders in non-wheat producing States are exploiting the FCIs lapses on wheat storage location policy;

(d) whether FCI has any mechanism in place for anticipating demand and for grading of quality; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir. Food Corporation of India (FCI) also stores wheat in non-wheat producing states.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) and (e) FCI has mechanism for grading the quality of stock during procurement and storage. The foodgrains during storage are categorized on the basis of their quality. The damaged foodgrains are also categorized for different end use purposes viz. Cattle feed I, II and III etc.

Government of India has sufficient stock of foodgrains in Central Pool to meet the entire demand under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and various welfare schemes.

[Translation]

Construction of Dry Port

6790. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken so far for construction of dry port in the country;

(b) whether such dry port is also proposed to be built in Bihar also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Inland Container Depots (ICD) and Container Freight Stations (CFS), which are alternatively known as Dry Ports, are approved through single window clearance mechanism administered by an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) functioning in the Department of Commerce. 175 ICDs/CFSs have been sanctioned so far, of which 115 are functioning, 37 are under implementation while 23 have either been cancelled or closed. Private sector participation is also permissible.

(b) and (c) Two ICDs have been sanctioned in Bihar. The Container Corporation of India and Bihar State Export Corporation have been sanctioned one ICD each at Fatuah and Sitalpur respectively. Both the facilities are under implementation.

Share of Agro Exports in Total Exports

6791. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:

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

(a) the share of Agro-exports in the total annual exports of the country;

(b) whether agro-exports have been stagnating for the last few years;

(c) if so, the total agro-exports made during the last three years against the target set, if any;

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to make agro-exports competitive in the world market;

(e) whether lack of adequate export infrastructure has been hindering the agro-exports;

(f) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to improve export of infrastructure for agro-exports; and

(g) the target set for export of agro products for 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The percentage share of agricultural exports (excluding tea, marine, coffee, castor oil, cotton) to the total exports for the period April-January, 2002-03 is 8.35%.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Agricultural exports for the last three years have been as indicated below:

Year	Exports (Rs. Crores)
2000-2001 (April-March)	16773.48
2001-2002 (April-March)	18666.68
2002-2003 (April-January)	17310.71
2001-2002 (April-January)	14806.91

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

(d) to (f) Inadequacy of infrastructure specific to agri-products such a lack of cold chain, quality testing laboratories, post harvest management, storage etc. have constrained agro-exports. The same are being addressed by the Government through a variety of schemes administered by its agencies.

(g) Target for agro-exports is in the nature of projections based on past performance and future expectations. The process has been taken in hand.

[English]

Jet Airways

6792. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jet Airways fulfills all the legal conditions required of a company of its status;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action against Jet Airways in view of violation of legal norms of establishments of a company thereof;

(e) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(f) when the Government is going to take appropriate action against Jet Airways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) The company M/s Jet Airways (India) Private Limited was incorporated as a private limited company on 01.04.1992. The company became a deemed public company under Section 43A (1A) of the Companies Act, 1956 on 01.07.1996. The word 'Private' was added to the name of the company under Section 43A (2A) of the Act with effect from 19.01.2001. The company, has therefore complied with the requirements of the Companies Act, 1956 in this regard.

(f) The company was inspected under Section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956. The Government ordered prosecution for violation of Sections 205, 224(8), 292(1C) & 211 (8 cases) of the Act.

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange Transaction in Post Offices

6793. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to introduce transaction of foreign exchange in some post offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this would help in curbing the illegal trade of foreign exchange;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented alongwith the status of the same at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) The Department of Posts has entered into an agreement with Western Union Financial Services Inc., USA (WUFS) for inward money transfer services. Under this arrangement, personal inward remittances received from abroad through the WUFS

networks are distributed to recipients in India through designated post offices. The Department of Posts is reimbursed by WUFS through normal banking channels for the amounts disbursed by them. The provision of the facility is expected to curb illegal trade in foreign exchange. Permission for the arrangement was first given the Reserve Bank in November 2000 and has been periodically renewed.

[English]

Blue Print Plan for Hunger Free India

6794. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:

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

(a) whether the Government have laid down a blueprint of a plan for securing a hunger free India by 2007; and

(b) if so, the broad features and targets contemplated thereunder, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Action has been in hand to ensure food security for all and to reform and improve the Public Distribution System for the benefit of the Poorest of the Poor in rural and urban areas. Towards this end, amongst other measures, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana was commenced in December, 2000 to provide 25 kg. of foodgrains per family per month at highly subsidized rates of Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/- per kg. for rice to the beneficiaries identified by the State Government/UTs. The scale of issue to these beneficiaries has been enhanced to 35 kg. per family per month with effect from April, 2002. The Yojana which initially covered 1 crore Poorest of the Poor families is now being extended to cover another 50 lakh families.

Lending Norms for Film Projects

6795. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industrial Development Bank of India has relaxed lending norms for film projects;

(b) if so, the details of the norms relaxed;

(c) whether all other banks have also begun to lending to film projects on consortium-lending route;

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

(e) the extent to which this will check the film industry for utilizing the funds of underworld?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Industrial Development Bank of India has relaxed some norms of lending to film projects as under:

(i) *Waiver of profit sharing condition:*

Initially, IDBI film financing scheme decided to share the overflow that accrues to the producer from the distributor in case the movie generates revenues in excess of Minimum guarantee after the distributor has recouped his commission and publicity print expenses. The condition of sharing the 'overflow' now stands waived.

(ii) *Relaxation in the Completion Bond Guarantee:*

Insistence on Completion Bond is now limited to projects with budgets in excess of Rs. 20 crore only.

(c) Some banks have begun lending to Film Projects.

(d) In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst the banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing the financial Institutions as also the provisions of the Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information in respect of the individual constituents of the Public Financial Institutions cannot be divulged.

(e) The schemes formulated by FBI/IDBI are expected to enable extension of institutionalized credit to the Film Industry. Further, against the prevailing high cost of funds from informal channels, the institutional credit to the industry is expected to reduce the cost of funds in film production activity. It will reduce the role of informal sources of finance including the underworld. The extent however, cannot be specified.

[*Translation*]

Bankrupt Cooperative Banks

6796. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of district Central Co-operative Banks in Madhya Pradesh have gone bankrupt;

(b) whether the Government are aware of embezzlement in Apex Bank of Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for not taking any decision on these pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that as per available information, none of the 38 District Central Co-operative Banks in Madhya Pradesh has been declared as "bankrupt".

(b) to (d) NABARD has reported that during December 2002, Madhya Pradesh State Co-operative Bank had detected two fraud cases involving an amount of Rs. 9.80 lakh in its two branches. In another case, the bank had filed a case against one of its borrowers for committing a fraud of Rs. 13.10 lakh. The bank had conducted detailed investigations into the fraud cases. On the basis of its findings, the bank has initiated disciplinary action and criminal proceedings against the officials/party concerned.

[*English*]

Outstanding Taxes

6797. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding taxes yet to be recovered pertaining to income tax, corporate tax, customs duty and central excise duty as on date; and

(b) the time-bound programme chalked out for recovery of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The amounts of direct and indirect taxes outstanding as on 31.12.2002 are Rs. 62,775 crore and Rs. 14,763 crore, respectively.

(b) Recovery of taxes is a continuous process in which old demands get reduced or collected and fresh demands are added each year. In cases under dispute, the assesses generally do not pay up the demands of taxes considered due by the Department concerned, until they exhaust all available legal remedies. While persuasive and coercive action for recovery, as prescribed under the relevant laws, is taken continuously, outstanding taxes cannot thus be recovered in a time-bound manner.

Hostels and Ashram Schools for Tribals

6798. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise funds released by the Government for the construction of Hostels and Ashram Schools for Scheduled Tribe students (both boys and girls) under Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the years 2001-2002, 2002-2003; and

(b) the State-wise number of Hostels and Ashram Schools constructed for tribal boys and girls during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The State-wise details of funds released by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the construction of Hostels and Ashram Schools for STs (both boys and girls) under Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 are enclosed as statement-I.

(b) The number of Hostels and Ashram Schools, (state-wise), sanctioned for construction during the aforesaid period is given as statement-II. However, the planning and construction of Hostels and Ashram Schools are at various stages of implementation and it is therefore not possible to indicate the precise number of hostels and Ashram Schools actually constructed during the aforesaid period because the supervision of this activity falls within the purview of the State Governments.

Statement I

Year 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of States/UTs	Girls Hostels for STs Amount released	Boys Hostels for STs Amount released	Ashram Schools Amount released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	232.5	—	262.5
2.	Gujarat	10.29	21.57	157.3
3.	Himachal Pradesh	126.60	113.50	—
4.	Kerala	0.59	22.05	—
5.	Orissa	25.00	30.00	—
6.	Tripura	10.00	40.00	50.00
7.	Karnataka	40.00	135.00	128.00
8.	Maharashtra	67.72	217.90	—
9.	Jharkhand	197.40	197.40	—
10.	Chhattisgarh	10.00	—	400.00
11.	Delhi	—	50.00	—
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	10.00	—
Total		720	837.4	997.8

Year 2002-2003

S.No.	Name of State/UTs	Girls Hostels for STs Amount released	Boys Hostels for STs Amount released	Ashram Schools Amount released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	128.00	204.50	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.00	38.00	—
3.	Madhya Pradesh	440.00	422.00	820.00
4.	Meghalaya	13.75	13.75	—
5.	Nagaland	32.50	32.5	—
6.	West Bengal	—	5.00	—
7.	Karnataka	—	—	130.00
Total		634.25	715.15	950.00

*Statement II**Year 2001-2002**(Rs. in lakhs)*

S.No.	Name of State/UTs	No. of Girls Hostels sanctioned	No. of Boys Hostels sanctioned	No. of Ashram Schools sanctioned
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32	—	7
2.	Gujarat	7	8	43
3.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	—
4.	Kerala	2	3	—
5.	Orissa	5	2	—
6.	Tripura	1	2	1
7.	Karnataka	2	9	9
8.	Maharashtra	Arrears	Arrears	—
9.	Jharkhand	14	14	—
10.	Chhattisgarh	1	—	46
11.	Delhi	—	1	—
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	2	—
Total		67	43	106

Year 2002-2003

S.No.	Name of State/UTs	No. of Girls Hostels sanctioned	No. of Boys Hostels sanctioned	No. of Ashram Schools sanctioned
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	12	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	2	—
3.	Madhya Pradesh	32	113	130
4.	Meghalaya	5	5	—
5.	Nagaland	Arrear	Arrear	—
6.	West Bengal	—	1	—
7.	Karnataka	—	—	5
Total		45	133	135

Amendment to SBI Act, 1955

6799. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to amend the State Bank of India (SBI) Act, 1955 to increase capital base for expansion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which said amendment in the Act is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) State Bank of India has submitted a proposal to amend State Bank of India Act, 1955, which, inter-alia, include enhancement of authorised capital.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Government and Reserve Bank of India.

Assistance to Textiles Sector

6800. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance provided by the Union Government to textiles sector under the Centrally sponsored scheme during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether funds allocated for various schemes and projects were not utilised fully by some States;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government for proper utilisation of assistance given for textile sector under Centrally sponsored scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) Details of plan assistance given during the last three years for implementation of Centrally sponsored schemes in the textile sector are given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Sector/Scheme	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4
1. HANDLOOMS			
(i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana	16.96	57.25	77.30

	1	2	3	4
(ii) Workshed-Cum-Housing Scheme		15.00	9.81	10.50
(iii) Weavers Welfare Scheme		9.30	4.10	5.41
Handloom Export Scheme		1.58	2.03	1.86
2. SERICULTURE				
(i) Catalytic Development Programme		10.4	15.72	43.32
(ii) IT initiative		—	—	0.19

Statewise and yearwise details of total plan assistance given for Handlooms and Sericulture based schemes are enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) While no under-utilization of funds has been reported in Sericulture, there was under-utilization of funds in handloom sector as given in the statement enclosed. The reasons for shortfall in expenditure in respect of Handlooms are:

(i) Delay in submission of Utilization Certificates;

(ii) Submission of incomplete proposals by the States;

(iii) Delay in implementation of schemes/projects by States concerned;

(iv) Non-provision of State's share in their budgets.

(d) Suitable steps for improvement in implementation have been taken like modification in terms and conditions, coverage, monitoring of state's contribution, including timely submission of proposals as well as utilization certificates.

Statement

Statewise details of total assistance given in respect of Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last three years (2000-01—2002-2003)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	States	Handlooms				Sericulture		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Unutilised Amount# (Cumulative)	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	244.84	1459.51	1241.12	153.98	170.50	350.53	1426.38
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	179.58	476.04	47.33	129.23	11.25	12.03	2.62
3.	Assam	549.20	875.63	1019.37	112.25	206.03	164.87	121.48
4.	Bihar	0.37	6.50	6.25	12.75	23.36	7.00	106.72
5.	Chhattisgarh	5.85	33.08	60.52	11.95	—	—	12.13
6.	Delhi	5.00	11.35	150.32	16.35	—	—	—
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8.	Gujarat	501.91	217.64	17.93	9.44	—	0.05	—
9.	Haryana	15.50	8.50	0.00	—	—	—	—
10.	Himachal Pradesh	60.86	70.44	192.27	43.01	27.44	—	1.45
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	45.33	0.33	31.89	1.12	37.94	71.90	225.14
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—	8.09	103.35
13.	Karnataka	87.07	453.67	474.12	182.10	291.65	650.51	880.28
14.	Kerala	46.12	325.43	1148.17	157.89	25.14	19.23	38.05
15.	Madhya Pradesh	35.61	30.49	65.45	20.33	34.70	31.57	52.59
16.	Maharashtra	13.20	52.26	48.82	10.88	65.26	67.73	97.22
17.	Manipur	364.79	0.00	608.57	201.63	0.07	—	0.05
18.	Meghalaya	29.10	10.53	15.75	37.43	13.87	72.98	33.11
19.	Mizoram	10.25	0.00	39.06	10.25	12.90	39.27	84.49
20.	Nagaland	257.08	364.50	149.88	165.69	10.32	22.82	2.49
21.	Orissa	63.00	0.00	22.34	17.17	7.60	48.74	50.62
22.	Pondicherry	0.00	1.23	0.00	1.23	—	—	—
23.	Punjab	4.25	28.50	14.10	18.35	1.26	3.50	—
24.	Rajasthan	2.56	30.21	18.73	37.37	—	—	—
25.	Sikkim	2.50	0.00	0.00	—	5.65	3.25	15.48
26.	Tamil Nadu	1200.46	2093.03	2920.73	948.82	85.14	132.28	64.32
27.	Tripura	77.91	4.56	8.28	15.06	31.29	45.42	37.26
28.	Uttar Pradesh	68.40	688.00	768.35	89.90	53.57	52.03	22.86
29.	Uttaranchal	0.00	40.25	47.55	—	—	22.72	210.41
30.	West Bengal	412.67	37.01	389.81	173.48	55.05	101.91	68.38
Grand Total		4283.41	7318.69	9506.71	2578.06	1169.99	1928.44	3656.43

In respect of handloom Schemes only. Funds for Sericulture Schemes have been utilised.

Corruption in SEBI

6801. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention is drawn to the irregularities and corruption in the functioning of SEBI;

(b) whether Chairman of SEBI is protecting some influential directors within SEBI itself; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to give the investigation to CBI for further probe into the irregularities and corruptions in SEBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Golden Jubilee Function of Finance Commission

6802. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Golden Jubilee function of the Finance Commission was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed therein the suggestion given by the participants; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the Golden Jubilee function two meetings were held, one with the Finance Ministers of States and the other with the Chairmen and Members of previous Finance Commissions. The issues discussed with the State Finance Ministers included vertical and horizontal devolution of taxes, desirable proportion of taxes and grants in the Finance Commission's award, assignment of funds to the panchayats, sustainable levels of debt and norms for the States to raise revenues, compensation for loss on account of VAT, consideration for the impact of the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations and a pragmatic scheme of debt relief rescheduling of loans, etc.

(c) The issues raised and suggestions made in the meetings will provide valuable inputs to Twelfth Finance Commission for formulating its recommendations.

[*Translation*]

Pension Fund

6803. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to set up a pension fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above fund is likely to be set up by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO

VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Government has decided to introduce a defined contribution pension scheme for new entrants to Government service, except for the armed forces, in the first stage, which will also be available on a voluntarily basis, to others. The new pension scheme will be portable, allowing transfer of the benefits in case of change of employment and will go into 'individual pension accounts' with Pension Funds. Pension Funds will be regulated through a new and independent Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority. The Pension assets would be managed by Pension fund managers (PFMs) each of whom would offer a variety of schemes. As least one of the PFMs would be in the public sector. In addition, private pension fund managers, with sound experience in fund management and risk management would be chosen through an open and transparent procedure.

[*English*]

Decline in Savings and Capital Formation

6804. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in the savings and capital information during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

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

(c) the manner in which it has affected the investment; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the savings and capital formation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) As per to (the latest available estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation, Gross Domestic Savings as percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current market prices, increased from 23.4 per cent in 2000-01 to 24.0 per cent in 2001-02. Gross Domestic Capital Formation as per cent of GDP at current prices, declined marginally from 24.0 per cent in 2000-01 to 23.7 per cent in 2001-02. Gross Domestic Investment measured as Gross Domestic Capital Formation, as per cent of GDP, of the public sector declined marginally from 6.4 per cent in 2000-01 to 6.3 per cent in 2001-02 while that of the private sector at 16.1 per cent in 2001-02 remained the same as in the previous year.

(d) The Tenth Five Year Plan underlines the need for stepping up public investment in infrastructure to promote private sector investment, to be met by increased domestic saving. The Budget 2003-04 has proposed measures to promote savings and investment, infrastructure development by leveraging public money through private sector participation and measures aimed at fiscal consolidation. These initiatives are expected to have a favourable impact on savings and investment.

Voluntary Consumer Organisations

6805. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of voluntary consumer organizations functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether these organizations are receiving financial assistance from the Union Government to undertake consumer protection activities;

(c) if so, the total financial assistance provided by the Government to each of these organizations during each of the last three years and the current financial year, State-wise;

(d) whether there is any credit system/utilisation certificate by these organizations of the funds so provided to them by the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the number of cases of misutilisation of funds against these VCOs came to the notice of the Union Government and action taken against them during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Details are enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) Voluntary Consumer Organizations (VCOs) are receiving financial assistance from the Consumer protection activities. The state-wise information of VCOs sanctioned grants during the last three years is being compiled.

(d) Yes, Sir. Utilization certificate and other documents are required to be provided by grantee institutions/VCOs as per the prescribed schedule.

(e) There have been no case of misutilization of funds by VCOs sanctioned grants from the Consumer Welfare Fund so far.

Statement

Number of VCOs Functioning in States/UTs

S.No.	State/UTs	No. of VCOs
1	2	3
1.	A & N Islands	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	321
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
4.	Assam	8
5.	Bihar	30
6.	Chandigarh	6
7.	D & N Haveli	—
8.	Daman & Diu	1
9.	Delhi	26
10.	Goa	5
11.	Gujarat	123
12.	Haryana	16
13.	Himachal Pradesh	9
14.	J & K	6
15.	Karnataka	78
16.	Kerala	60
17.	Lakshadweep	2
18.	Madhya Pradesh	71
19.	Maharashtra	70
20.	Manipur	3
21.	Meghalaya	6
22.	Mizoram	2
23.	Nagaland	3
24.	Orissa	46
25.	Pondicherry	18
26.	Punjab	51
27.	Rajasthan	79
28.	Sikkim	3

1	2	3
29.	Tamil Nadu	161
30.	Tripura	5
31.	Uttar Pradesh	103
32.	West Bengal	36
Total		1350

[*Translation*]

National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation

6806. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which and the objectives for which the National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation was set up; and

(b) the extent to which the objectives have been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) (i) The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) was set up on the 10th of April, 2001 as a Government Company under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (A company not for profit), following bifurcation of the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC).

(ii) NSTFDC has been set up for the economic development of eligible Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries with an annual family income up to double the poverty line by providing financial assistance for undertaking viable income generating activities, and imparting training to them for entrepreneurial development.

(b) The Details of NSTFDC's performance (Post incorporation) during the last two years are as under:-

(i) During 2001-02, Rs. 60.00 crores was nationally allocated for the sanction of Schemes/Projects. Against this target, NSTFDC sanctioned 140 Schemes/Projects with NSTFDC's share being Rs. 63.25 Crores. This includes financial assistance of Rs. 3.00 crores sanctioned to TRIFED for providing marketing support to

Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries for minor forest produce.

(ii) During 2002-03, Rs. 80.00 crores was nationally allocated for the sanction of new Schemes/Projects. This marks an increase of 33% over the previous year. Against this target, the Corporation sanctioned 162 schemes with NSTFDC's share being Rs. 98.98 crores. It includes financial assistance of Rs. 5.00 crores sanctioned to the Girijan Co-operative Corporation Ltd. (GCC) for providing marketing support for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and a term loan of Rs. 24.00 crores to the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Tribes Co-op. Finance Corpn. Ltd. (TRICOR) for establishing Coffee Plantation in ITDA, Padaru, Distt. Vishakhapatnam.

[*English*]

Plan Assistance of State Government

6807. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to withhold or cut the plan assistance of State Government of Orissa;

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

(c) whether the Planning Commission has recommended to the Union Government to release the plan assistance to the State of Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Central Assistance for Annual Plans are fixed by the Planning Commission in consultation with State Governments. Formula based cuts are effected in the event of State Governments spending less than Approved or Revised outlays for previous year.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

EPC for Pharma Industry

6808. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal for setting up an independent Export Promotional Council at Hyderabad for the pharma industry;

(b) if so, the present status of this proposal:

(c) whether the State Government has consented to provide land, infrastructure etc. and grant for the corpus required to set up the new Export Promotion Council; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to convey their concurrence for accomplishment of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) The Department of Commerce received requests from Pharmaceutical Industry Associations, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of an independent Export Promotional Council for the Pharma Industry. The Government of Andhra Pradesh had consented to provide land, infrastructure and the corpus amount to set up the new council at Hyderabad. However, since the decision had to be taken in consultation with the Pharma Industry Associations, the Department of Commerce had called for a joint proposal from the major Pharmaceutical Associations. They have now jointly recommended that the new council be set up with the Head Office at Mumbai and Regional Office at Hyderabad. However, information regarding the depositing of the corpus amount is awaited from the Associations. Therefore no timeframe can be set for the accomplishment of the proposal.

[Translation]

Safeguard of Interest of Sugarcane Growers and Sugar Mills

6809. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Sugar Mills Association an organisation of sugar mill owners has submitted any representation to the Government to safeguard the interests of sugarcane growers and sugar-mill owners; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has been representing the Government from time to time to safeguard the interest of sugar industry. Some of the demands made by ISMA recently and action taken thereon by the Central Government is as under:-

- (i) *Creation of Buffer Stock*:- On the basis of demand of ISMA and National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd., Government has created a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar for a period of one year from 18.12.2002.
- (ii) *Effective enforcement of release mechanism*:- Government has decided to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and to implement "regulated release" mechanism effectively.
- (iii) *Reimbursement of internal transport and freight charges and neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage*:- In order to promote exports of sugar, the sugar factories have been allowed to claim reimbursement of expenditure incurred on internal transport and freight charges on export shipments of sugar. It has also been decided that neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage at the rate of Rs. 350 per tonne would be reimbursed.

Target for Export of Tea

6810. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target was set by the Government in regard to export of tea during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the target has been achieved;

(d) the reasons behind not reaching to the goal;

(e) the target set for export of tea during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(f) the strategy proposed for achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR

RAO): (a) to (c) The targets set for export of tea and the achievements during the 9th Five Year Plan are given below:

(figures in Million Kgs)

Year	Export Target for tea	Achievements
1997-98	180	211
1998-99	200	206
1999-00	220	192
2000-01	225	204
2001-02	205	190

(d) The major factors responsible for the decline in exports of tea are lower off take by Russia, stiff competition from other tea producing countries like Sri Lanka, China, Indonesia, Vietnam & Kenya, tariff & non-tariff measures imposed by some important tea importing countries like Russia, Egypt and Iran and higher price of Indian tea due to high cost production.

(e) The targets set for export of tea during the first two years of the Tenth Five Year Plan are given below:

(figures in Million Kgs)

Year	Export Target
2002-03	200
2003-04	200

(f) Major steps taken by the Government to increase exports of tea include:-

- Tea Board is implementing a medium term export strategy on tea prepared in consultation with M/s Accenture. As part of the Medium Term Export Strategy, a communication campaign to promote Indian tea and the logo developed by Tea Board was launched in Russia in October, 2002.
- Financial assistance are provided to the exporters of tea for meeting part of cost of handling, packaging, transport/freight charges.
- Tea Board is implementing a quality upgradation programme for improving quality of tea manufactured by small growers in the country.

- A Factory Upgradation Scheme has been implemented to encourage production of orthodox and non-reconditioned Cut-Tear-Curl (CTC) teas to cater to the international demand.
- Promotional support is given to Indian exporters in their promotion and marketing of Indian brands.
- Participation in international fairs and specialized exhibitions, field samplings at specialty stores and markets, Buyer Seller Meets and exchange of tea delegations between India and tea importing countries are some of the other activities undertaken by the Tea Board to boost the export of tea.

[English]

World Bank Aided Projects in West Bengal

6811. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the world bank aided projects undertaken in West Bengal as on date;

(b) the funds provided by the World Bank as aid; and

(c) the area-wise details of the work done so far with the World Bank assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) One World Bank aided multi-state sector project namely Second State Health System Development Project is being implemented in West Bengal. The approved assistance for West Bengal in this project is SDR 100.26 million. The total disbursement in respect of West Bengal as on March 2003 is about SDR 68.03 million (Rs. 404.4 crore).

(c) Under the project, so far, 214 civil works in the nature of upgradation of district hospitals (18), sub-divisional hospitals (38), state general hospitals (27), rural hospitals (95), block primary health centres (8), and public health centres (28) have been undertaken in various parts of the state.

Special Courts for Speedy Trials

6812. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up exclusive special courts for speedy trial of cases under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases filed and percentage of convictions, State-wise; and

(d) the reasons for low percentage of conviction?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

137 exclusive Special Courts have been set up under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 by various States. Further, all State Governments except Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland, which are predominantly tribal area states, have notified the existing Session Courts as Special Courts for the trial of offences under the Act.

The details of exclusive Special Courts set up by States/ Union Territories and their locations are enclosed as statement-I.

(c) A Statement-II is enclosed.

(d) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in their Report in April 2000 have stated that based on the experience of Special Courts set up in Madhya Pradesh under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, the following have emerged as factors responsible for the low rate of conviction:

- (i) Delay in lodging the FIR.
- (ii) Lodging false FIR due to enmity.
- (iii) False reports and contradiction in the statements of complainants and witnesses.
- (iv) Witnesses/Complainants become hostile.
- (v) The accused and victims compromising outside the Court.

Statement I

List of Exclusive Special Courts under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

S.No	Name of State	Name of Districts/Jurisdictions of the Courts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Guntur 2. Chittoor 3. Mahabubnagar 4. Nellore 5. Kumool 6. Cuddapah 8. Medak 8. Karim Nagar 9. Krishna 10. Nizamabad 11. Prakasam 12. Secunderabad
2.	Bihar	9 Divisional places and also at East Champaran and Bhojpur districts.
3.	Chhattisgarh	1. Raipur 2. Durg 3. Rajnandgaon 4. Bilapur 5. Raigarh 6. Surguja 7. Jagdalpur
4.	Gujarat	1. Banskantha (Palanpur) 2. Ahmedabad (Rural) 3. Katch (Bhuj) 4. Amreli 5. Vadodara 6. Junagadh 7. Panchmahal 8. Rajkot 9. Surat 10. Surendranagar
5.	Karnataka	1. Bijapur 2. Gulbarga 3. Kolar 4. Raichur 5. Mysore 6. Belgaum
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Dhar 2. Shajapur 3. Morena 4. Shahdol 5. Damoh 6. Raisen 7. Mandla 8. Sehore 9. Bhind 10. Tikamgarh 11. Mandaleshwar 12. Dewas 13. Mandaur 14. Indore 15. Hoshangabad 16. Jabalpur 17. Vidisha 18. Panna 19. Chhatarpur 20. Ujjain 21. Guna 22. Satna 23. Rewa 24. Narsinghpur 25. Sagar 26. Gwalior 27. Rajgarh 28. Bhopal 29. Jhabua
7.	Rajasthan	1. Alwar 2. Pali 3. Pratapgarh 4. Jaipur 5. Ajmer 6. Udaipur 7. Jodhpur 8. Kota 9. Bikaner 10. Medta 11. Tonk 12. Ganganagar 13. Baran 14. Sawaimodhopur 15. Dausa 16. Jhalawar 17. Bhitwara

1	2	3
8.	Tamil Nadu	1. Trichy 2. Maduari 3. Thanjavur 4. Tirunelveli
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Farrukabad 2. Unnao 3. Basti 4. Banda 5. Etawah 6. Hamirpur 7. Gonda 8. Kanpur City 9. Badaun 10. Sultanpur 11. Barabanki 12. Bulandshar 13. Gorakhpur 14. Varanasi 15. Pilibhit 16. Etah 17. Deoria 18. Jhansi 19. Faizabad 20. Agra 21. Kanpur Rural 22. Behraich 23. Lucknow 24. Jalaon 24. Merrut 26. Ghaziabad 27. Sidharth Nagar 28. Mirzapur 29. Chandausi 30. Balrampur 31. Fatehpur 32. Ghazipur 33. Mainpuri 34. Kannauj 35. Gautambudhnagar 36. Hardoi 37. Shravasti 38. Baghpat 39. Bareilly 40. Jyotibaphulenagar.
10.	Uttaranchal	Nainital

Statement II*Cases with courts under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and their disposal during the year 2001*

S.No	State/UT	No. of cases in Courts including BF in 2001	No. of cases ended in conviction	No. of cases ended in acquittal	Total No. of cases disposed off (4+5)	% of conviction to total no. of cases disposed off	% of acquittal to total no. of cases disposed off	No. of pending with courts at the end 2001	% of pending with courts at the end 2001
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3251	61	756	817	7.47	92.53	2434	74.87
2.	Assam	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	100
3.	*Bihar	3439	41	344	385	10.65	89.35	3054	88.80
4.	Chhattisgarh	2179	231	459	690	33.48	66.52	1489	68.33
5.	Goa	2	0	1	1	0	50.00	1	50.00
6.	Gujarat	15053	34	541	575	5.91	94.09	14478	96.18
7.	Haryana	108	0	11	11	0	100.00	97	89.81
8.	Himachal Pradesh	31	1	11	12	8.33	91.67	19	61.29
9.	Karnataka	4977	3	430	433	0.69	99.31	4544	91.30
10.	Kerala	1945	6	126	132	4.55	95.45	1813	93.21
11.	Madhya Pradesh	12765	547	2153	2700	20.26	79.74	10065	78.85
12.	Maharashtra	8973	33	1118	1151	2.87	97.13	7822	87.17
13.	Orissa	7118	17	237	254	6.69	93.31	6864	96.43
14.	Punjab	48	0	3	3	0.00	100.00	45	93.75
15.	Rajasthan	8427	290	1678	1968	14.74	85.26	6459	76.65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
16.	Tamil Nadu	2338	47	387	434	10.83	89.17	1904	81.43
17.	Uttaranchal	548	50	163	213	23.47	76.53	335	61.13
18.	Uttar Pradesh	81585	599	5808	6407	9.35	90.65	75178	92.15
19.	West Bengal	93	2	7	9	22.22	77.78	84	90.32
20.	A & N Islands	2	2	0	2	100.00	0.00	0	0.00
21.	Chandigarh Adm.	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	50.00
22.	Daman & Diu	4	0	2	2	0	100.00	2	100.00
23.	D & N Haveli	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	100.00
24.	Delhi	48	1	1	2	50.00	50.00	46	95.38
25.	Pondicherry	6	0	2	2	0	100.00	4	66.67
Total		1,52,957	1,965	14,238	16,203	12.13	87.87	1,36,754	89.41

- Note:
1. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 does not extent to Jammu & Kashmir.
 2. Nil data reported by 8 States/UTs viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Lakshadweep.
 3. The information is awaited from the State Government of Jharkhand.
 4. *The figures of 18 Districts only of Bihar State.

Allotment of Wheat

(b) The factual position in the matter is as follows:

6813. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Animal Feed for export turns up at flour mills" appearing in Indian Express dated April 2, 2003;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the corrective measures initiated by the Government in this regard?

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

The wheat crop 2001-2002 had got damaged by rains during the maturity/harvesting stage of the crop. The Government in relaxation of the prescribed specifications, procured about 168 lakh MT of luster lost wheat during that year to ensure that the farmers receive a remunerative price for their produce. Though the grains were dull in appearance, the quality of the luster lost wheat was as good as sound wheat in terms of nutritional value. However, due to the appearance there was some reluctance by a few State Governments to accept the same for distribution under the Public Distribution System and other Welfare schemes. It was then decided that the stocks would be offered to exporters and domestic trade. There was no decision that the stocks would be used exclusively for animal feed or for exports. In fact, the lustre lost wheat was offered to flour mills and for export, simultaneously.

The position of luster lost wheat was reviewed in December, 2002 and it was found that the total demand of the exporters and domestic trade was more than the stocks available at that point of time. A conscious

decisions was therefore, taken that while all firm export commitments made by 18th December, 2002 would be honoured, no further earmarking of stocks would be made for exporters and the balance stock would be reserved for the domestic industry.

(c) and (d) The Government had issued a rebuttal immediately to the Newspaper clarifying the position.

Special Economic Zones

6814. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has allowed foreign banks (OBUs) to set up branches in Special Economic Zones all over the country;

(b) whether Reserve Bank of India has insisted on some conditions for such OBUs to function to SEZs;

(c) if so, the details of such conditions;

(d) the number of such branches presently operating in SEZs alongwith the target set by RBI before June 30th, 2003;

(e) whether the SEZ plans of the Government have failed to take off;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Pursuant to the announcement in the Exim Policy 2002-07 that for the first time Off-shore Banking Units (OBUs) would be permitted to be set up in Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formulated a scheme for setting up of OBUs in SEZs. In terms of the said scheme, banks operating in India viz. public sector, private sector and foreign banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange are eligible to set up OBUs. The banks would

be required to obtain prior permission of RBI for opening OBUs in SEZs under section 23(1)(a) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. RBI's conditions stipulate that OBUs would be permitted to deal only in foreign currencies and there would be restrictions on their dealing in Indian Rupee, access to domestic money market etc. the parent bank would be required to provide a minimum of US \$ 10 million. All prudential norms applicable to the overseas branches of Indian banks would apply to the OBUs.

(d) RBI has issued "in-principle" approval to State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce and ICICI Bank for setting up of OBUs in different SEZs. So far no foreign bank operating in India has applied for setting up of an OBU in a SEZ.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Assistance for Development Projects

6815. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated funds for the development of various existing development projects executed by his Ministry in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and disbursed for various centrally assisted schemes in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(c) whether the money allocated for various schemes and projects are not utilized fully; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Details given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Details of funds released (in Rs. lakhs)				Funds utilised
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Total	
1.	Growth Centre Scheme	150	600	Nil	750	750
2.	Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme (CIB)*	200	Nil	Nil	200	200
3.	Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE)	Nil	50	2800	2850	50

*Merged with ASIDE with effect from March 2002.

The funds released under Growth Centre Scheme and CIB Scheme have been fully utilised. Rs. 50 lakhs released under ASIDE in the year 2001-2002 have also been fully utilised. The projects for which funds under ASIDE Scheme in the year 2002-2003 were released are under implementation and the period for utilisation of these funds is also not yet over.

[Translation]

Setting up of Land Custom Office

6816. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Indo-Nepal treaty it is the responsibility of his Ministry to obtain consent of the Nepalese Government for setting up of a new land custom office on the Indo-Nepal Border;

(b) whether the Ministry of Finance has referred a proposal to his Ministry in regard to obtaining the consent of Nepalese Government for setting up of a new land customs office in the Lokaha Bazar on Indo-Nepal border Madhubani district of Bihar; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government propose to set up a new land customs office in the said market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, action will be taken in the matter in terms of the Treaty of Trade between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

[English]

Industrial Status to Printing Sector

6817. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a growing demand to give industry status to printing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) "Printing, including litho printing industry" has been specified as "schedule industry" as per entry under sub heading (5) of heading 38—Miscellaneous Industries of the First Schedule of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

Sensex of BSE

6818. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the market capitalisation of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) was eroded by about 4 per-cent during the first week after the presentation of the Budget, 2003; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The market capitalisation on the Bombay Stock Exchange fell from Rs. 619872.6 crore on the budget day, i.e. 28th of February, 2003, to Rs. 595004.96 crore on 7th March, 2003. This was a fall of about 4%.

(b) According to the BSE, the impending conflict in the Middle East could have dampened the market sentiment leading to the erosion in the equity prices, a trend which was evident in the major international markets with indices like Dow Jones, Nasdaq Composite, FTSE and S&P 500 down by 1.91%, 2.41%, 4.91% and 1.46% respectively during the period of 28th February, 2003 to 7th March, 2003.

Rice Stock

6819. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice stock is fast depleting and wheat quantum has been cut by a massive five million tonnes;

(b) if so, whether to ensure sufficient stocks, the Government propose to put quantitative restrictions on foodgrains exports or alternatively increasing ex-granary prices as a part of new grain export policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent this step of the Government is likely to help in global grain trade and prevent any major decline of Government grain stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The stock of rice and wheat in Central Pool as 1.4.2003, was 171.57 lakh tonnes and 156.45 respectively which is above the prescribed buffer norms.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Conditions laid down by NRI

6820. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that NRIs are laying down some conditions for contributing to India's social development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's response thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Growth of Jute Sector

6821. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite investing hundreds of crores of rupees in the Jute Sector, the growth in this sector is still lagging behind;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to push up growth in Jute Sector;

(c) whether the Government have initiated any programme to promote Indian Jute products in overseas markets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue the jute manufacturers and others connected thereto through this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) No Sir. The production of jute goods has increased from 12.78 lakh MT in 1991-92 to 16.01 lakh MT in 2001-02, and production of raw jute including mesta, has increased from 74.23 lakh bales in 1992-93 to 105 lakh bales during 2001-02. Also, with emphasis on Jute Diversified Products (JDPs), export of JDPs has grown significantly. The total value of export of JDPs has increased from Rs. 63.76 crores in 1997-98 to Rs. 134.74 crores in 2001-02.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government has initiated a number of measures to promote Indian jute products in the overseas market. The Jute manufactures Development Council (JMDC) which is a statutory body is implementing various export promotion measures, which include organising/participation in various trade fairs, buyer-seller meets, workshops and seminars in the domestic and export markets. The Government has introduced innovative schemes during the year 2002-03 viz. extension of External Market Assistance scheme for one year from April 2002 under which subsidy is provided for export of specified category of jute goods at varying rates. The Government has also introduced the Duty.

Entitlement Pass Book Scheme (DEPB) on jute goods w.e.f. July, 2002. These measures have contributed to a growth of about 47% in the export of the goods during the year 2002-03 over the year 2001-02.

[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance to North-Eastern Handicraft Development Corporation

6822. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether North-Eastern Handicraft Development Corporation has sent a proposal to the Union Government seeking financial assistance to provide the products made of cane, bamboo and timber;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) No proposal has been received from North-Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation, (NEHHDC), Ltd., Shillong recently seeking assistance to provide the products made of cane, bamboo and timber.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sugar Mills in U.P.

6823. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) the number of private, cooperative and Government sugar mills in U.P. and the number out of these functioning;

(b) the per-quintal rate of sugarcane being paid to the farmers and the facilities being provided by the Government to the sugar mills;

(c) whether the Government have also received complaints regarding non-procurement of the entire sugarcane crops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The information in respect of the number of installed and working sugar mills of the Private, Cooperative and Public Sectors in Uttar Pradesh and in regard to the commencement of crushing operation is given below:

S.No.	Sector	Installed sugar mills (As on 31.3.2003)	Sugar mills commenced crushing operation for 2002-2003 sugar season
1.	Private	58	51
2.	Cooperative	27	27
3.	Public	22	22
Total		107	100

(b) For the current 2002-2003 sugar season, the cooperative and public sector sugar mills of U.P. have been asked to pay the cane price in the range of Rs. 95-100 per quintal while the private sugar mills are, by and large, paying price in the range of Rs. 70 to 90 per quintal, as per agreement between cane growers and concerned sugar mills, as advance to the growers.

(c) and (d) No complaint has so far been received in regard to non-purchase of the entire sugarcane by the sugar mills in U.P.

[English]

Postal Saving Scheme

6824. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed up maximum ceiling for an investor for Management Information System;

(b) if so, the provision for joint holders;

(c) whether Small Saving Agents, Associations, Investors have lodged several complaints regarding arbitrary stoppage of interest on such schemes having joint holders by Small Savings Postal Department;

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

(e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Under the Monthly Income Account Scheme, an upper limit of rupees three lakh has been prescribed for investment in a single account and rupees six lakh in a joint account.

(c) to (e) Complaints, if any, on issues related to small savings schemes, including Monthly Income Account Scheme, are acted upon keeping in view the provisions of the rules governing such schemes.

Publicity to BIS Standards

6825. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) have any mechanism to keep track of scientific and technical developments in key area so that the standards are updated on a continuous basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by the Government to give wide publicity to proposals for new standards or revisions to provide greater transparency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The mechanism of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to keep track of scientific & technical developments in all areas of standards formulation is through its technical committees which include Divisional Councils, Sectional Committees, Subcommittees and Panels. For each technical field there is a Divisional Council which advises the various Sectional Committees on policy matters. These technical committees comprise of experts drawn from representatives of various interests such as consumers, regulatory and other Government bodies, industry, scientists, technologists and testing organizations. A Division Council is set up by the Bureau in defined areas of industries and technologies for formulation of standards with one of the major objective to advise on the matters relating to research and development required for the formulation/revision of standards. It also examines the standards formulation by various other international standards bodies of different countries.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) To further improve the system, it has been decided to put on the website the list of draft standards issued by the Bureau inviting comments from all the stakeholders. The stakeholders can obtain a copy of the draft standard directly from the website. A proposal for formulation/revision/amendment/cancellation of a standard can also be given by any Ministry/Department of the Central Government, State Government, Union Territory Administration, Consumer Organizations, Industrial Units, Industries Associations, Professional Bodies, Members of the Bureau and Members of its Technical Committees. BIS is also considering to put the constituents of the various committees/panels involved in the formulation of standards on the website.

Economic Assistance from ADB

6826. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are seeking upto \$8 billion as economic assistance from the Asian Development Bank over next four years; and

(b) if so, the purposes for which it is needed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The recent country strategy and programme mission 2003-06 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has proposed to provide assistance of US \$ 7.5 billion to India during calendar years 2003 to 2006. These loans would be considered for various development projects in transport, energy, urban infrastructure, financial, agriculture and natural resources sectors.

[Translation]

Schemes under Women Development Fund

6827. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes/schemes being implemented by his Ministry under "Women-Development-Fund (Promotion of Industries)" to boost women's participation in promotion of industries in rural areas;

(b) the name of the implementation agency alongwith the formula adopted by the Government to provide loans/grants/other financial assistance for implementation of these programmes/schemes; and

(c) the programmes launched under the above said schemes in Rajasthan during the last three years in the form of loans/grants or other financial assistance and the year-wise/programme-wise/scheme-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No programmes/schemes are being implemented by Ministry of Finance under "Women-Development-Fund" (Promotion of Industries) to boost women's participation in promotion of industries in rural areas.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Projects Launched by ITC

6828. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Tobacco Company plans to invest Rs. 1000 crore in e-choupal and agri-business over the next seven to ten years;

(b) if so, the details of projects being launched by ITC and in which States; and

(c) the number of villages covered under these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Indian Tobacco Company Limited have informed that they propose to spend approximately Rs. 1000 crores over the next 7 to 10 Years in rural development initiatives. These initiatives will include rural connectivity (e-choupal), integrated watershed management, social and farm forestry, economic empowerment of women and primary education for children of rural communities. Currently these projects are spread across the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. These projects are also proposed to be eventually extended to about 15 States in India. Currently, the e-choupal network services approximately 11,000 villages and is proposed to be extended to 1,00,000 villages over the above mentioned period.

[Translation]

Proposal received from Bihar for Tribal Development

6829. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently received any proposal from Bihar for tribal development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Detail of the Schemes/

Programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs being implemented in the State of Bihar for tribal development, and the funds released to the State Government, Scheme-wise, during the year 2002-2003, are given below:-

(Rs. in Lakh)		
S.No.	Scheme/Programme	Funds released
1.	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan	556.56
2.	Grant under Article 275(1) of the Constitution	209.00
3.	Educational Complex in low literacy packets	0.30
Total		765.86

Fake Currency Notes of Rs. 500

6830. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the fake currency notes of Rs. 500 denomination are more in circulation for the last some time;

(b) if so, whether in view of this the Government have released new series of the currency note of Rs. 500 denomination and have also instructed the banks to give only new series of notes to the customers;

(c) whether old series notes are still being supplied by some banks; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government against those banks which are not complying with the instructions of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) New series of Rs. 500 denomination notes with additional security features were issued in the year 1997 and 2000. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has instructed all banks and currency chests not to issue/re-issue the old design (Ashoka Pillar series) notes of Rs. 500 denomination to customers.

(c) and (d) banks have conformed to RBI that they are not issuing old seers notes to public. Banks that do

not comply with the instructions are liable for action by RBI.

[*English*]

Carpet Weaving Training Centres

6831. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Carpet Weaving Training Centres in Madhya Pradesh which are actually imparting training and since when, location-wise;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on these centres during the last three years alongwith the share of Union Government and State Government thereon;

(c) whether any complaints have been received that some training centers were stopped after fifteen days or so and stipend not paid to the trainees; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) No Carpet Weaving Training Centre either run departmentally or through other organisations is imparting training at present in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Computerisation of Courts

6832. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have selected some courts in four major metropolitan cities for computerisation;

(b) if so, the details of these courts;

(c) whether such computerisation would be restricted only to the High Courts or to be extended to the district courts in such cities; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The City Courts in the four metropolitan cities of Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai have been selected for computerisation.

(c) and (d) The Central Government during 2002-03 has released an amount of Rs. 1.00 crore each of the State Governments of Maharashtra, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu specifically for computerisation of the High Courts in the respective states. The district courts in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata have already been taken up for computerisation.

Electronic Transfer of Funds

6833. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain banks have launched a scheme to start "electronic transfer of funds" among 500 branches in various banks of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the names of the banks which have launched this scheme; and

(c) the action plan prepared to extend this scheme connecting more branches of banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Ten Silos by CWC

6834. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Warehousing Corporation has formulated a plan to construct ten silos in order to increase the wheat storage capacity in the country; and

(b) if so, the names of States where these are likely to be constructed, location-wise?

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

(b) Does not arise.

*(English)***Sugar Development Loan**

6835. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has recommended a number of proposals for sanctioning of sugar development loan for cane development to the sugar factories in the State;

(b) if so, when these proposals were recommended by the State Government;

(c) whether the Government have examined the proposals;

(d) if so, the amount sanctioned out of the sugar development fund for the cane development to the sugar industry; and

(e) if so, the reason for delay in sanctioning the loan to the sugar factories?

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

(b) The proposals were recommended by the State Government of Maharashtra from time to time.

(c) These proposals were examined and scrutinised by this Department.

(d) and (e) Since inception of the Sugar Development Fund Rs. 221.57 crores were sanctioned and Rs. 151.80 crores were disbursed to the sugar mills in the State for cane development purposes.

Investment of LIC

6836. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the investment of LIC during each of last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the premium income of LIC during each of last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The information furnished by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is given in enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise Investment and Premium Income of Life Insurance Corporation of India during the last three years

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	State	Investment During			Premium Income		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Madhya Pradesh	*450.32	259.35	238.19	1356.01	1275.90	1688.74
2.	Chhattisgarh	—	5.01	85.14	—	422.95	459.72
3.	Uttar Pradesh	*462.61	479.83	636.14	2981.23	3944.52	4512.11
4.	Uttaranchal	—	2.34	33.69	—	480.78	522.63
5.	Bihar	\$128.82	193.05	554.77	1472.90	1319.01	1588.16
6.	Jharkhand	—	23.54	77.76	—	785.40	949.83
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.64	11.42	8.94	8.09	11.98	15.50
8.	Assam	169.45	176.52	151.27	553.64	741.87	939.07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Manipur	11.00	11.00	12.38	31.26	42.98	42.31
10.	Meghalaya	28.04	29.31	19.57	23.18	38.49	46.09
11.	Mizoram	50.98	55.98	54.22	3.23	4.90	6.54
12.	Nagaland	51.24	46.59	49.51	18.96	26.96	31.34
13.	Orissa	184.85	195.41	173.68	530.46	730.34	882.38
14.	Sikkim	19.86	18.03	10.03	14.63	25.05	25.17
15.	Tripura	78.81	86.77	84.07	50.43	72.16	88.73
16.	West Bengal	433.91	870.03	788.35	2411.40	3263.08	4644.01
17.	Delhi	1541.77	1071.74	1699.22	1559.63	2281.55	3375.28
18.	Haryana	42.98	62.66	40.44	634.15	908.89	1085.80
19.	Himachal Pradesh	399.46	324.43	304.24	165.09	230.53	263.52
20.	Jammu & Kashmir	114.35	101.26	275.81	180.69	255.89	287.50
21.	Punjab	407.38	585.21	518.91	778.54	1093.61	1337.13
22.	Rajasthan	491.09	360.81	605.00	1233.86	1781.53	2091.83
23.	Andhra Pradesh	557.99	565.89	960.16	2066.79	2273.67	3441.73
24.	Karnataka	544.25	846.25	1258.03	1652.43	1806.48	2688.15
25.	Kerala	532.92	718.64	549.74	12010.49	1623.92	1895.83
26.	Tamil Nadu	728.58	1189.27	950.16	2279.65	2711.55	3484.38
27.	Gujarat	997.38	881.54	1155.09	1897.69	2735.14	4034.93
28.	Maharashtra	4495.86	2642.62	3467.95	4461.40	3566.92	8533.64
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—	7.35	10.42	11.26
30.	Chandigarh	41.75	61.91	65.81	103.98	125.55	146.52
31.	Goa & Daman	196.39	32.63	15.98	133.30	177.55	231.44
32.	Pondicherry	2.00	2.00	4.00	29.29	107.75	78.68
Total		13165.77	11911.04	14846.25	27849.75	34877.32	49429.95

* Combined figure for Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh.

Combined figure for Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal.

\$ Combined figure for Bihar & Jharkhand.

Trade Agreement with Singapore

6837. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
 SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
 SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
 SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
 SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
 SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
 SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "Singapore PM's visit set to boost trade ties" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated April 8, 2003;

(b) if so, whether any discussion was held with Singapore Prime Minister to boost trade ties with Singapore;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the details of trade agreement signed with Singapore premier during his visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Discussions were held on the presentation of a Report by the India-Singapore Joint Study Group on the feasibility of concluding a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between the two countries. The Group was set up following discussions between the two Prime Ministers in April 2002 when our Prime Minister have visited Singapore.

(c) and (d) A Joint Declaration of Intent to initiate the negotiations on the CECA and an MOU providing for India-Singapore collaboration in extending technical assistance to the new ASEAN-Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam in the framework of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), were signed during the visit. No Trade Agreement was, however, signed.

IDBI Assistance to Power Projects

6838. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has provided any assistance for power projects in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of power projects cleared/rejected pending as on date;

(d) the amount required for this purpose; and

(e) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be cleared by IDBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has so far sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 3014 crore to eight power projects with generating capacity aggregating 2906 MW in the State of Gujarat. As regards the details thereof, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst the banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing the financial institutions as also the provisions of the Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information in respect of the individual constituents of the Public Financial Institutions cannot be divulged.

(c) IDBI has reported that out of the eight assisted power projects, sanction to one project was cancelled at the request of the company while another project did not avail the sanctioned assistance.

(d) IDBI has reported that the eight assisted power projects in the State involve an aggregate investment of Rs. 13,039 crore. IDBI's aggregate sanction to these projects stood at Rs. 3014 crore.

(e) As on date, there is no power project pending with IDBI for sanction of financial assistance in the State of Gujarat.

Introduction of De-Linking Plants in Newsprint

6839. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether de-linking plants have been introduced in some of the newsprint factories in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of capacity of such plants introduced in Hindustan Newsprint Limited, Vellore and Kottayam, Kerala along with advantageous, outcome and increase of efficiency by the commissioning of such plants;

(d) whether the Government are encouraging more newsprint production in the country.

(e) if so, the details thereof along with production, domestic demand, import and export during last three years, year-wise;

(f) whether import has seriously affected our domestic production; and

(g) if so, the details thereof along with the duty structure for import of newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Newsprint is a delicensed industry. The details of the Mills manufacturing newsprint which have installed de-inking plants are not centrally maintained.

(c) The capacity of de-inking plant of M/s. Hindustan Newsprint Ltd. Commissioned on 11.12.2002 is 100 tonnes per day. On stabilisation, the plant is expected to result in substitution of about 33,000 metric tonne of the virgin pulp, thereby freeing dependence on 1500 hectares of forest land per year; environmental improvements; and increase in the production of the newsprint by about 5% and would provide employment opportunities in the field of collection of waste paper.

(d) Yes, Sir. Steps taken by Government to increase newsprint production in the country include— (i) delicensing of newsprint industry; (ii) duty free import of pulp for manufacture of newsprint; and (iii) the newsprint manufactured by the mills included in Schedule-I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962 has been exempted from excise duty.

(e) to (g) Year-wise details of production, domestic demand, import and export during last three years is as under:-

(in Lakh Metric tonne)

Year	Production	Domestic Demand	Import	Export
2000-2001	6.34	10.78	4.44	0.11
2001-2002	6.20	10.64	4.44	0.11
2002-2003	5.61 (up to Feb.' 03)	—	4.58 (up to Jan.' 03)	0.053 (up to Dec., 2002)

Customs Duty applicable on import of Newsprint is 5%.

VRS in Coffee Board

6840. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees who have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the Indian Coffee Board during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether this scheme is still in vogue;

(c) whether the Board has succeeded in reducing the administrative expenditure after introducing the Voluntary Retirement Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Consequent to liberalisation of coffee marketing, the Board was divested of its coffee marketing activities in a phased manner effective from 1994. Subsequently a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) was offered to the personnel working in the Marketing Wing of the Board and a total number of 1688, as detailed below year-wise, opted for VRS and left the services of the Board:—

Year	No. of employees opted for VRS
1995-99	1684
2000	2
2001	—
2002	2

While all the employees who opted for VRS-94 were relieved from the services of the Board during the years 1995-99, two employees were relieved during the years 2000 and 2002 respectively due to pending disciplinary inquiries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Prior to liberalisation of coffee marketing activities, the Coffee Board had a staff strength of around 3000 employees, whereas the present strength of the Board is only about 1100 employees. As such after introduction of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme, the Board has substantially reduced its administrative expenditure on pay and allowances, Traveling/Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance etc.

Changes in IMF set up

6841. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has sought changes in International Monetary Fund set up by demanding a comprehensive reform of distribution of IMF quotas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help the developing countries like India particularly in lessening their foreign debt burden; and

(d) the reaction of the IMF executive body on Indian proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee and the Board of Governors of the IMF, India has stated that the share of developing countries in the quota of IMF must be increased appropriately.

(c) Increase in quota for developing countries, including India, is not directly related to their debt burden. It will, however, enable developing countries to have a larger voting share in the IMF Board and consequently a more prominent role in decision making at the IMF.

(d) It was decided that the IMF Executive Board would monitor closely matters relating to distribution of quota in the IMF.

Insurance Policy for Senior Citizens

6842. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to provide budgetary support to the public insurer for "Varistha Pension Bima Yojana";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Private insurer has requested the Government to provide the same support for the same scheme; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Govt. thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Government has announced, in the Budget 2003-2004, a new pension scheme viz., the Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana for citizens above 55 years of age. This scheme would be implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). The benefits under the scheme will be calculated at the rate of interest of 9% per annum. The difference between the actual yield earned by LIC, on the funds invested under the scheme and the pension benefit, will be reimbursed to the LIC, annually, by the Government. For the current year a provision of Rs. 30 crores has been made.

(c) and (d) Government has received requests from private life insurers to participate in the scheme. The requests are under consideration of the Government.

Shifting of Special Services to States

6843. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision in regard to shifting of some specified services to the States for taxation purpose; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Central Government has initiated legislative measures for suitably amending

the Constitution to provide for taxes on services as a specific entry in the Union List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution and insertion of a new Article 268A as well as for consequential amendment to Article 270. This will enable Parliament to formulate, by law, principles for determining the modalities of levying taxes on services by the Central Government and collection and appropriation of the proceeds thereof by the Central and State Governments. The legislative process is yet to be completed.

National Judicial Academy

6844. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had set up/proposed to set up a "National Judicial Academy" for training judicial officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the Academy is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The National Judicial Academy (NJA) is a society registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 on 17th August, 1993. The main objects of the NJA are (i) to provide training to the Judicial officers of the States/Union Territories, (ii) to provide facilities for training of ministerial officers working in the Supreme Court, (iii) to study the court management and administration of justice in the States/Union Territories, and (iv) to undertake, organize and facilitate study courses, conferences, seminars, lectures and research in matters relating to court management and administration. The Academy is located at Bhopal with its registered office at New Delhi.

The Hon'ble President of India inaugurated the building of the Academy at Bhopal on 5.9.2002.

(c) Does not arise.

Interest Rate of Refund

6845. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to slash the interest rates on refunds to companies and individuals against advanced taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take so as to ensure the timely payment of refund orders to companies and individuals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The rate of interest paid by the Income-tax Department under section 244A of the Income-Tax Act to the assesseees on account of delay in issue of refund has varied from time to time so as to be in tune with rate of interest prevailing in the market.

(b) Finance Act, 2002 has reduced the rate of interest from three-fourth percent per month to two-third percent per month with effect from 1.6.2002. This is comparable to rate of interest available in the market.

(c) The steps taken to ensure the timely payment of refund orders include processing of returns on computers, processing of returns of refund cases on priority, ensuring availability of refund voucher books, deployment of extra manpower etc. In the Budget Speech, the Finance Minister has also proposed introduction of Electronic Clearance System (ECS) for direct credit of refunds to the bank account of the taxpayers.

[Translation]

Banks Declared as Bankrupt

6846. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the banks in public and private sectors declared as bankrupt during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to return the money of the investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No Bank in the public or private sector has been declared as bankrupt during the last three years.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Appointment of Judges

6847. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he was favoured a relook on the appointment of judges to attract the best legal talent in the judiciary as reported in the 'Statesman' dated the March 2, 2003;

(b) if so, whether inability to attract best available legal talent in the judicial appointment has been the major road block in the judiciary; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps the Government proposed to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the statement made was in context of the Government's inability to pay salary at par with the practising lawyers' income and reluctance of top lawyers to come to the Bench. Otherwise, Judges are selected keeping in view their educational qualifications, nature and extent of practice, length of the practice, the field of specialization and professional income for the last three years. Besides this, the competence of the person, his judicial potential, temperament and integrity are also kept in mind at the time of appointment.

(c) The Government is committed to setting up of a National Judicial Commission, which would make recommendations for appointments of Judges/Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the High Courts, as also draw up a Code of Ethics for Judges.

Sugar Stock Piled up in A.P.

6848. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that sugar factories in Andhra Pradesh are holding huge stock of sugar with them in their factories;

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

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has made a request for the issue of release orders of the

entire available quality of sugar piled up in the factories; and

(d) if so, the present status of the request made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) As on 31st March, 2003, the stock of sugar with the mills of Andhra Pradesh was 11.47 lakh tonnes (Provisional) as against 11.35 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date of last year. Thus, the stock of sugar with the mills was more or less same as last year.

(c) and (d) The requests have been received from the State Government for release of entire stock of 5 public sector and 6 cooperative sector sugar mills as they had been privatized. Accordingly, the entire stock available with these mills is being released in six equal monthly instalments.

International Convention Centres

6849. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the establishment of some global standard International Convention Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the cities identified therefor;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to set up two such global standard International Convention Centers (ICC) at Bangalore;

(d) if so, the estimate cost of these two projects; and

(e) the steps taken to release fund for these two projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government has estimated a cost of Rs. 1000 crores for setting up the two global standard International Convention Centres. The Centres are to be funded through public-private partnership, with the Government covering the viability funding gaps only. The Ministry of Urban Development has been asked to identify the location of these centres.

Setting up of Project Export Promotion Council

6850. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up a Project Export Promotion Council and also create an export development fund to access the global market;

(b) if so, whether any modalities for the Council have been considered;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which this project export council will finalise the funds utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Government had constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of the Joint Secretary (Foreign Trade & Investment) in the Department of Economic Affairs to give recommendations on promotion of project exports. The Task Force in their report submitted in January, 2003 has, *inter-alia*, recommended establishment of a Project Export Promotion Council and creation of an Export Development Fund (EDF).

(b) and (c) The Task Force has recommended that the Project Export Promotion Council (PEPC) will act as an apex organisation for enhancing project exports. Regarding modalities of PEPC, Task Force has recommended that, PEPC will be an autonomous body and the main function of the body would be to create an effective synergy among Indian Missions, Government of India, Exim India, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC), Industry Associations and Commercial Banks to ensure early identification of projects, intelligence collection, maintenance of centralised database, encouragement to consortia approach etc. Task Force has further recommended that a Director General, who would be a permanent invitee of the High Powered Standing Committee also to be set up as per the Task Force's recommendations, would head PEPC. The PEPC will also include divisions to handle Consultancy and Technology Development. As per the recommendations of Task Force, the equity contribution for creation of this body would come from Government, Industry/Industry Associations and Institutions.

(d) Under the Exim Bank Act of India, Government of India has appointed Exim India to administer the EDF on behalf of Government of India. With a view to enable

Exim India to provide long term funding on competitive soft terms for project exports, the Task Force has suggested that Government of India may consider funding the EDF in US Dollars over a period. According to the Task Force, EDF could be an appropriate vehicle for making available substantial funds for the identified purpose of supporting project exports.

Purchase of Lustre Lost Wheat

6851. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have lifted restrictions on purchase of lustre-lost wheat by exporters and millers from Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, whether any directive has been issued to FCI to sell complete stock of lustre-lost wheat;

(c) if so, the main reasons for imposing restriction on its sale earlier and the lifting restrictions now;

(d) the total estimated wheat that has lost its lustre; and

(e) the date fixed for its sale?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) About 160 lakh MTs of lustre lost wheat was procured during 2001-02 for the Central Pool.

(e) Food Corporation of India was advised to complete the sale of lustre lost wheat by 31st March' 03.

Supply of Foodgrains to Welfare Schemes

6852. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether supplies of foodgrains are being effected due to various welfare schemes sponsored by various Ministries at BPL rates;

(b) whether the concerned Ministries are effecting payments for supplies to schemes sponsored by them;

(c) if so, the dues recoverable from each concerned Ministry till date;

(d) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Centre to continue supplies of foodgrains to mid-day meal scheme run by Human Resource Development Ministry despite huge outstanding covering earlier supplies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Foodgrains at BPL rate are being supplied for welfare schemes sponsored by various Ministries.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The dues outstanding as on 31.3.2003 against the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the foodgrains supplied under Mid Day Meal Scheme are Rs. 983.85 crores.

(d) and (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 28th November, 2001 has directed the Union of India and the FCI to ensure provision of fair average quality grain for the Scheme on time.

Establishment of Consumer Protection Council

6853. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 provides for establishment of Consumer Protection Council at District level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of Districts where Consumer Protection Council have since been established, State-wise;

(d) the target set for 2003-04 in this regard; and

(e) the time by which Consumer Protection Councils are likely to be established in each District in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The provisions for establishment of the Consumer Protection Council at district level incorporated

as new Sections vide Section 8A and 8B in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 through the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 are reproduced below:-

"8A. The District Consumer Protection Council.—(1) The State Government shall establish for every district, by notification, a council to be known as the District Consumer Protection Council with effect from such date as it may specify in such notification.

(2) The District Consumer Protection Council (hereinafter referred to as the District Council) shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) the Collector of the district (by whatever name called), who shall be its Chairman; and

(b) such number of other official and non-official members representing such interests as may be prescribed by the State Government.

(3) The District Council shall meet as and when necessary but not less than two meetings shall be held every year.

(4) The District Council shall meet as such time and place within the district as the Chairman may think fit and shall observe such procedure in regard to the transaction of its business as may be prescribed by the State Government.

8B. Objects of the District Council.—The objects of every District Council shall be to promote and protection within the district the rights of the consumers laid down in clauses (a) to (f) of section 6."

(c) to (e) It requires the amendment of the State Consumer Protection Rules to give effect to the amended provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 which were brought into force with effect from 15th March, 2003. Therefore, it is too early to expect the establishment of District Consumer Protection Councils by the State Governments at district level.

Export of Potatoes

6854. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) the details of efforts made by the Government to give impetus to the export of potatoes;

(b) the countries to whom potato is being exported from India;

(c) the quantum and value of potato exported to these countries during each of the last three years;

(d) the names of countries which are competing with India in regard to production and export of potato;

(e) the details of research, if any, conducted for higher productivity of potato to compete in the world market;

(f) whether recent US-Iraq war has affected potato export from the country; and

(g) if so, the steps taken to find out alternative market to avoid the crash in the potato prices and glut in the States from which potato is exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Steps taken by the Government for promotion of export of potato include *inter-alia* the following;

- Setting up of exclusive Agri Export Zones (AEZs) on potatoes in the State of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh with a view to adopt better pre and post harvest

practices, production and distribution of quality seeds to farmers and better price realisation to them.

- Providing financial assistance to exporters under various Plan schemes of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).
- Organising an International Interactive Workshop exclusively on potato during the AAHAR International Event.

(b) Some of the major export destinations for potato from India are Bangladesh, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, UAE etc.

(c) The quantum and value of potato exported from India to various countries for the last three years is enclosed as statement.

(d) Some of the major potato exporting countries are Germany, France, Netherlands, Belgium, USA, Canada, Spain, Pakistan and China.

(e) Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla is carrying out research programmes mainly aimed at increasing productivity, evolving high yielding disease resistant varieties, agronomic practices and production of disease free breeders seeds of notified varieties.

(f) and (g) It is not possible to say anything definite at present.

Statement

Export of Fresh Potato from India to various countries

Countries	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Angola	—	—	55,000	4,25,714	—	—
Australia	15,500	46,950	—	—	3,015	14,367
Bangladesh	47,97,560	190,98,926	—	—	1,84,020	10,18,146
Bahrain	1,400	12,096	40,000	2,28,750	—	—
Brunei	—	—	22,400	2,15,468	—	—

Qty: Kg
Value: Rs.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Germany	75,000	3,79,518	—	—	—	—
UK	75,000	3,46,513	—	—	—	—
Italy	—	—	—	—	14,400	1,54,231
Japan	50,000	2,83,703	—	—	—	—
Sri Lanka	218,48,979	1109,15,193	144,86,623	832,55,910	3,86,910	24,30,243
Maldives	—	—	7,075	42,052	—	—
Mauritius	25,000	1,62,938	7,50,000	60,16,572	20,000	82,411
Malaysia	3,89,562	31,73,829	1,76,992	10,02,529	2,65,800	14,09,778
Nepal	2,73,360	8,70,608	54,40,296	139,66,272	63,42,769	188,47,089
Oman	—	—	1,03,480	5,46,219	1,200	12,703
Qatar	700	1,817	—	—	—	—
Saudi Arabia	2,300	17,598	37,125	2,43,685	5,310	24,801
Singapore	1,63,613	7,49,290	71,918	5,42,104	87,00	4,32,700
UAE	4,82,200	34,73,338	13,55,855	91,44,480	9,41,902	88,84,430
USA	—	—	90,000	3,79,229	30,000	95,496
Total	282,00,174	1395,32,317	226,36,764	1160,08,984	82,82,326	334,06,395

Source: DGC&S

Demand for Edible Oil

6855. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the demand for edible oils in the country during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) whether the Government are capable of meeting the demand through domestic production;

(c) if not, whether the Government are contemplating to import the edible oils to meet its demand during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the import of edible oils has become costlier due to imposition of additional custom duty; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to minimise the import of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The demand for edible oils in the country during 2001-2002 has been 103.36 lakh MTs. However, considering domestic supply and import of edible oils, the demand for edible oils in the country during 2002-2003 is estimated at 94 lakh MTs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The import of edible oils except Coconut Oil is under Open General Licence (OGL). As such the import of edible oils would depend upon the commercial judgement of the importers. There is no proposal, at present to import edible Oils on Government account.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No additional customs duty has been imposed on import of edible oils.

(f) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Drought Relief Management

6856. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to authorise Central Relief Commissioner for making advance information about allocation of foodgrains to states to check the situation in drought affected areas from deteriorating;

(b) if so, the time by when;

(c) whether drought relief management is facing many problems due to decentralisation process adopted by the Union Government;

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering to issue 50 per cent of allocated foodgrains to States in beginning so that States may not face problems in supplying foodgrains to drought affected areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (e) Allocation of foodgrains for generation of relief employment is made on the basis of a fixed criteria adopted by the Task Force on Drought. The releases have been made in the advance for the period April-June, 2003 for most of the seriously affected States except those which have substantial unutilized balances for the earlier period. This arrangement is working well and no complaints exist about this procedure leading to delay in release of foodgrains.

[*English*]

Availability of Wheat and Rice

6857. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of rice and wheat in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether this availability of wheat and rice are sufficient to meet the requirement of that particular State;

(c) if not, the steps taken or being taken by Government to fulfil the per capita requirement of wheat and rice of a particular State;

(d) whether many States have complained that they are not getting their share from the Central pool to meet the per capita consumption; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that wheat and rice is made available to the States as per their requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) State-wise per capita availability of rice and wheat is not being estimated. However, the per capita net availability of foodgrains for the country as a whole for the year 2002 (provisional) was 181.50 kg./per year which includes 84.80 kg of rice and 62.10 kg. of wheat.

(b) and (c) State-wise and commodity-wise requirements of different crops are not being estimated. As against the normative requirement of foodgrains of 205.31 million tonnes, the production of foodgrains is estimated to be 212.05 million tonnes for the year 2001-02. However, the Government is taking several steps to increase foodgrains production and these include implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme, emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, implementation of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), promotion of watershed development programmes, etc.

(d) and (e) Allocation of foodgrains from central pool made to the States/UTs under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is supplemental in nature and is not meant for fulfilling entire requirement of foodgrains of the States/UTs. At present, the States/UTs. are being allocated foodgrains (Rice and wheat) at a uniform scale of 35 kg per family/per month under TPDS for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families.

Decentralisation of Foodgrains Procurement

6858. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology has made study of decentralisation of foodgrain procurement, storage and distribution;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the main recommendations of the study; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) This Department is not aware of any such study nor has it received any such Study Report. However, the scheme of Decentralized Procurement of foodgrains was introduced by this Department in 1997-98 with a view to effecting savings in the form of reduction of the outgo of food subsidy, enhancing the efficiency of procurement and PDS and encouraging local procurement to the maximum extent thereby extending the benefits of MSP to local farmers. This scheme is in operation in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Uttaranchal.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Trade Relation with South American Countries

6859. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have established trade relations with South American countries;
- (b) if so, the Government have a proposal to further expand bilateral trade with Brazil;
- (c) if so, the areas identified for the purpose; and
- (d) the agreements signed between the two countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government have a proposal to finalize a Preferential Trade Agreement with Brazil. The areas of trade cooperation are being identified for negotiations with the Brazilian authorities.

Export Competitiveness in Textiles

8660. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United States of America has approached the World Trade Organisation representing that India has achieved export competitiveness in textiles and apparels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the likely effect on Indian textile exports after achievement of 'Export Competitiveness' in textiles and apparel export by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) The United States had on 31st January 2003 requested WTO's Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures that the export competitiveness of textile and apparel exports from India be determined on the basis of a computation undertaken by the WTO Secretariat in accordance with Article 27.6(b) of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (ASCM). The products for which the request was made included all textiles and apparel products under Harmonized System Nomenclature chapters 50-59 and 60-63. The computation was requested to be made at both the two and four digit section headings for each of these chapters. It was further requested by the US that export competitiveness calculation be performed for 1996 and each subsequently completed year.

The Government is carefully examining the report and considering various options under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. It would be too early to assess the likely effect, as this matter has not yet been formally discussed in the ASCM Committee of WTO.

Reservation Policy for OBC

6861. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are strictly following the reservation policy in providing jobs for the persons belonging to OBC in the Government Departments and Autonomous Institutions as well Attached Offices, Research and Development Institutes and other PSUs

coming under his Ministry in as far as the gazetted jobs of Class I and II employment are concerned;

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

(c) the number of posts not filled so far and the reasons for not filling up of some reserved posts (Class I and Class II in both Government Sector and Public Sector) designated for the persons belonging to OBC; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill up such vacant posts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and its following attached/subordinate offices and autonomous organisation are strictly following the reservation policy in providing jobs to persons belonging to OBC category. The institutions are:—

- (i) Forward Market Commission, Mumbai.
- (ii) National Test House, Kolkata.
- (iii) Indian Institute of Legal Metrology, Ranchi.
- (iv) National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission, New Delhi.
- (v) Regional Reference Standards Laboratory (Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore, Gowahati & Faridabad).
- (vi) Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi.
- (vii) Food Corporation of India.
- (viii) Central Warehousing Corporation.
- (ix) Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation.
- (x) Directorate of Sugar.
- (xi) Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable Oils & Fats.
- (xii) National Sugar Institute, Kanpur.
- (xiii) Save Grain Campaign Offices.
- (xiv) Indian Grain Management Research Institute (IGMRI), Hapur and its five Field Stations.

(c) As per information available from the organisations listed in (b) above, vacant post reserved for OBCs exists in the Bureau of Indian Standards. As on date [9 posts in the grade of Scientist 'B' (Group 'A')].

(d) (i) Recruitment action has been initiated by the Bureau of Indian Standards after obtaining the approval of the Government to fill up direct recruitment vacancies for the period 16.5.2000 to 31.3.2002.

(ii) Food Corporation of India has initiated recruitment process for 100 management trainees and 7 Assistant Manager (Hindi), category-II. Representation will be given to OBC as per policy.

(iii) In order to fill up vacancies reserved for OBCs various concessions like relaxation in upper age limit by 3 years, etc. are given to them.

(iv) To ensure that vacancies reserved for OBCs are filled by them only, there is a ban on dereservation of vacancies for OBCs.

New Trading System

6862. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI has introduced a new trading system on the stock exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the advantage of this new system;

(d) whether the new system will avoid the need of actual physical settlements of share transfers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that it has not introduced any new trading system on the stock exchanges. However, the settlement cycle has been shortened from T+3 to T+2 w.e.f. April 1, 2003.

(b) The Settlement cycle has been shortened from T+3 to T+2 w.e.f. April 1, 2003 which means that the trades done on T (Trade) Day will be settled on T+2 day. For e.g. if the trade has taken place on Monday, the settlement would be done on Wednesday. If the trade happens on Tuesday, the settlement would be done on Thursday.

(c) A shorter settlement cycle significantly reduces settlement risk and increases flexibility of trading and

investing. Further, market risk management becomes far more efficacious at shorter settlement cycle.

(d) In a phased manner, SEBI has introduced dematerialisation of shares whereby shares are now being settled in demat form. However, an additional trading window is opened for small investors to sell physical shares (which are in compulsory demat list) not exceeding 500 shares in number, irrespective of their value.

(e) The additional trading window provides the facility for small investors to sell physical shares (which are in compulsory demat list) not exceeding 500 shares in number, irrespective of their value. This facility is available only to registered holders of shares. Further, the buyers of the shares are not permitted to re-introduce the shares in the market in the physical form.

[Translation]

Agreement for Export of Flowers

6863. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement in regard to export of flowers keeping in view the growing demand of Indian flowers abroad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the countries to which the flowers are proposed to be exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Working Group on Takeover Code

6864. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has set up a working Group to plug loopholes in the 'takeover' code;

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

(c) whether the working Group has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on the basis of report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) An internal group has been constituted comprising officials of SEBI to take a relook and revisit the SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1997 and suggest necessary Amendments, if any.

(c) to (e) The group has been constituted in April, 2003 and the Report has not been received.

Visit of Business Delegation of Saudi Arabia

6865. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a business delegation from Saudi Arabia visited India in December, 2002 and expressed their keenness to do business in India;

(b) if so, the field in which the Saudi Arabia intend to invest in India;

(c) whether any concrete proposals have been discussed and decision taken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir. A ten-member delegation led by Mr. Ziad B. Al-Bassam, Chairman, Small Enterprises Support Committee of Jeddah Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Saudi Arabia visited India at the invitation of the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC) during December 19-25, 2002. The objective of the delegation was to understand the system of support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in India and also to explore the opportunities for technological & business alliances with Indian Enterprises.

(b) The fields considered for cooperation between NSIC and Jeddah Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Saudi Arabia include, *inter-alia*, the following:—

- Carrying out feasibility/opportunity study for SMEs.
- Identification of small enterprises and arranging partnership with Indian Enterprises.
- Exchange of Sector specific technology and business delegation.
- Organising exhibitions of Indian SMEs products/projects in Saudi Arabia.

(c) and (d) A proposal for signing of Joint Action Plan between NSIC and Jeddah Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Saudi Arabia for development of SMEs in Saudi Arabia was discussed during the visit.

Amendment of GPF Rules

6866. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Provident Fund Rules permit Central Government employees to withdraw 90 per cent of the total amount deposited for the purpose of house construction;

(b) if so, whether such similar provision does not exist for medical treatment of employees suffering from serious diseases like cancer etc.;

(c) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to amend to G.P.F. rules to enable cancer patients and other serious patients to withdraw 90 per cent of GPF fund for their medical treatment; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) General Provident Fund (GPF) Rules provide for withdrawal up to 75 per cent of accumulation at the credit of subscriber, if the employee has rendered 15 years' service or within 10 years before the date of superannuation, whichever is earlier. However, GPF Rules also provide for relaxation of these conditions in deserving cases. Besides, various benefits are also available for medical treatment of Government servants and/or dependents under Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)/various Schemes run by Departments like Railways etc. and/or Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules. CS (MA)/CGHS Rules also provide for grant of

advance upto 90% of the package deal rates, wherever exist or according to the estimate submitted by Government/Govt. recognised private hospital, whichever is less, for major illnesses like By-Pass Surgery, Kidney Transplant, Major Cancer treatment, etc. In view of this, there is no proposal to amend GPF rules to enable cancer patients and other serious patients to withdraw 90% of GPF for their medical treatment.

Production of Sugar

6867. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) the requirement of sugar and target fixed for the production of sugar during the current year, State-wise;

(b) the quantity of sugar produced by various sugar mills in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the production of sugarcane is more than the installed capacity of sugar mills;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the installed capacity of sugar mills and the percentage of capacity at which the mills were working since 2000, State-wise; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the functioning of sugar mills, better prices for farmers, establishment of more sugar mills in the states and enhance the production of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The estimated requirement for internal consumption during the sugar season 2002-2003 (October-September) is 185.00 lakh tonnes. Targets in regard to production of sugar are not fixed by the Government.

(b) Production during each of the last three sugar seasons, State-wise is enclosed as statement-I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. About 60% sugarcane is utilized by the sugar mills for the manufacture of white crystal

sugar and the remaining is used for the manufacture of khandsari and gur and for seed and chewing purposes.

(e) The State-wise installed capacity of sugar mills and the percentage of capacity at which the mills were working since 1999-2000 sugar season (October-September) is enclosed as statement-II.

(f) Sugar industry is delicensed. However, financial assistance is provided from the Sugar Development Fund for the purposes of cane development, modernization, rehabilitation, expansion of sugar mills. Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane had been increased from Rs. 62.05 per quintal during 2001-2002 to Rs. 69.50 per quintal for the current sugar season 2002-2003.

Statement I

State-wise production of Sugar during the last three sugar seasons (Oct.-Sept.)

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

State	Sugar Season 1999-2000	Sugar Season 2000-2001	Sugar Season 2001-2002(P)
Punjab	4.20	4.96	5.93
Haryana	4.77	5.86	6.23
Rajasthan	0.14	0.06	0.05
Uttaranchal	—	—	4.45
Uttar Pradesh	45.56	47.55	52.53
Madhya Pradesh	1.03	0.93	0.73
Gujarat	11.41	10.73	10.56
Maharashtra	65.03	67.05	55.84
Bihar	3.68	2.88	3.52
Assam	0.04	0.03	0.00
Orissa	0.53	0.34	0.25
West Bengal	0.03	0.03	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	11.82	10.22	10.49
Karnataka	15.71	16.04	15.77
Tamil Nadu	17.20	17.81	18.36
Pondicherry	0.49	0.38	0.39
Kerala	0.14	0.07	0.04
Goa	0.15	0.16	0.08
All India	181.93	185.10	185.22

(P)-Provisional

Statement II

The installed capacity of sugar mills and the percentage of capacity at which the mills were working since 1999-2000 Sugar Season (Oct.-Sept.)

Sl. No.	State	Sugar Season 1999-2000		Sugar Season 2000-2001		Sugar Season 2001-2002(P)	
		Installed capacity (in L.T.)	% capacity utilization	Installed capacity (in L.T.)	% capacity utilization	Installed capacity (in L.T.)	% capacity utilization
1.	Punjab	6.60	63.64	6.60	75.15	6.84	86.70
2.	Haryana	4.27	111.71	4.58	127.95	5.18	120.27
3.	Rajasthan	0.23	60.87	0.23	26.09	0.23	21.74
4.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.12	108.01
5.	Uttar Pradesh	45.33	100.51	47.02	101.13	41.18	127.56
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1.10	93.64	1.55	60.00	1.55	47.10
7.	Gujarat	10.71	106.54	10.71	100.19	10.71	98.60
8.	Maharashtra	52.43	124.03	55.86	120.03	61.70	90.50
9.	Bihar	4.73	77.80	4.73	60.89	4.73	74.42
10.	Assam	0.18	22.22	0.18	16.67	0.18	0.00
11.	Orissa	1.02	51.96	1.02	33.33	1.02	24.51
12.	West Bengal	0.07	42.86	0.07	42.86	0.07	0.00
13.	Nagaland	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Andhra Pradesh	8.84	133.71	8.84	115.61	8.84	118.67
15.	Karnataka	10.83	145.06	11.33	141.57	12.31	128.11
16.	Tamil Nadu	14.85	115.82	14.85	119.93	15.24	120.47
17.	Pondicherry	0.38	128.95	0.38	100.00	0.38	102.63
18.	Kerala	0.10	140.00	0.10	70.00	0.07	57.14
19.	Goa	0.09	166.67	0.09	177.78	0.09	88.89
	All India	161.82	112.43	168.20	110.05	174.44	106.18

(P)—Provisional

[Translation]

Illegal Export of Readymade Garments

6868. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exporters in many States including Jharkhand have exported readymade garments illegally;

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

(c) whether a few Excise offices and also other officers are involved in this illegal export;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) During the last three years, 196 cases involving Rs. 122.55 crores have been detected where illegal export of readymade garments was noticed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 28 Officers including Excise officers have been alleged to be involved in these cases.

(e) Show Cause Notices have been issued and goods seized. Cases have also been adjudicated, goods confiscated and penalty imposed. In appropriate cases, guilty persons have been arrested/detained under COFEPOSA.

[English]

Proposal of EU in Regard to Singapore Issues

6869. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Union (EU) is trying to persuade India to agree to a discussion on the four Singapore issues at the Cancun Ministerial Conference of the WTO;

(b) whether EU has hinted to lend support to the key Indian demand for liberalization in the services negotiations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Trade Commissioner of European Commission has recently visited India and held talks with him; and

(e) if so, the details and outcome of the issues discussed between two sides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Mr. Pascal Lamy, Trade Commissioner of the European Commission has recently been to India and held discussion, among others, with the Minister of Commerce & Industry and Law & Justice on 13 March, 2003. It was impressed upon him that the developing countries did not enjoy the full benefits of multilateralism. A number of concerns that India has no various multilateral trade issues were also conveyed to him during the discussions. On Singapore issues, our position that the study process on the four issues, namely, trade and investment; trade and competition policy; transparency in Government procurement; and trade facilitation, should continue and that there should be no movement towards rule making was re-iterated. On services, the EC side underlined the sensitivity as regards immigration, especially with workers and trade unions of the European Union. The mandated negotiations on trade in Services under the framework of the General Agreement on Trade in Services are underway, primarily on the basis of the request-offer approach. India and the European Commission have both made requests to each other and are both actively involved in the negotiations. On agriculture, we elaborated on the sensitivity involved domestically especially in view of the fact that a large segment of the Indian population was dependent on agriculture.

Pending Rape Cases

6870. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases relating to rape which are pending in various courts in the country;

(b) the duration of pendency of the said cases;

(c) the reasons for delay in the disposal of these cases;

(d) whether the Government propose to issue some directions to courts to expedite disposal of these cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As per the information made available by the National Crime Records Bureau, there were 56,343 cases relating to rape, pending at end of the year 2001.

(b) and (c) The details in respect of the duration of pending rape cases are not maintained. The reasons for delay in disposal of rape cases, inter-alia, include non appearance of the accused, slackness of investigating agencies and police to issue summon/warrant, absconding of the accused, non filling up of the vacant posts of judicial officers etc.

(d) and (e) Government have set up Fast Track Courts for the expeditious disposal of long pending cases, including rape cases.

[*Translation*]

Capital Investment by Japan

6871. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the indigenous industries in which Japan made investments during each of the last three years;

(b) whether Japan has set up some joint ventures during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the capital investment made by Japan in these joint ventures, project-wise;

(e) whether Japan propose to invest in some more joint ventures during the current financial year also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) The number of approvals involving Joint Ventures between Japanese companies with Indian partners and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into India from Japan during 2000-2002 are as under:

Year (Jan-Dec)	FDI proposals from Japan approved by the Govt.		FDI inflows* from Japan into India (Rs. in Crore)
	No.	Amount	
2000	57	828.94	985.69
2001	59	703.66	996.54
2002	75	575.51	1980.46

*Inflows include amount received through RBI+FIPB+acquisition of shares.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Japanese investors perceive India as an important investment destination in the medium and long term. India is ranked fifth (in the short-term-three years) and second (in the long term-ten years) by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation Survey 1999-2002. The surveys of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Japanese Exim Bank, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) rate India as an ideal investment destination due to various factors, namely, liberal FDI policy, strong macro economic fundamentals, major economic reforms, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), FDI trends and procedural rationalisation. Japan ranks fourth in terms of total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to India from 1991 to 2002 and accounts for 7.83% of the total FDI inflows during this period.

[*English*]

Cases under MRTPC

6872. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of cases against the drug manufacturers have been filed in Monopoly and Restricted Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) for charging arbitrary price, and unfair trade and restrictive trade practices;

(b) if so, the details of such cases filed in MRTPC during each of the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement*Details of cases relating to pharmaceutical Companies filed in the MRTTP Commission since year 2000*

Sl. No.	Date of institution of cases/Case No.	Title	Next date of hearing	Stage
1	2	3	4	5
1.	23.2.2000 RTPE 25/2000	DG (I&R) Vs. Knoll Pharmaceuticals Bombay	—	Notice of Enquiry discharged on 12.4.2001
2.	23.2.2000 RTPE 28/2000	DG (I&R) Vs. Cadila Healthcare	—	Notice of Enquiry discharged on 16.8.2001
3.	1.8.2000 RTPE 84/2000	DG (I&R) Vs. Bell Pharmaceuticals Mumbai	—	Notice of Enquiry discharged on 19.12.2001
4.	20.10.2000 RTPE 151/2000	DG (I&R) Vs. Albert David Ltd., Calcutta	—	Notice of Enquiry discharged on 15.1.2002
5.	16.11.2000 RTPE 165/2000	DG (I&R) Vs. Cares Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Calcutta	1.8.2003	Fixed for final arguments
6.	30.11.2000 UPTE 173/2000	Shri Gautam Ghosh, Calcutta Vs. Charak Pharmaceuticals (India) Ltd.	—	Dismissed on 12.12.2000
7.	1.6.2001 UTPE 62/2001	Smithkline Beechem Vs. Paras Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Gujarat	—	Closed on 23.4.2002
8.	1.3.2001 RTPE 30/01	DG (I&R) Vs. Bio Ved Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.	—	Dismissed on 6.7.2001

1	2	3	4	5
9.	1.3.2001 RTPE 33/01	DG (I&R) Vs. Bio Ved Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.	—	Dismissed on 5.7.2001
10.	13.3.2001 RTPE 39/01	DG (I&R) Vs. Bio Ved Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.	—	Dismissed on 16.5.2001
11.	28.9.2001 RTPE 83/01	DG (I&R) Vs. Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. & Another	27.5.2003	For reply of notice by the respondents
12.	28.9.2001 RTPE 84/01	DG (I&R) Vs. Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. & Another	27.5.2003	For reply of notice by the respondents
13.	28.9.2001 RTPE 85/01	DG (I&R) Vs. Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. & Another	27.5.2003	—do—
14.	28.9.2001 RTPE 86/01	DG (I&R) Vs. Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. & Another	27.5.2003	—do—
15.	8.8.2002 UTPE 88/02	V.K. Sharma, Delhi Vs. Thermax Laboratories Pharmaceuticals, Haryana	—	Dismissed on 3.7.2002
16.	19.2.2002 RTPE 13/02	Sun Pharmaceuticals, Vadodara Vs. Optica Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Haryana	21.8.2003	For consideration of rejoinder of applicant
17.	31.11.2002 RTPE 60/02	Kripa Medicare Vs. Glaxo Smithkline Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Haryana	8.8.2003	For reply of respondents.

Measures to Restrict Market Access

6873. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade experts have asked the Government to devise safeguards to resist pressure by developed countries under WTO;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on such views of trade experts;

(c) whether the Government also propose to devise proper safeguard measures to restrict market access; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) India has been actively participating in the ongoing negotiations under the Doha Work Programme. In the negotiations for Market Access for agricultural & non-agricultural products and services, India has been reiterating its position that the development focus of the mandate should be fully observed and the concerns/interests of developing countries should be fully factored into the modalities for negotiations. India would make all out efforts at bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral levels to ensure that the developing country concerns and interests are fully reflected in the final outcome of these negotiations.

Indo-Japan Business Co-operation

6874. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 31st Joint Meeting of the Indo-Japan Business Cooperation Committee was held in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Japanese companies are very keen to make investment in Bangalore and some other major cities of the country;

(d) if so, whether any Indo-Japan Foreign Direct Investment proposal has been finalised during 2002-2003; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Joint Meeting discussed the Promotion of Investment and Trade, Infrastructure and Information Technology for imparting the desired momentum to India-Japan bilateral economic relations.

(c) to (e) The following Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals from Japan were approved by Government of India during April, 2002 to February, 2003.

S. No.	Name of State	No. of Approvals Financial	Amount of Foreign Direct Investment Approved (Rs. in Crores)
1.	Gujarat	5	5.18
2.	Haryana	7	26.98
3.	Karnataka	13	464.63
4.	Madhya Pradesh	1	36.14
5.	Maharashtra	12	7.49
6.	Tamil Nadu	7	10.08
7.	Uttar Pradesh	6	0.03
8.	Delhi	21	12.68
9.	Others	5	0.10

Price Stability Fund

6875. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up Rs. 500 crore Price Stabilisation Fund;

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

(c) the total number of rubber growers, coffee cultivators, tea planters and tobacco growers who will be covered under this scheme;

(d) the amount so far been provided to each of these categories; and

(e) to what extent they have been utilised this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. For the benefit of the growers

of tea, coffee, rubber & tobacco, a Price Stabilisation Fund with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore has been set up. To begin with, the scheme will cover a total of about 3.42 lakh growers of all these commodities, being the most needy amongst those having operational holdings upto 4 hectares.

(d) and (e) The details of amount provided and utilized, commodity wise will be available only after the scheme has been in operation for at least a year or so.

Vigilance Mechanism for FCI

6876. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has a vigilance mechanism to prevent pilferage/theft and misappropriation of foodgrain stocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of vigilance cases pending with the FCI management as on April 1, 2002 and the number of such cases added upto December, 2002;

(d) the present status of inquiry in each case;

(e) whether in order to eliminate pilferage/theft of food stocks, the FCI will replace its own Watch and Ward staff with para-military focus from CRPF and CISF;

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) In order to prevent pilferage/theft/misappropriation, security inspections/surprise checks of the FCI depots are conducted from time to time at various levels. The security staff of FCI as well as other agencies like Home Guards/Special Police Officers are deployed for safety of stocks.

(c) and (d) As on April 1, 2002, 1568 vigilance cases were pending with the FCI Management and 2296 more cases were added upto December, 2002. However, as on 31st December, 2002, there were only 1766 vigilance cases pending at various stages with FCI after disposal of 2098 cases during the period from April, 2002 to December, 2002.

(e) and (f) In order to curb the pilferage/theft of foodgrains at FCI godowns, regular Watch and Ward staff are deployed and wherever there is shortage of staff, alternate arrangements are made by engaging Special Police officers/Home Guards from the State/Police Authorities. The CISF is deployed at some of the vulnerable Depots/Godowns of FCI. There is no proposal to replace the FCI Watch and Ward Staff with para Military Forces from CRPF/CISF.

Duties Paid by Public Sector Undertakings

6877. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of first five public sector companies which have paid highest central excise and income tax during financial year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) the names of first five private sector companies which have paid highest central excise and income tax during financial year 2000-2001 to 2002-2003; and

(c) the Central taxes paid by H.P.C.L. and B.P.C.L. during the above financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The names of the first five public sector companies which have paid the highest amounts of central excise duty during the financial years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are (1) Indian Oil Corporation Limited, (2) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, (3) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, (4) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, and (5) Steel Authority of India Limited. The names of the first five public sector companies which have paid the highest amounts of income tax during the financial years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are as under:—

S.No.	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4
1.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation
2.	State Bank of Patiala	Indian Oil Corporation	Indian Oil Corporation
3.	National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.	Bharat Petroleum Ltd.	Bharat Petroleum Ltd.

1	2	3	4
4.	Life Insurance Corporation	Bharat Sanchar Nigam	Life Insurance Corporation
5.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam	State Bank of India	National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.

(b) The names of the first five private sector companies which have paid the highest amounts of central excise duty and income tax during financial years 2000-01 to 2002-03 are as under:-

S.No.	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Central Excise Duty			
1.	ITC Ltd.	ITC Ltd.	ITC Ltd.
2.	Reliance Petroleum Ltd.	Reliance Petroleum Ltd.	Reliance Petroleum Ltd.
3.	Godfrey Philips (India)	Hyundai Motors India Ltd.	Maruti Udyog Ltd.
4.	Tisco	Telco	Telco
5.	Telco	Tisco	Tisco
Income Tax			
1.	ITC Ltd.	Citi Bank NA	ITC Ltd.
2.	Hindustan Lever Ltd.	ITC Ltd.	Hindustan Lever Ltd.
3.	Citi Bank NA	Hindustan Lever Ltd.	TISCO
4.	Arnika International	Hindalco Ltd.	Hindalco Ltd.
5.	Deutsche Bank AG	Hero Hona Motors	B.G. Exploration (Enron)

(c) The central taxes paid by H.P.C.L. and B.P.C.L. during the above-mentioned financial years are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)				
S.No.	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	
1.	HPCL	5541	5892	6297
2.	BPCL	4511	4901	5007

FDI from China

6878. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has temporarily put on hold the decision on the FDIs from China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Foreign Exchange

Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) Regulations, 2000, do not stipulate any country-specific restrictions with regard to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from China. All proposals made to FIPB, including proposals involving Chinese investment, are considered on merits of the case after necessary Inter-Ministerial consultations.

Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains

6879. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on the purchase, storage and transportation of foodgrains per quintal by the Food Corporation of India during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Food Corporation of India has increased the overhead charges fixed for rice and wheat during the above period;

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

(d) whether the huge amount is being spent for preservation of foodgrains in comparison to the actual cost of foodgrains;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Food Corporation of India for reducing the said cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The per quintal expenditure incurred on the purchase, storage and transportation of wheat and rice by Food Corporation of India during the last three years and the current year are as follows:—

Year	Purchase	Storage	Transport*
1	2	3	4
Wheat			
2000-01(Actual)	744.13	12.66	59.25
2001-02 (Prov.)	742.04	14.29	39.02
2002-03 (RE)	763.02	16.84	42.40
2003-04 (BE)	777.94	19.52	48.79

1	2	3	4
Rice			
2000-01(Actual)	991.15	12.66	59.82
2001-02 (Prov.)	1063.02	14.29	16.36
2002-03 (RE)	1094.96	16.84	23.68
2003-04 (BE)	1106.35	19.52	29.88

(*From 2001-02 part of transportation is being charged to buffer carrying cost as per the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission.)

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The per quintal administrative overhead charges for wheat and rice as a part of the economic cost of foodgrains have been decreasing continuously during 2000-01 to 2002-03. The projections for 2003-04 are based on estimates. The details of administrative overhead charges are as under:-

Year	Rate Per qtl.	
	Wheat	Rice
2000-01 (Actual)	16.65	16.65
2001-02 (Prov.)	15.07	15.07
2002-03 (RE)	13.80	13.80
2003-04 (BE)	14.41	14.41

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The amount spent on maintenance of the buffer stock is less in comparison to actual cost i.e. purchase cost of wheat and rice given above. The amount spent on buffer carrying cost of foodgrains is as under:—

Year	Carrying cost (Rs./Qtl.)
2000-01 (Actual)	173.23
2001-02 (Prov.)	222.05
2002-03 (RE)	284.28
2003-04 (BE)	339.31

(f) The steps taken by FCI to reduce the said cost are as under:-

(i) Achieving average capacity utilization of 75% to reduce storage cost.

- (ii) Efforts to reduce losses in the shortages in handling, storage and movement of foodgrains.
- (iii) Making efforts to reduce the incurrence of Railway demurrage charges.
- (iv) Controlling the administrative cost by minimum recruitment of resultant entry level posts.
- (v) Issue of old stocks and disposal of C&D category stocks.
- (vi) Machine stitching of gunnies and handling of foodgrains in 50 kg. bags to reduce storage and transit loss.
- (vii) Ensuring strict quality control measures.
- (viii) Efforts to reduce damages to foodgrains.

Free Trade Treaty

6880. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:

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

- (a) the names of countries with whom India has signed Free Trade Treaty;
- (b) the impact of these agreements on bilateral trade with these countries;
- (c) whether the Government have a proposal to sign the Free Trade Treaty with any other country;
- (d) if so, the names of such countries; and
- (e) the benefit that India is likely to have through the Free Trade Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was signed between India and Sri Lanka on 28th December, 1998 in New Delhi. The FTA has been made operative by the issuance of Customs Notification on 1st March, 2000.

(b) Since the coming into operation of FTA between India and Sri Lanka, the growth of bilateral trade turnover is as given below;

		Value in Rs. Lakhs		
S.No.	Year	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	India's total trade with Sri Lanka	235,514.76	313,006.87	333,018.83
2.	% Growth	17.90	32.90	6.30

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

(c) and (d) A decision has been taken to negotiate a Framework Agreement on Free Trade Treaty with Thailand and also to launch negotiations towards a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with Singapore. Decision has also been taken to negotiate a Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation, which shall cover free trade in goods, services and investments, with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The member states of ASEAN are Brunei, Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. A decision also has been taken to negotiate a Framework Agreement with Mercosur (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay) ultimately leading to FTA.

(e) Such Free Trade Agreements are expected to enhance the bilateral trade and investment flows between the countries by providing better market access resulting from the exchange of tariff concessions.

Consumer Protection Act, 1986

6881. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to amend Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to set up a National Safety Commission as suggested by various consumer organizations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the press reports wherein it has been stated that various manufacturers of consumer products are not mentioning the name of the company and its address on the pack;

(f) if so, the number of such cases came to the notice of the Government; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) Declaration of the name and address of the manufacturer on all commodities in pre-packed form is a mandatory requirement under the provisions of the Standards of Weights & Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977. Non-compliance of this requirement attracts penal provision. Enforcement of the provisions of the Rules rests with the State authorities. Whenever violations are detected, action is taken by the State authorities in accordance with the provisions of the law. No case of manufacturers of consumer products not mentioning the name of the company and its address on their pack has been brought to the notice of the Central Government.

Recruitment Rules for Officers of DRTs

6882. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recruitment rules for officers and staff of all Debt Recovery Tribunals have been published;

(b) if so, whether there is a provision for permanent absorption of officers of Group A and B;

(c) if so, the number of Group A officers have so far given options for permanent absorption whose applications are still pending with his Ministry/Tribunals have so far given options for permanent absorption till date;

(d) whether Government have taken any final decision in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons for delay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is provision in the Recruitment Rules for regularisation/absorption of Group A & B officers (excluding the post of Assistant Registrar & Accounts Assistant) in the respective grades in the Debts Recovery Tribunals.

(c) to (g) Seven applications have been received for regularization/absorption of Group A officers in the DRTs. Out of which in one case 'No Objection Certificate' from the parent department is awaited. Applications/representations of eligible officers will be placed before the Departmental Promotion Committee in its forthcoming meeting to be held soon to decide their suitability based on their qualification and experience as laid down in Recruitment Rules.

Reservation Policy for OBC Gazetted Jobs

6883. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are strictly following the reservation policy in providing jobs for the persons belonging to OBC in the Government Departments and Autonomous institutions as well Attached offices, Research and Development Institutes and other PSUs coming under his Ministry in as far as Gazetted Jobs or Class-I and Class-II employments are concerned;

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

(c) the number of posts not filled so far and the reasons for not filling up of some reserved posts (Class I and Class II in both Government Sector and Public Sector) designated for the persons of OBC; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill up such vacant posts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Database System by SEBI

6884. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Stock Exchange Board of India has plans to expand its database with the help of the National Share Depository Ltd.;

(b) if so, the objective of this database;

(c) whether this database will be made public by SEBI;

(d) if not, the reasons for keeping such information confidential; and

(e) the steps proposed to bring about more transparency in such matters by SEBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

Poppy Cultivation

6885. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3910 dated December 13, 2002 regarding Poppy cultivation and state:

(a) the number of persons arrested during the last two years in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal where the illicit cultivation of opium had been destroyed during the last one year in these States; and

(b) the concrete steps have been taken in consultation with these States to check the illicit cultivation of opium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on Table of the House.

[Translation]

IDBI Assistance to Entrepreneurs of Jharkhand

6886. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by the Industrial Development Bank of India (I.D.B.I.) from the entrepreneurs of Jharkhand for loan during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the applications accepted during the said period, year-wise;

(c) the year-wise and unit-wise extent of financial assistance provided by the IDBI to the entrepreneurs of the State during the said period; and

(d) the target set for the State during the ensuing financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The number of applications received and accepted by IDBI for the entrepreneurs of Jharkhand State during 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 are given below:

Year	Applications received	Applications accepted
2000-2001	3	2
2001-2002	4	3
2002-03	0	0

(c) Details of assistance disbursed by IDBI to the industrial units in Jharkhand State during 2000-01 to 2002-03 are given below:

Year	No. of Units	(Rs. in crore)
		Amount Disbursed
2000-01	7	34.0
2001-02	4	6.2
2002-03	1	6.5

In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst the banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing the financial Institutions as also the provisions of the Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information in respect of the individual constituents of Public Financial Institutions cannot be divulged.

(d) No targets are set for individual States as assistance is sanctioned to all eligible and viable projects irrespective of the location.

[English]

Export of Wheat to Egypt

6887. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDILK:

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

(a) whether Egypt has recently agreed to import wheat from India;

(b) if so, the details of agreement reached in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the wheat is likely to be exported to Egypt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b)

During the meeting of the Indo-Egyptian Joint Working Group, the Egyptian Delegation had informed that Indian wheat can be imported subject to certain restrictions.

(c) No timeframe can be specified.

[Translation]

Violation of MRTP Act by Cold Drink Producers

6888. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the producers of cold drink in several parts of the country are indulging in violation of MRTP Act, 1969 in a large scale;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of those producers of soft drink materials in various parts of the country against whom complaints have been lodged for violation of MRTP Act, 1969 during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Since the year 2000, the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission has instituted seven enquiries against soft drinks manufacturers for allegations of restrictive and unfair trade practices. The details of these enquiries are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Enquiry No/Year	Title of Enquiry with Respondent	Remarks, if any
1	2	3	4
1.	UTPE 26/2000	Dr. K. Haribabu, MLA, Andhra Pradesh —Vs.— Multinational Softdrinks Companies. (The complaint was general and not against any particular company)	The Hon'ble Commission closed the matter on 28.03.2001 as on case of unfair trade practice was made out.
2.	UTPE 57/2000	Director General (I&R) —Vs.— Campa Beverages Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi	Next date of hearing 29.07.2003

1	2	3	4
3.	RTPE 49/2000	Director General (I&R) —Vs.— Pepsi Foods Ltd. Sangrur, Punjab & Jai Drinks Pvt. Ltd., Jaipur, Rajasthan	Next date of hearing 22.07.2003
4.	RTPE 1/2001	Poona Bottling, Mumbai, Maharashtra —Vs.— Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, Coca Cola Co. Georgia, USA & Coca Cola India Ltd. Gurgoan, Haryana	Withdrawn on 31.07.2001
5.	RTPE 60/2001	Kanti Beverages Pvt. Ltd. & Another, Mumbai, Maharashtra —Vs.— Coca Cola Co., Georgia, USA, Coca Cola India Ltd. Gurgaon, Haryana & Hindustan Coca Cola Bottling, Gurgaon, Haryana	Next date of hearing 21.08.2003
6.	RTPE 61/2001	Acqua Minerals Ltd., Mumbai, Maharashtra —Vs.— Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, Coca Cola Co. Georgia, USA & Crystals Springs Pvt. Ltd. Kolkata, West Bengal	Disposed of on 25.07.2001 being not maintainable
7.	UTPE 10/2003	P.K. Rastogi —Vs.— Pepsi Foods Pvt. Ltd. & Ors.	Next date of hearing 26.08.2003

[English]

Misuse of ISI Marks

6889. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases have been detected by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years:

(c) the action taken by the Government against the guilty;

(d) whether a number of Government officials were also involved in such cases; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government against such officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has detected 102 cases of misuse of ISI marks in the last three years as per details below:-

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 (upto 5th May, 2003)
No. of cases detected of misuse of ISI mark	35	33	34

(c) The action taken by the Government against persons/firms misusing the ISI mark is indicated below:-

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 (upto 5th May, 2003)
Prosecution Launched	22	18	3
Cases decided in Court (includes the cases filed in previous years)	5	6*	5

*In two cases the accused was acquitted.

(d) and (e) In four of the above stated cases it was alleged that proper investigations were not carried out by the officials of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). These cases are being investigated by the vigilance Department of BIS.

Agreement with Bosnia

6890. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bosnia have agreed to sign various trade pacts;

(b) if so, whether a number of delegations from Bosnia visited India during the month of March, 2003;

(c) if so, the main agreements that have been signed between the two countries; and

(d) the extent to which it will improve the trade relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has signed an Agreement on April, 2002, on Trade and Economic Cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina for promotion of trade and economic cooperation between two countries. The Government is also studying the possibilities for signing other agreements like Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, Bilateral Promotion and Protection Agreement, etc. with the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(b) During the month of March, 2003, no delegation visited India from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Once the agreements are finalized and signed, there will be good potential to improve the trade between the two countries.

Loss of LIC Policy Papers

6891. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether people who have lost their Life Insurance Corporation policy face severe difficulties in obtaining duplicate copy of their policy; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to simplify the procedure of such matters by LIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The LIC has informed that they have an established legal procedure for issue of duplicate policies. The policyholder has to execute an indemnity bond and provide an independent surety of sound financial standing. Further, the loss of policy document does not absolve the Corporation of the liability of payment of policy monies if a claim arises.

Funds on Priority to Basic Projects

6892. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether ASSOCHAM has advised the Government that basic projects should be given funds on priority and with a low rate of interest;

(b) whether ASSOCHAM has also suggested to introduce a Single Window System; and

(c) the stand of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) In a Bankers-Borrowers meet organised by ASSOCHAM on January 15, 2003, a number of suggestions on funding by banks were made. These included a suggestion for a change in bank's approach by providing all financial and service packages for infrastructure and greenfield projects through a single window system. A lower rate of interest as well as priority in funding for such projects was also suggested. ASSOCHAM have informed that they have not made any representation on these issues to the Government.

Import of Cotton

6893. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed the Cotton Corporation of India to import two lakh bales of cotton during 2002-03 season;

(b) if so, the reasons for importing cotton;

(c) whether the Technology Mission on Cotton in its 1st and IInd phase is making good progress;

(d) if so, whether the estimated demand of about 250 lakh bales at the end of Tenth Five Year can be met through increase in both acreage and yield; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) Government has allowed Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to import cotton on behalf of mills on indent basis. The CCI will import against specific demand of mills on back to back basis and will not import on its own for keeping any inventory or buffer stock.

(b) To enable such user mills to procure raw material of desired quality parameters at a competitive price, which are not in a position to import on their own. Bulking of orders by CCI ensures economy of scale and better prices in the international market.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Working Group on Textiles and Jute Industry for the Tenth Five Year Plan has projected consumption of 215 lakh bales (of 170 kg. each) of cotton at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan. The projected area under cotton cultivation is 94.2 lakh hectare and yield at 338 kg. lint per hectare.

(e) The Technology Mission on Cotton is being implemented in 13 cotton growing States with the objectives of improving production, productivity and quality of cotton. Mini Mission II of the mission primarily focuses on increasing production and productivity through transfer of technology to farmers, integrated pest management, popularizing new varieties etc. Assistance is provided for

production of breeder, foundation and certified seeds; distribution of certified seeds; setting up of delinting machines, distribution of plant protection equipment and setting up of bio-agent laboratory, water saving devices like sprinkler/drip etc.

Fiscal Deficit

6894. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the fiscal deficit as percentage of Gross Domestic Product as on July 1 and January 1 during the last three years;

(b) the steps being taken to control the same and the success achieved during the above period;

(c) whether the rate of growth of industry and revenue collection has shown a downward trend; and

(d) if so, the comparative figures for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Fiscal Deficit (FD) as percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the last three years was as under:

	FD as % of GDP		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
As on July 1	1.2	1.8	1.6
As on January 1	3.1	3.9	3.5

(b) The Union Budgets in all the above years have acknowledged the necessity for fiscal consolidation and proposed measures to augment revenues and rationalise expenditure. Government has been following a policy of moderate tax rates, a wider tax base and simpler procedure so as to secure greater tax compliance, improve Tax-GDP ratio and contain the fiscal deficit within manageable limits. The Union Budget 2003-04 has also proposed a number of initiatives which, *inter alia*, include rationalisation of tax structure, better cash management and repayment of high cost external and internal debt. These measures are expected to bring down the fiscal deficit as a proportion of GDP from 5.9 per cent during 2002-03 (RE) to 5.6 per cent during 2003-04 (BE).

(c) and (d) Details regarding the rates of growth of industry at factor cost and current prices as per the estimates of Central Statistical Organisation and the rates of growth in gross tax revenue of the Centre for the last three years are given below:

(% variation over previous year)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
(i) Growth in Industry (at factor cost and current prices)	11.9	6.2	8.8
(ii) Growth of gross tax revenue of the Centre	9.8	-0.8	18.6*

*As per revised estimates.

Internal Trade Policy

6895. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the proposal put forwarded by ASSOCHAM for formulation of national internal trade policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Government is not aware of any proposal from the ASSOCHAM relating to Internal Trade Policy.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Foodgrain Availability

6896. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita, per day, per month availability of foodgrains in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the per capita consumption is far behind the per capita requirement of foodgrains in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The per capita, per day/per month availability of foodgrains in the country during each of the last three years was as under:—

(Figures in kgs.)

Year	Per capita, per day availability of foodgrains	Per capita, per month availability of foodgrains
2000	0.454	13.632
2001	0.423	12.675
2002(P)	0.497	14.916

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Supply of Poor Quality Rice/Wheat to States by FCI

6897. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor quality rice and wheat supplied to some States by Food Corporation of India (FCI) under public distribution system (PDS);

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by the Government in that regard during last three years this year till date alongwith the names of States; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) Foodgrains of fair average quality conforming to the Prevention of food Adulteration Act (PFA) standards are distributed under Public Distribution System (PDS).

Some complaints about the quality of foodgrains supplied under the PDS were received during the last three years.

During 2000-2001, complaints were received from the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu &

Kashmir, Karnataka, Sikkim and Tripura regarding supply of foodgrains of poor quality, especially rice procured under relaxed specifications (URS) Keeping in view the reluctance of consumers, the supply of URS rice of 1997-98 Kharif Marketing Season was stopped.

During 2001-2002, the Government of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi complained about the supply of lustre lost wheat while the Government of Goa and Kerala complained about the poor quality of rice stocks. It was explained to the State Governments that, except in appearance, lustre lost wheat is as good as sound wheat, especially in terms of nutritional value. The FCI officers were instructed to ensure that rice of good quality only was supplied under the PDS to Goa and Kerala.

During 2002-2003, the Government of Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat and Maharashtra had complained about issue of poor quality of "lustre lost" wheat under PDS and Government of Karnataka and Kerala had complained about the issue of poor quality of rice under various schemes. Keeping in view the reluctance of consumers, the issue of lustre lost wheat or distribution under TPDS was stopped. FCI was instructed to ensure that rice of good quality only is supplied under the PDS in Karnataka and Kerala.

No complaint has been received from any State during this year regarding supply of poor quality rice and wheat by FCI under PDS.

The State Governments are free to inspect the stocks of foodgrains and satisfy themselves about their quality before lifting the same from FCI depots. The State Governments have also been advised to depute an officer not below the rank of Inspector to check the quality of stocks.

SBI to take over IFCI

6898. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India was *inter-alia* requested to take over the Industrial Finance Corporation of India;

(b) if so, whether the SBI have agreed to take over this Financial Institution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Institute of Fashion Technology

6899. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of centres of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) set up in the country and locations thereof as on date;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up more such centres in the near future keeping in view the increasing number of students; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) NIFT centers have been set up with one center each at the following locations:

Location	State
New Delhi	Delhi
Mumbai	Maharashtra
Kolkata	West Bengal
Chennai	Tamil Nadu
Gandhinagar	Gujarat
Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
Bangalore	Karnataka

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Sale of Non-PDS Items

6900. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have included some more items under Public Distribution System (PDS) and also some non-PDS items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments have complained that they are neither getting complete quota nor good quantity items under PDS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) No new items have been added to the existing list of items being distributed under Public Distribution System. However, the States have been advised to enlarge the basket of commodities by adding non-PDS items of daily use like whole-salt, tea, toilet soap, pulses, exercise note books etc for sale through the fair price shops so as to make them readily available to the consumers and improve Shop's viability.

(c) and (d) The allocation of foodgrains to all the States is made @ 35 Kg per family per month for all the categories under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The number of families has been fixed for each State on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission and population projections of the Registrar General of India as on 01.03.2000. The basis of allocation of foodgrains under the TPDS has been applied uniformly to all the States/UTs without exception and cannot be changed in isolation for a particular States/UTs. Hence, requests for change in allocation on the basis of actual number of families identified/Ration Cards issued by the State Governments being different from that of the Planning Commission or on any other basis have not been acceded to.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is required to supply foodgrains conforming to the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act standards to the States for distribution under the Targeted Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes. The State Governments are free to inspect the stocks and satisfy themselves about their quality before lifting the same from FCI depots. The State Governments have also been advised to depute an officer not below the rank of an Inspector to check the quality of stocks.

[English]

Export of Sugar for Purchase of Air Bus

6901. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the Government have mooted a barter trade proposition with the European Union members for export of Indian sugar for the purchase of Airbus aircraft;

(b) whether India had concluded earlier such barter deals with Malaysia for import of palm oil against India getting a rail network construction contract in Malaysia;

(c) whether by such moves India stand to jeopardize its interests in terms of technical superiority and operational economy of such commodities rather than purely commercial consideration; and

(d) if not, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No such specific deal to link export of sugar to EU countries against import of Air Bus Aircraft has been agreed upon by both the sides.

(b) A railway project contract by Malaysian Railways was awarded to IRCON on the basis of counter trade in palm oil products to be imported to India.

(c) and (d) Indian interests including technical capability, operational economy and commercial considerations etc. are taken into consideration while finalizing such commercial deals with our trading partners.

Balance sheets of Companies

6902. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to allow in-active companies to bring their accounts and balance sheets upto date with the least expenses; and

(b) if so, the effort made by the Government to help in-active companies and their management to file balance sheets without heavy fines and other charges?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government have introduced a Simplified Exit Scheme under which in-active companies can seek striking off their names from the Register of Companies. The Scheme requires such companies to follow a simple procedure and pay a one-time fee of only Rs. 2000.

Import of Cooking Oil

6903. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is importing cocktail of cooking oil which in the trade circle is known as refined palmoil but lands in India as crude plamoil attracting a lower rate of import duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether neither Malaysian customs nor international surveyors in Malaysian ports officially record the export of even a single tonne of crudeoil; and

(d) if so, the manner in which large quantities of oil is landing in Indian ports labelled as crude oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Consumer Cooperatives

6904. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Conference on NCCF took place recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and issues discussed therein;

(c) whether Consumer cooperatives in the country are facing an inherent weakness of self-reliance; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen the consumer cooperatives in the country?

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

and (b) The NCCF of India Ltd. had convened a National Conference on Consumer Cooperatives to discuss the various problems facing the four-tier consumer cooperative structure in the country and to suggest ways and means for strengthening the consumer cooperatives in the present scenario of competitiveness in the liberalized economy. The Conference was held at New Delhi in February 2003 and has recommended a number of steps to be taken for strengthening the consumer cooperatives. The recommendations cover a wide range of subjects which need further discussions amongst the Government Departments and the State Governments. It also proposes coordination of business activities amongst the cooperatives of this country and the international cooperative movement.

(c) and (d) These recommendations are required to be discussed and considered amongst the concerned organizations/Departments/State Governments before specific steps could be drawn up for strengthening the consumer cooperatives to face the challenges of the changed economic and trade scenario in the country.

Revised Estimates of Ministry

6905. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had been stressing hard every now and then on the Ministries and Departments that the revised estimates should be projected close to realistic levels;

(b) if so, whether the budgetary estimates and revised estimates have always been proved to be unrealistic thereby throwing all the planning to winds; and

(c) if so, the steps to plan realistically and to take action against those responsible for un-realistic projections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) In accordance with the General Financial Rules, the Revised Estimates should include only those items which are likely to materialize for payment during the course of the year.

(b) and (c) Actual expenditure, both plan and non plan, has invariably been within the overall revised estimates.

*[Translation]***Funds to Chhattisgarh Government**

6906. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided by the Union Government to Chhattisgarh Government in the year 2001-2002 and 2002-03, scheme-wise;

(b) the funds out of it spent by the State Government and the funds lapsed alongwith the funds that has been kept deposited;

(c) whether the deposition of funds is in consonance with rules; and

(d) if not, the details of the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) to (d) States are expected to spend funds for the allocated purpose. If there is any shortfall in Plan expenditure as against Approved/Revised Plan outlay, a proportionate cut is made from the Central Assistance released to the State. State Governments are responsible to the State Legislature for proper utilisation of funds through the State Audit Report prepared by the C&AG of India under Article 151(2) of the Constitution of India.

Statement

Financial Assistance Provided to Chhattisgarh Government by the Ministry of Finance during 2001-02 and 2002-03, scheme-wise

		(Rs. in crores)	
S.No.	Items	2001-02	2002-03
1.	Normal Central Assistance	322.35	360.94
2.	ACA for Externally Aided Projects	7.17	11.22
3.	ACA (others)	113.30	203.33
4.	Share in Central Taxes	1271.15	1349.91
5.	Small Savings Advance	316.41	550.74
6.	CRF/NCCF	64.51	123.40
7.	Non Plan Assistance	48.28	38.54

*[English]***Salary to Officials of BIS, Ahmedabad**

6907. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several officers of Bureau of India Standard Ahmedabad are not getting their salary for the last four months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the officers/employees of BIS, Ahmedabad are likely to be paid their salaries at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. All the officers in Ahmedabad Branch Office of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) are getting their salary regularly except in the case of one officer whose salary for the month of September, 2002 to 20th February, 2003 has been withheld on account of unauthorized absence from duty which is yet to be regularized.

Irregularities by Manufacturers of Measuring Tapes

6908. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints/suggestions regarding gross irregularities committed by manufacturers of measuring tapes in Punjab who do not strictly comply with the various terms and conditions laid down in the Weights and Measures Act;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints/suggestions received during the current year by your Ministry and also by the Controller of Legal Metrology (Weights and Measures) Punjab alongwith action taken by your Ministry as well as by the above Controller, separately on each of the complaint;

(c) whether the above manufacturers are also exporting measuring tapes directly and also indirectly;

(d) if so, the details of pieces exported during each of the last five years both directly and indirectly alongwith their type and numbers length-wise separately for both type of exports; and

(e) the details of the States and buyers in the country where and to whom such consignments of measuring tapes were dispatched during the above period only in the cases of indirect exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Complaints have been received recently in the Ministry from the following Hon'ble Members of Parliament alleging irregularities by the manufacturers of measuring tapes in Punjab.

Member of Parliament	Date	Nature of complaint
Shri Ramjee Manjhi Shri Padmanava Behera	30.4.03 25.3.03	Non-submission of returns as required in the Gazette notifications providing permission for manufacture of non-standard tape measures, issued by the Central Government.
Shri Ram Prasad Singh Shri Laxman Giluwa Dr. P.K. Patasani	11.4.03 09.4.03 08.4.03	Seeking cross checking of returns filed by the manufacturers with the documents submitted to other Government agencies.
Shri Sheesh Ram Singh	11.4.03	Non-maintenance of registers regarding production details.

The complaints are being examined in consultation with the enforcement authorities in Punjab. The Controller Legal Metrology, Punjab has informed that no complaints have been received at their end.

(c) to (e) The Controller Legal Metrology, Punjab, who is the authority for issuing manufacturing licence in the State, has stated that the manufacturers export their measuring tapes, directly. As tapes exported are not required to be verified by the enforcement agencies, the said manufactures were not submitting their periodical returns. So the information regarding tapes exported during the last five years is not available. However, the manufacturers have been directed to submit their returns to the authorities for renewal of their manufacturing license.

Under/over invoicing by Drug Companies

6909. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some under/over invoicing cases are pending against some drugs companies;

(b) if so, the names of such companies and the time by which these cases are pending;

(c) the reasons for delay; and

(d) the further corrective steps taken by the Government for early finalisation of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of such cases involving duty of over Rs. one crore which are pending adjudication are as below:

Name of the Company	Pending since
M/s Sai Mirra Innopharm Private Ltd., Chennai	June, 2002
M/s Universal Medicare Ltd., Thane	April, 2002
M/s Nova Care Pvt. Ltd., Fajalpur	April, 2002
M/s Panpharma Panelav, Halol	May, 2002
M/s Parmasia Limited, Hyderabad	October, 2002
M/s Sai Mirra Pharmaceuticals (P) Ltd., Chennai	August, 2002
M/s Nicholas Piramal (I) Ltd., Pithampur	February, 2002

(c) and (d) Some of the cases are pending as the issue is awaiting settlement between the Government and C&AG. The steps being taken for early finalisation of the cases include efforts to expedite settlement of issue with C&AG and regular monitoring of the cases.

Internet Connection

6910. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the customs departments at various ports in the country who do not link their system to DGFT and internet;

(b) whether the authorities at Patparganj Delhi ask for issue of confirmation letter of Joint Director Foreign Trade, Central Licensing Area, New Delhi in all cases without linking to internet for verification;

(c) the manner in which the Government ensure required linkage of computers is done in internet for verification in all cases; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Out of various customs locations across the country, 23 major customs locations where ICES (Indian Customs EDI System) is currently in operation are linked to DGFT through ICEGATE under ICENET project.

(b) Whenever a licence is issued by the Office of the DGFT, a confirmation copy of the same is sent by post to the office of the Customs. ICD Patparganj also receives the confirmation copy in the same way. Subsequently, at the time of registration with customs, the same is compared by the Customs Officer with the confirmation copy of the licence received directly from the office of the DGFT for verifying its genuineness before registration. This procedure is in vogue to prevent fake licenses from getting registered. However, in a few cases, where the confirmation copy is not received either due to delay in postal service or due to any other reason, the Customs Officer seeks confirmation from the office of the DGFT by making correspondence. Due care is taken to ensure expeditious confirmation.

As regards conducting verification through Internet with the website of the DGFT, the ICD Patparganj does not have the requisite connectivity as yet. New computers

are to be installed in a very short time. Thereafter, it would be possible to do such verifications online, through internet.

(c) Verification by Customs Houses is done through dedicated leased line network, which is a secured network. However, individual licensees can verify the status of their licence data through internet by accessing the ICEGATE website, namely, www.icegate.gov.in.

(d) Any unauthorized access to the network will be dealt with by the security products like firewalls and intrusion detection systems installed at the ICEGATE, and therefore, verification would continue to be done through dedicated leased lines only.

Monitoring of Franchise Showroom by NCCF

6911. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 907 dated July 19, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the NCCF is not supervising and monitoring the franchise showroom by their own staff posted at those showrooms but are supervised and monitored only partially; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to streamline the working of NCCF and to stop supplying items through their vendors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The NCCF of India Ltd. is a Multi-State Cooperative Society having its own Board of Directors to decide about its business and other administrative matters. The NCCF has informed that the showrooms set up under business collaboration with their registered suppliers are monitored and supervised by the staff of NCCF.

Permission for Import of Non-Standard Tape

6912. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether permission for import of non-standard tape measures for re-export was accorded by the Government to some importers vide Gazette Notification No. SO 481(E) Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) dated 30th May, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of such importers, their import details like Bill of Entry number & date, port of import, place of custom clearance etc.;

(c) whether these importers have strictly complied with Condition No. 4 laid in the above Gazette Notification in time;

(d) if so, the details of re-export made by them against such imports which were allowed on the commitment for re-export;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and action taken or proposed by the Government against such importers; and

(f) the verification & stamping fees deposited by such individual importers annually?

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

(b) to (f) Copy of the Gazette Notification No. 481(E) dated 30th May, 2001 issued is enclosed as statement. The other required information are being collected from the Enforcement authorities in Punjab and would be submitted.

Statement

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA : EXTRAORDINARY
[PART II—SEC. 3 (ii)]

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(Department of Consumer Affairs)

ORDER

New Delhi, the 30th May, 2001

S.O. 481(E)—In exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to Section 22 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 (60 of 1976) read with rules 18, 19 and 20 of the Standards of Weights and Measures (General) Rules, 1987, the Central Government hereby permits M/s. New Wave Industries, Hoshiarpur Road, Jalandhar-144 004 to import the following non-standard tape measures exclusively for re-export purposes within a period of three months from the date of publication of this order, namely:—

(i) Steel tape measures 3m (9 feet) of 210040 pieces imported vide LC No. 0806970087 dated 28th October, 2000, Invoice No. 00HF209332 dated 28th Nov., 2000 of China National Aero Technology Import & Export Hangzhou Company 257, TiYu Chang Road, Hangzhou, China.

This permission is subject to the following terms and conditions, namely:—

- (1) The permission is for import of the consignment received from China National Aero Technology Import and Export Hangzhou China vide their invoice No. 00HF209322 dated Nov. 28, 2000 for a total quantity of 210040 pieces of tapes either of 3m (9 fit) of width 13 mm or 3m (9 fit) with width of 16 mm only;
- (2) No on-standard weights and measures shall be sold or otherwise distributed within the territory of India;
- (3) Each of the non-standard weights and measures shall carry a declaration that it is meant "for export purposes only";
- (4) The firm shall submit to the Central Government at the end of the 3 months period, a statement as to the quantity of the non-standard weights and measures exported by it and the particulars of the person to whom such exports have been made; and
- (5) The firm shall maintain a monthly record of the number of such non-standard weights and measures imported by it, number of non-standard weights and measures exported by it and number of non-standard weights and measures in stock. The record so maintained shall be open to inspection by an officer authorized by the Central Government in this behalf.
- (6) The Port authorities, before releasing the goods, shall take a bond for suitable value, with suitable guarantee from the manufacturer that the goods shall be re-exported within a period of three months of its import into India.

[F. No. WM 20(2)/2001]
S. Nautiyal, Addl. Secy.

Licence to Manufacturers of Non-Standard Tape

6913. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether license to manufacture non-standard tape measures for export purpose has been given to few manufacturers especially in Maharashtra without Union Government's approval;

(b) if so, the details of such manufacturers who have been accorded above approvals during the last five years with validity period of such approvals;

(c) the reasons for granting such approvals without Union Government's consent;

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the Controller responsible for issuing such approvals and the beneficiaries reaping the benefits of such unlawful permissions; and

(e) the details of number of pieces exported by such approval holders during the last five years alongwith their value, verification and stamping fee paid by them?

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

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Verification and Stamping of Measuring Tape

6914. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether no measuring tape can be put to use unless it is verified and stamped by collecting its verification and stamping fee on the spot as per Section 41(7) of weights and Measures Act, 1976;

(b) whether the above fee is collected on the basis of type and length of individual measuring tape;

(c) if so, details of manufacturer paying such fee in Punjab and Maharashtra and whether they declare in advance the number of pieces needed to be verified and stamped;

(d) if so, whether controller issues a verification certificates as prescribed in Schedule 11 Rule 16(3) of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Rules, 1986 everytime; and

(e) if so, the length-wise number and type of measuring tapes verified and stamped during last five years annually alongwith verification and stamping fee collected from individual manufacturers?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Maharashtra Government has indicated that no verification fee has been collected under section 41(7) of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976. The details in respect of Punjab is given below:

Period	Number of Steel tapes and fibre glass tapes verified in pieces (length varies from 1 m to 100 m)		Verification fee paid in rupees	
	FMI Ltd.	Freemans Ltd.	FMI Ltd.	Freemans Ltd.
2000-2001	135730	154579	1239535	1059835
2001-2002	141332	201462	1268375	1434300
2002-2003	110612	164412	1069340	1179821

(d) Yes Sir, every time verification certificate is issued in Punjab.

(e) As indicated in reply to part (c) above.

Maintenance of Register by Manufacturers of Measuring Tapes

6915. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether manufacturers of measuring tapes having valid licence to manufacture these tapes have to compulsorily maintain a register as per Section 35 Schedule 10 Rule 13(1) of the Weights and Measures Act, 1976;

(b) if so, details of the manufacturers maintaining such register;

(c) whether any check has been exercised to ensure that all such manufacturers are maintaining the above register;

(d) whether such register maintained by the above manufacturers are cross verified and signed by some designated officer every month; and

(e) if so, details thereof and if not, the manner in which the correctness of the entries in the register are verified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The licensed manufacturers of measuring tapes are required to maintain a register as per Section 35 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 read with rule 26 of the Standards of Weights and Measures (General) Rules 1987 and prescribed under Eleventh Schedule of the said Rules in respect of inter-state transaction. In respect of inter-State transaction they are required to maintain similar register under Section 23 of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985 read with rule 13(1) and prescribed under Schedule X of the State Enforcement Rules.

(b) M/s Scanan Hardware Pvt. Ltd., Thane and M/s Klas Tape Company, Raigad in Maharashtra and M/s FMI Ltd. and M/s Freemans Measures Ltd., Ludhiana in Punjab have taken licences from the weights and measures enforcement authorities of the respective states.

While the licensed manufacturers in Maharashtra are not maintaining the required registers, the manufacturers in Punjab are doing so.

(c) to (e) In Punjab the registers are checked every month but not signed. Registers are cross checked in accordance with the certificates of verification issued. In Maharashtra instructions have been issued to the concerned authorities to follow the prescribed procedures.

Booking Forward Contracts

6916. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has relaxed the U.S. dollars 100 million to the companies for booking forward contracts based on past performance;

(b) if so, the details on the new guidelines issued in this regard;

(c) how many corporations will benefit from such a relaxation;

(d) whether any ceiling has been made to such contracts;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any similar relaxation will be extended to smaller firms; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to facilitate large corporates with proven track record and large import/export turnover to effectively and actively manage currency risks arising out of genuine exposures, Reserve Bank on application would consider permitting higher limits for booking forward contracts on the basis of past performance without submission of documentary evidence. Such forward contracts, booked under the enhanced limit, will be on a deliverable basis.

(c) It is difficult to assess how many corporations will benefit from such a relaxation.

(d) and (e) Authorised dealers have been permitted by RBI to offer forward contracts to their exporter/importer customers for booking on past performance basis upto

the limit/s worked out on the basis of last 3 year's average import/export performance. This is subject to the condition that forward contracts so booked and outstanding shall not exceed 25 per cent of the eligible limit at any given point of time. It is only the cap of USD 100 million that has been relaxed. This facility is mainly to help corporates with a proven track record to hedge their currency risk.

(f) and (g) The norms for booking of forward contracts on past performance basis are uniform. By removing the cap of USD 100 million, it has been sought to relax the restrictions placed on the large corporates only.

Allotment of Money to NGOs

6917. SHRI HASAN KHAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than one and a half crores of rupees have been allotted to some NGOs in Zanskar and Mulbek of District Kargil under Grant in Aid Schemes;

(b) whether utilization certificates required under the rules has been received; and

(c) if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) An amount of Rs. 1,12,80,541 was released to one organization, the Buddhist Youth Association, Zanskar, District Kargil, Jammu & Kashmir for the maintenance and running of one Residential School, three Non-Residential Schools and one Mobile Dispensary from 1995-96 to 2001-02 on the basis of the recommendation of the State Government.

(b) and (c) As required under the rules, the utilization certificates have been received for the entire grant from the organization. However, on enquiry at the instance of

the Ministry, it has been reported by the State Government that the funds released to the organization have not been fully utilized for the purpose for which was sanctioned. The Ministry has asked the State Government to take appropriate action in the matter.

I.T. Paid by Jet Airways

6918. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total asset and annual income of Jet Airways as on date;

(b) the income of Jet Airways during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Airways has paid its income tax and other financial liabilities to the Government during each of the last three years;

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

(e) the action taken and proposed to be taken by the Government against the company for not depositing the income tax and other financial liabilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The total assets and the returned income of M/s. Jet Airways for the last three years are as per Statement-I.

(c) and (d) The income shown and the taxes paid by M/s. Jet Airways during the last three years are as per Statement-II.

(e) There is no case pending against M/s. Jet Airways for not depositing income tax. Therefore, no action is proposed to be taken.

Statement I

Total assets and returned income of M/s. Jet Airways for the last three years

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Assessment Year	Returned Income/Loss	Total Assets
1.	1999-2000	2000-2001	(Loss) Rs. 21.57 Crores	Rs. 1768.70 Crores
2.	2000-2001	2001-2002	(Loss) Rs. 80.05 Crores	Rs. 1965.04 Crores
3.	2001-2002	2002-2003	(Loss) Rs. 177.53 Crores	Rs. 4356.60 Crores

Statement II

*Deemed income u/s 115 JA/115 JB of the Income Tax Act and taxes paid by
M/s. Jet Airways for the last three years*

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Assessment Year	Deemed income u/s 115 JA/ 115 JB of the Income Tax Act	Taxes Paid
1.	1999-2000	2000-2001	Rs. 3.79 Crores	Rs. 1.46 Crores
2.	2000-2001	2001-2002	Rs. 13.64 Crores	Rs. 1.16 Crores
3.	2001-2002	2002-2003	Nil	Nil

Expenditure Reforms Commission

6919. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of Expenditure Reforms Commission's recommendations during the last one year especially in the field for downsizing of employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the successes achieved in downsizing the employees. Ministry/Department-wise; and

(d) the details of the savings in Governmental expenditure achieved due to this measure so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission are reviewed on regular basis. So far around 13,050 posts have been abolished in various Ministries/Departments namely, Information and Broadcasting-1424, Economic Affairs-1903, Public Enterprises-15, Supply-996, Steel-6, Petroleum and Natural Gas-17, Chemicals and Petrochemicals-624, Fertilizers-19, Mines-62, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution-135, Agriculture & Cooperation-214, Shipping-6, Women and Child Development-175, Environment & Forests-779, Culture-12, Commerce-90, Urban Development-6411, Tourism-28, Industrial Policy and Promotion-134. The abolition of these posts is likely to result in annual reduction of expenditure to the tune of Rs. 120 crore approximately.

Sugar Release Mechanism

6920. SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have barred one third of the country's 450 sugar mills from releasing the commodity in the market for the next quarter;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the main ideas behind this decision;

(d) the States where these mills are located; and

(e) the extent to which this decision has been helpful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Out of 534 installed sugar factories, 405 sugar factories have been allotted non-levy sugar for sale in the open market during the month of May, 2003.

(b) and (c) The mills who have filed judicial proceedings are governed by the directions of the Hon'ble Courts in various writ petitions and civil suits.

(d) and (e) Mills are located in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Goa. The availability of sugar in the open market as well as under Public Distribution System (PDS) has not been affected in any way.

[*Translation*]

Schemes for Promotion of ST Students

6921. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme launched by the Union Government to promote the talent of Scheduled Tribe students of the country;

(b) the type of assistance provided by the Central Government in this regard;

(c) the details of assistance provided to 'Adarsh Vidyalaya, Kanya Shiksha Parisar and Gurukul Vidyalaya in the State of Chhattisgarh during the last three years; and

(d) the details of achievements of "Jawahar Adim Jati Vidyarthi Utkarsh Yojana in Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Details of the schemes implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to promote the talent of Scheduled Tribe students in the country and the type of assistance provided, are enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) During the last three years, the Ministry has released an amount of Rs. 285.00 lakhs for establishment of 8 Eklavya Model Residential Schools and Rs. 28.814 lakhs for Educational Complexes in Low Literacy Pockets for the development of literacy amongst ST girls (Kanya Shiksha Parisar) to the State of Chhattisgarh.

The other schemes mentioned are implemented by the State Government from their budget.

Statement

1. Post Matric Scholarships for ST students (Centrally Sponsored Scheme):

Under this scheme a grant is sanctioned to the States/UTs to provide financial assistance to ST students pursuing recognized Post Matric courses in recognized institutions. 100% Central assistance over and above the committed liability is provided. The amount of committed liability which is equal to the expenditure reached in the last year of the plan period is borne by the concerned

state government North Eastern States are exempted from the condition of committed liability and are provided 100% central assistance.

2. Coaching and Allied scheme for ST students (Centrally Sponsored Scheme):

Under this scheme Pre-coaching facilities are provided to ST students through Pre-Examination Training Centres to help them to compete in various competitive examinations having an All India Recruitment character. State Govts. are provided 50% of the total expenditure incurred by them and NGOs are provided 100% grant.

3. Upgradation of Merit for ST students (Central Sector Scheme):

The objective of the scheme is to upgrade the merit of ST students by providing them remedial and special coaching in classes IX to XII. 100% central assistance is provided to States/UTs. While the remedial coaching aims at removing deficiencies in various subjects, the special coaching is provided with a view to prepare the students for competitive examinations for seeking entry into professional courses like in the Engineering and Medical disciplines.

4. Book Bank of ST students (Centrally Sponsored Scheme):

The objective of the scheme is to provide Books to deserving ST students pursuing Medical, Engg., Agriculture etc. courses. The total expenditure is shared between Central Govt. and State Govt. on 50-50 basis. UTs are provided 100% central assistance.

5. Eklavya Model Residential Schools (Central Sector Scheme):

A part of the grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution is provided to the State Governments to establish Eklavya Model Residential Schools for imparting quality education to the tribal students of VIth to XIIth Standard. In these Model Residential Schools, there would be 420 students, out of which 50% would be girls. An amount of Rs. 2.50 crore is provided as non-recurring grant for construction of each such School. Towards recurring expenditure, such as staff salaries, mess charges, toiletries etc., the annual recurring grant will be limited to Rs. 30.00 lakhs, after the school reaches its full strength.

[English]

Limiting the Size of Cabinet

6922. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the ever-expanding size of the Ministry (Cabinet) both at the Centre and in the States and the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee on Administrative Reforms stressing the need for limiting the size of the Cabinet in proportion to the size of the House of Legislature, Government propose to bring out a law or to amend the Constitution of India for the purpose; and

(b) if so, the steps taken and being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Constitution (Ninety-seventh Amendment) Bill, 2003 which was introduced in Lok Sabha on 5.5.2003, *inter alia* provides that the size of Council of Ministers should not be more than 10% of the strength whether there is unicameral legislature or a bicameral legislature of the Houses concerned. The Bill also provides a minimum strength of seven ministers in case of smaller States.

Gross Domestic Products

6923. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey brought out by UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), earlier projected India's gross domestic product growth at 6 per cent for 2003;

(b) if so, whether ESCAP has now downwards India's GDP to 5.1 per cent for the year 2003;

(c) if so, the reasons given by them for the same;

(d) the response of the Government on the report of ESCAP; and

(e) the corrective steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in its "Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2003" brought out in March, 2003 has projected India's real GDP growth rate at 6 per cent for 2003. At the time of Survey's media launch on April 17, 2003, ESCAP has indicated a revised growth rate of 5.1 per cent based on the projection made by the International Monetary Fund. The projection by ESCAP is based on its perception of growth prospects in 2003. Different agencies make projections of growth based on their perceptions of growth prospects. The Government has taken note of the projection by the ESCAP.

(e) The Union Budget for 2003-04 has proposed a number of initiatives such as promoting infrastructure development by leveraging public money through private sector participation, promoting private investment and measures aimed at fiscal consolidation. These initiatives are expected to have a positive influence on the growth of the economy.

Duty Paid by Manufacturers of Measuring Tapes

6924. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Central Excise payable on product, measuring tapes (CETSH No. 9017-90);

(b) the details of the amount of Central Excise duty paid alongwith the amount of CENVAT credit claimed by each of the manufactures of measuring tapes from Ludhiana and Mumbai during each of the last three years;

(c) the details of the quantities manufactured with their assessable value by each of the above manufactures during each of the last three years; and

(d) the details of the quantities cleared/removed, on payment and without payment of excise duty *i.e.* under full exemption or at nil rate of duty for exports separately with their assessable value by each of the above manufactures during each of the last three years alongwith the amount of Excise paid on both types of above clearances/removals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) 16% *Ad velorum*.

(b) As in Statement-I.

(c) As Statement-II.

(d) As in Statement-III.

Statement I

S.No.	Name of Manufacturer	Financial Year	Duty Paid		CENVAT credit claimed (in Rs. thousand)
			PLA (in Rs. thousand)	CENVAT (in Rs. thousand)	
1.	M/s. Skanan Hardware Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai	2000-01	363	1205	1205
		2001-02	470	1127	1373
		2002-03	730	1316	1316
2.	Freemans Measures Ltd., Ludhiana	2000-01	9100	6600	7100
		2001-02	10100	6400	7300
		2002-03	9000	9300	8300
3.	Festo Measuring Ind. Ltd., Ludhiana	2000-01	7900	9400	1100
		2001-02	6900	9800	9300
		2002-03	6000	11500	11100

Statement II

S.No.	Name of Manufacturer	Financial Year	Quantity Manufactured (in Nos.)	Assessable value (in Rs. thousand)
1.	M/S. Skanan Hardware Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai	2000-01	1188437	13284
		2001-02	1356397	17174
		2002-03	1319136	15386
2.	Freemans Measures Ltd., Ludhiana	2000-01	3177923	105800
		2001-02	3029109	110900
		2002-03	3447101	125100
3.	Festo Measuring Ind. Ltd., Ludhiana	2000-01	3884735	132600
		2001-02	3532838	123600
		2002-03	3926798	132700

Statement III

S.No.	Name of Manufacturer	Financial Year	Quantity cleared on payment of duty	Assessable value (in Rs. thousand)	Quantity cleared without payment of duty	Assessable value (in Rs.) thousand)
1.	M/s. Skanan Hardware Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	2000-01	1160347	12970	Nil	Nil
		2001-02	1243267	15741	Nil	Nil
		2002-03	1391400	16229	Nil	Nil
2.	Freemans Measures Ltd., Ludhiana	2000-01	2864297	98000	333358	16500
		2001-02	2802963	103400	219782	11500
		2002-03	3154508	114200	229013	16100
3.	Festo Measuring Ind. Ltd., Ludhiana	2000-01	3168749	108200	724626	48100
		2001-02	2987540	104600	574003	45700
		2002-03	3236419	109400	686082	47400

**Renewal of Licence for Manufacturers
of Measuring Tape**

6925. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for manufacturers of measuring tape, as per Section 46 (Schedule third Rule 8) of Standards of Weights & Measures Act, 1976 to submit information in prescribed format to controllers of transferor and transferee state at the end of every month, failing which can lead to non-renewal of license;

(b) if so, details of manufacturers possessing licenses to produce measuring tapes;

(c) whether few manufacturers in Punjab and Maharashtra are getting their licenses renewed recurrently without submitting the information as above;

(d) if so, period for which licenses have been renewed without submitting the information; and

(e) the action taken or proposed by the Government to counter the tendency of getting the manufacturing

licenses renewed by the manufacturers of measuring tapes by non-compliance of conditions stipulated in the notifications issued?

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

(b) Under the Standard of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act 1985 licence to manufacture measuring tapes have been given to M/s Scanan Hardware Pvt. Ltd., Thane and M/s Klas Tape Company, Raigad in Maharashtra and to M/s FMI Limited, Ferozepore Road, Ludhiana and M/s Freemans Measures Ltd., G.T. Road, Ludhiana in Punjab.

(c) and (d) The returns under Section 46 of the Standards of Weight and Measures Act, 1976 is required only for inter-State transaction. Enforcement authorities in Maharashtra have informed that their licensed manufacturers of measuring tapes are not carrying out inter-State transaction. The enforcement authorities in Punjab has indicated that licenses are renewed for the manufacturers of measuring tapes till date without submitting the returns.

(e) Enforcement authorities have directed the manufacturers of measuring tapes in Punjab to submit their returns periodically for considering renewal of their License.

Creation of Deputy Governor's Post in RBI

6926. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal for creation of post of another Deputy Governor in the RBI in view of the recent series of scams in the co-operative banking sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of administrative powers being conferred on the New Deputy Governor with regard to regulation of co-operative banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) As per Section 81(1)(a) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, Central Board of Reserve Bank of India, shall, inter-alia, consist of a Governor and not more than four Deputy Governors to be appointed by the Central Government. However, out of four posts of Deputy Governors, one post has not been traditionally filled up. Representations has, however, been received for filling up the fourth post of Deputy Governor. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(c) As per Section 7(3) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, Governor is authorised to exercise the powers of the Central Board of general superintendence and directions of the affairs and business of the bank. Work among Deputy Governors is distributed by Governor.

Rehabilitation of Tribals

6927. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the displacement of tribals from their original habitations;

(b) if so, whether these tribals have been provided with alternative accommodation or any kind of rehabilitation;

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

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure adequate safeguard to these displaced tribals?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (d) The tribals displaced due to construction of large dams, mines etc. are rehabilitated as per the respective rehabilitation plans of the project authorities, duly approved by the concerned State Governments. The rehabilitation plans are required to be consistent with the laws of the concerned States where such displacements take place.

Arbitration Board

6928. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an arbitration board in order to tackle the enormous number of pending cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its term of reference; and

(c) the time by which the board is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal before the Government to effect amendments in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, for setting up arbitration boards. The Law Commission of India which has given 176th Report on the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has made no recommendation envisaging setting up of an arbitration board.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Jana Rakshya New Medical Insurance Scheme

6929. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new medical insurance scheme "Jana Rakshya" for the downtrodden;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) In pursuance to the announcement made in the Budget Speech for 2003-04 regarding introduction of a 'Universal Health Insurance Scheme', some of the public sector general insurance companies have already launched this policy. The policy provides for reimbursement of medical expenses upto Rs. 30,000 towards hospitalisation floated amongst the entire family, death cover due to an accident for Rs. 25,000 to the head of the family and compensation due to loss of earning of the earning member @ Rs. 50 per day upto a maximum of 15 days. The premium under the scheme is Rs. 1 per day (i.e. Rs. 365 per year) for an individual, Rs. 1.50 per day for a family of five limited to spouse and children, and Rs. 2 per day for covering dependent parents within overall family size of seven. Government will provide a subsidy of Rs. 100 per year towards annual premium for below poverty line family.

SC/ST Judges

6930. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of judges belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes working in the High Courts of the States and the year in which they assumed the charge of their offices during the last three years; and

(b) the total strength of judges in High Courts of the States, Court-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Appointments of Judges of the High Courts are made under article 217 of the Constitution of India which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. No statistics is, therefore, maintained for the number of Judges belonging to SC/ST in the High Courts.

The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Position as on 6.5.2003

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court (States)	Approved strength	Judged in position	Number of vacancies
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad (UP)	95	70	25
2.	Andhra Pradesh (AP)	39	34	05
3.	Bombay (Maharashtra and Goa)	60	51	09
4.	Calcutta (West Bengal)	50	39	11
5.	Chhattisgarh (Chhattisgarh)	06	04	02
6.	Delhi	33	27	06
7.	Gauhati (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura)	19	12	07
8.	Gujarat (Gujarat)	42	30	12

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh (HP)	08	07	01
10.	Jammu & Kashmir (J&K)	14	09	05
11.	Jharkhand (Jharkhand)	12	12	—
12.	Karnataka (Karnataka)	40	35	05
13.	Kerala (Kerala)	29	26	03
14.	Madhya Pradesh (MP)	29	28	01
15.	Madras (Tamil Nadu)	42	37	05
16.	Orissa (Orissa)	16	12	04
17.	Patna (Bihar)	31	24	07
18.	Punjab & Haryana (P&H)	40	28	12
19.	Rajasthan (Rajasthan)	32	22	10
20.	Sikkim (Sikkim)	03	02	01
21.	Uttaranchal (Uttaranchal)	07	03	04
Total		647	512	135

Harassment by DRI Officials

6931. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Intelligence has received complaints of harassment by DRI Officials at Cochin Port regarding import of Cars by NRIs;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof with action taken by the Government on the basis of inquiry report?

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

(b) The Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DGRI) received two complaints dated 11.2.2003 & 21.4.2003 from one Ziyad T. Mohamed Koya regarding delay in the clearance of a second hand vehicle at Cochin port due to investigation by DRI, Cochin.

(c) and (d) The complaints were looked into by the DGRI. On investigation, it was found that DRI, Cochin had received intelligence regarding organised gangs importing passenger cars in the name of poor workers returning to India from Gulf Nations after termination of their jobs by resorting to misdeclaration and fabricated documentation. In pursuance of such intelligence, DRI Cochin had investigated the import of a BMW X-5 Jeep by one passenger.

The passenger had filed the Bill of Entry for clearance of the vehicle at a value of Rs. 5.05 lakh only. Investigation revealed that the importer was a newspaper distributor at UAE and did not have the financial means for purchase and import of the vehicle. The value declared was found to be very low. He failed to produce documents to prove the *bonafides* of the import. Further, he had no money to pay customs duty for its clearance.

In the meantime, Commissioner of Customs, Cochin has been requested to assess and clear the car on merits.

In view of above, no further action on the said complaints is warranted.

[Translation]

Salary and Allowance of Judicial Officials

6932. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have shown their inability to enhance the salary and allowances and making new recruitments of the judicial officials;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court has given any orders in this regard;

(d) whether Finance Minister of various States had met him and expressed their inability to implement the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Many State Governments were concerned about the large financial implication due to revision of pay scales, sanction of allowances, and increase in the judge strength as directed by the Supreme Court in its judgment dated 21st March, 2002 in All India Judges Association case. There would be considerable impact on the State finances as existing parities get disturbed, and the employees would also demand extension of allowances similar to what is provided to the Judicial Officers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. However, the State Finance Ministers in the meeting convened by the Ministry of Finance on 7th September, 2002, expressed serious difficulties regarding the constitutional, financial and administrative issues involved in implementing the Supreme Court's Judgment dated 21st March 2002. They resolved that States would take appropriate action in the State Legislature through resolution or any other alternative legislative measures.

(e) The Central Government has decided to introduce a Bill in the Parliament under Article 309 of the Constitution of India to regulate the salaries and

allowances of judicial officers in the Union Territories for which it is administratively responsible. As regards increase in judge strength, an affidavit has been filed in the Supreme Court praying that the increase in judge strength in the UT's be allowed to be on the basis of workload, rather than population. The matter is *subjudice*.

[English]

Submission of Details>Returns

6933. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacturers of measuring tapes of Punjab submit their details/returns of indirect exports to the controllers to transferor State as well as transferee State in time;

(b) if so, the details of the buyers/dealers of the transferee and transferor States receiving the export consignments for re-export purposes during each of the last five years;

(c) whether these buyers deals have licence to deal with Weights and Measures and have also obtained registration from your Ministry for re-export of measuring Tapes as per Section 47 of Weights and Measures Act, 1976;

(d) if not, the method adopted to check as to whether the consignments are actually re-exported or are being sold in the domestic market;

(e) the type and quantity of measuring tapes re-exporters, length and value-wise by each of the above buyers of the transferee and transferor State during the above period, country-wise; and

(f) the amount of verification and stamping fee collected by each of the Controllers of transferee and transferor State during the above period in the event that the Consignment were not re-exported by the above buyers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (f) No Sir. The enforcement authorities in Punjab have now directed the manufacturers of measuring tapes to submit returns periodically as prescribed.

*[Translation]***Security Deposit of Rajya Sabha Election**

6934. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "*15 varshon se Rajya Sabha Chunav ki Jamanat Rashi ka Pata nahir*" appearing in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated the March 31, 2003;

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

(c) the reasons for not depositing the same amount in the treasury so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to inquire into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Exit Polls**

6935. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission had earlier studied and challenged the system of exit polls by media agencies in a court of law but later withdrew the petition as there was no consensus between the Election Commission and the Union Government on the issue;

(b) if so, whether the media both, print and electronic, is free to conduct exit polls;

(c) whether the Government propose to enact any new legislation to ban forecasting of poll outcome or exit polls; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal to Raise Dexterity of Weavers

6936. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to invite UNDP or any other international agency to raise the dexterity of the weavers in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether weavers of Andhra Pradesh have not received any technical benefit or information from the Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Union Government is implementing the following schemes for the benefit of handloom weavers throughout the country including the weavers of Andhra Pradesh:

1. Design Development & Training Programme.
2. Marketing Promotion Programme.
3. Mill Gate Price Scheme.
4. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.
5. Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.
6. Weavers Welfare Scheme.
7. Handloom Export Scheme.
8. Implementation of Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.
9. Scheme for Reimbursement of CENVAT on Hank Yarn.

Jeevan Bharati Policy of LIC

6937. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether LIC has launched a new policy for women called Jeevan Bharati;

(b) if so, the details of this scheme;

(c) whether similar schemes of LIC are already in operation; and

(d) if so, the reasons for introducing new scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a new policy for women, namely 'Jeevan Bharati' w.e.f. 8th March, 2003.

(b) The details of the policy are given in statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) earlier had a plan, namely Jeevan Sneha meant especially for ladies. This was withdrawn by the Corporation w.e.f. 31st December, 2001 due to fall in interest rates. The LIC has introduced the new plan Jeevan Bharati with a view to provide more benefits like female critical illness cover and congenital disability benefit cover which are in addition to the benefits available under the previous policy, Jeevan Sneha.

Statement

Name of Policy—JEEVAN BHARATI

The following benefits are available under the policy.

1. Guaranteed Additions: Guaranteed Additions @ Rs. 50/- per thousand sum assured for each completed year, for the first 5 years.
2. Survival Benefits:

For 20 Years Term—

20% of the Sum Assured payable at the end of 5 years.

20% of the Sum Assured payable at the end of 10 years.

20% of the Sum Assured payable at the end of 15 years.

40% of the Sum Assured payable together with accrued Guaranteed Additions and bonuses if any at the end of 20 years.

For 15 Years Term—

20% of the Sum Assured payable at the end of 5 years.

20% of the Sum Assured payable at the end of 10 years.

60% of the Sum Assured payable together with accrued Guaranteed Additions and bonuses, if any, at the end of 15 years.

3. Death Benefit:

In case of death of the life assured during the policy term, the full sum assured is payable in addition to survival benefits paid earlier. The accrued Guaranteed Additions and accrued bonuses, if any, are also payable.

4. Accident Benefit:

Accident Benefit will be granted under the plan subject to the payment of additional premium of Rs. 1 per thousand Sum Assured. This is inclusive of the maximum limit of Rs. 25,00,000 placed under other life insurance plans taken from Life Insurance Corporation of India.

5. Special Benefits:

1. Female Critical Illness (FCI) cover and Congenital Disability Benefit (CDB) cover as given below are available to proposes under this plan.

(a) Female Critical Illness (FCI)

A benefit equal to the Sum Assured (subject to a maximum of Rs. 2,00,000) will be available under this plan on the occurrence of any one of the following critical illnesses:

- Breast cancer
- Ovarian/Fallopian Tube cancer
- Cervical cancer
- Uterine cancer
- Vaginal/Vulval cancer

(b) Congenital Disabilities Benefit (CDB)

A benefit equal to 50% of the Sum Assured (subject to a maximum of Rs. 100,000) will be available under this plan in respect of each child on the birth of the child with Congenital Disabilities listed below. This benefit is available for two children and will not be payable if birth

of the child occurs after the proposer attains the age of 40 years. This benefit will be payable only if age at entry is upto age 35 years.

Down Syndrome

Spina Bifida

Tetralogy of fallot

Oesophageal Atresia & Tracheo-aesophageal Fistula

Anal Atresia, Imperforate anus

Cleft Palate with or without Cleft Lip

Payment of claim under either Critical Illness or Congenital Disorder benefit does not put any restriction on the subsequent payment of claim under the other benefit.

2. Free Insurance Cover:

After two years premiums have been paid, whenever premium payment is discontinued the risk cover for full sum assured will continue for 3 years from the due date of first unpaid premium. However, this cover is not available for FCI benefit, CDB benefit and Accident Benefit.

6. Options:

1. Encashment of Survival Benefit as and when needed: The policyholder at her option may avail the survival benefit any time on or after its due date. If opted to avail later, increased survival benefit at such rate of interest decided by the Corporation will be payable. Present interest rate is of 4% p.a.

2. Flexibility to pay premiums in advance: The policyholder will have the flexibility to pay the next yearly premium in advance (in not more than three instalments) during the year. She will be eligible for a premium rebate of 4% p.a. Corporation reserves the right to change the rate of interest from time to time.

3. Option to receive maturity proceeds in the form of annuity: Provided the policy is in full force on the stipulated Date of Maturity, the policyholder, if she so desires, will have the option to receive the maturity amount in the form of an immediate annuity. This option shall be exercised six months before the Date of Maturity. The rate of annuity will be based on the immediate annuity rates prevalent at the time of stipulated date of Maturity.

Inclusion of Certain Castes in ST List

6938. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal for inclusion of certain castes in the list of scheduled tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the population and habitations of the people of these castes; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal have recommended the inclusion of 42 and 2 communities respectively in their list of Scheduled Tribes. The population data is available only in respect of communities notified as Scheduled Tribes. Since the communities recommended by the State Governments have not been notified as Scheduled Tribes, their population and habitations data are not available.

(c) 28 communities of Andhra Pradesh have already been included in list of Scheduled Tribes *vide* the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2002. The remaining recommendations of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the recommendations of the Government of Uttaranchal have been processed as per the modalities approved for deciding such claims.

[*Translation*]

Delimitation of Constituencies

6939. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some political parties have been pressuring the Government for delimitation of Lok Sabha Constituencies based on the population of the year 2001 in place of 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to delimit Lok Sabha Constituencies based on the population of the year, 2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Pursuant to a decision taken in the all party meeting held on 13.3.2003, some political parties have expressed themselves in writing in favour of delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies based on the population ascertained in the 2001 census in place of 1991 census.

(c) to (e) The Government has accordingly introduced the Constitution (Ninety-sixth Amendment) Bill, 2003 in Lok Sabha on 2.5.2003 which was passed by it in its sitting held on 6.5.2003.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 5106 DATED 25.4.2003 REGARDING
PADDY PROCUREMENT

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): In part (b) of the Question, information on State-wise number of paddy procurement centers opened by FCI during 2002-03 was asked. In reply to this part of the Question, information was given in the statement enclosed, in which, name of Bihar State with 100 paddy procurement centers opened by FCI has been inadvertently left out from inclusion.

I beg to lay on the table of the House on 9.5.2003, a copy of the correct Annexure to the Unstarred Question No. 5106.

Statement

*State-wise number of paddy purchase centers opened
by FCI during the current Kharif Marketing Season
2002-2003*

State	FCI
Punjab	403
Haryana	25
Delhi	2
Rajasthan	12
Andhra Pradesh	111
Madhya Pradesh	43
Bihar	100
Orissa	20
Himachal Pradesh	4
Total	720

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) The Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 300(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd April, 2003.

(ii) The Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 323(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2003.

(iii) The Private Limited Company and Unlisted Public Limited Company (Buy-back of Securities) Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 348(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd April, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7717/2003]

(2) A copy of the Competition Commission of India (Selection of Chairperson and other Members of the Commission) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 303(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2003, under sub-section (3) of Section 63 of the Competition Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7718/2003]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7719/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Vallabhbai Kathiria, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7720/2003]

- (3)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, for the year 2001-2002.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7721/2003]

- (5)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7722/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7723/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 444(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 2003 regarding exemption to all tea produced in India and exported by the units in the special economic zones from the levy and collection of cess issued under section 25 of the Tea Act, 1953.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7724/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India— Union Government (No. 4 of 2003) (Civil)— Autonomous Bodies for the year ended the March, 2002 under article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7725/2003]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) G.S.R. 272(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 82/2002-Cus., dated the 13th August, 2002.
- (ii) G.S.R. 273(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind two Notifications mentioned therein.
- (iii) G.S.R. 274(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods imported by EOUs and STP/EHTP units by consolidating and superceding the existing notifications governing duty free imports of goods by EOUs and STP/EHTP units, and EOUs engaged in Agriculture, aqua-culture, granite quarrying sector.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7726/2003]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

- (i) G.S.R. 265(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide exemption to goods procured from indigenous sources by EOU and EHTP/STP units by consolidating and superceding all existing notifications governing duty free procurement of goods by EOUs, EHTP units, STP united and EOUs engaged in agriculture, aqua-culture, granite quarrying sector.
- (ii) G.S.R. 266(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to allow EOUs and EHTP/STP units to sell goods in cosmetic tariff area on payment of concessional rate of duty by consolidating and superceding all existing notifications governing sale of goods in domestic tariff area by EOUs and STP/EHTP units and also to exempt goods sold by EOUs and STP/EHTP units in domestic tariff area from payment of Special Additional Duty.
- (iii) G.S.R. 267(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide exemption to goods manufactured by EOUs and STP/EHTP units from payment of central excise duty and various additional duties leviable thereon.
- (iv) G.S.R. 268(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind six Notifications mentioned therein.
- (v) G.S.R. 269(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt goods manufactured by units located in special economic zone and brought to any other place in India, from payment of Special Additional Duty.
- (vi) G.S.R. 270(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt castor oil cake manufactured from indigenous castor oil seeds on indigenous plant and machinery, from payment of central excise duty when brought to any other place in India by a unit in special economic zone, which were in existence and functioning in a free trade zone before conversion of Free Trade Zone into Special Economic Zone with effect from 1st November, 2000.
- (vii) G.S.R. 271(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 35/2002-CE dated the 13th August, 2002.
- (viii) G.S.R. 319(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to allow a unit in special economic zone to supply its manufactured goods to the holder of Advance License without payment of duty; or to the DFRC holders on payment of duty equal to countervailing duty; when supplied against advance release order issued to such advance license holder/DFRC holder.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7727/2003]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 320(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th April, 2003 notifying the change in the location of Debts Recovery Tribunal, Pune, w.e.f. 3rd April, 2003 issued under section 3 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7728/2003]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 30 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976:—

- (i) The Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 4/Karmik/183/2001-2002 in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2001.
- (ii) The Damoh-Panna-Sagar Regional Rural Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. Pers/1146/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 6th August, 2001.
- (iii) The Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. Pers./1807 in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 2001.
- (iv) The Basti Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. HO/Pers/C-187 in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2001.
- (v) The Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 38/1444 in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2002.
- (vi) The Krishna Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. KGB/HO/PER/513 in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2002.
- (vii) The Visveshvaraya Grameena Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001

published in Notification No. VGB/DR/R-90/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2002.

- (viii) The Singhbhum Kshetria Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. Pers. Sectt./PKG-2002-2003/290 in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 2002.
- (ix) The Palamau Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. PER/1(d)/689 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2002.
- (x) The Bolangir Anchalik Gramya Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. PER/1278 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 2002.
- (xi) The Chaitanya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. LR No. 099/3/10/89 in Gazette of India dated the 3th January, 2003.
- (xii) The Howrah Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. HGB/PAD/SSR/4724/2003 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2003.
- (xiii) The Bhagirath Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. Praka/US/Service Regulation/0322 in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7729/2003]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Chhatrapal Singh, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working

of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon, for the year 2001-2002.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7730/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7731/2003]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7732/2003]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited,

Chennai, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7733/2003]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1993-1994.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1993-1994, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7734/2003]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1986-87.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1986-87, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Five statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7735/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Revised Long Term Action Plan (Hindi and English versions) for the KBK Districts of Orissa along with Review and Action Taken Report thereon for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7736/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL), Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL), Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7737/2003]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith 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 2001-2002.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7738/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 102 in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2003, under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7739/2003]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 101 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2003 specifying the State Councils for Technical Education in respect of the

Trade Test or examination with the Trades or Subjects as mentioned in the Notification, issued under section 2 of the Apprentices Act 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7740/2003]

(3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 392(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd April, 2003 making certain amendments in Notification No. S.O. 1017(E) dated the 18th September, 2002, issued under sub-section (2) of section 24 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7741/2003]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Instructional Media Institute, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Instructional Media Institute, Chennai, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(5) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Instructional Media Institute, Chennai, for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7742/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ashok Pradhan, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the National Council for Teacher Education (Establishment, Location and Territorial jurisdiction of the Regional Committees) Regulations, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. 1-2/2000-NCTE in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2003, under section 33 of the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7743/2003]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Assam Prathamik Siksha Achari Parishad, Guwahati, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Assam Prathamik Siksha Achari Parishad, Guwahati, for the year 2001-2002.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7744/2003]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2001-2002.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7745/2003]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the District Primary Education Programme, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the District Primary Education Programme, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7746/2003]

12.01 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General

of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th May, 2003 agreed without any amendment to the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill, 2003 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 5th May, 2003."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Foreigners (Amendment) Bill, 2003 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th May, 2003."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th May, 2003 agreed without any amendment to the Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2003 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 5th May, 2003."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table Foreigners (Amendment) Bill, 2003, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 7th May, 2003.

12.02 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the following two Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Current Session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on 10th April, 2003:-

1. The Banking Service Commission (Repeal) Bill, 2003.
2. The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 2003.

12.03 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTION**

Minutes

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Thirtieth to Thirty-third sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current Session.

12.03¹/₂ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED
TRIBES**

Twenty-fifth Report

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto on the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs—Working of National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC).

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Statements

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Statements of the Standing Committee on Agriculture:—

- (1) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 25th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 18th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2001-2002)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).
- (2) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 35th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 30th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2002-2003)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).
- (3) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 26th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 19th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2001-2002)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).
- (4) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 36th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 31st Report (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2002-2003)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).
- (5) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 27th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 20th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2001-2002)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying).
- (6) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 28th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 21st Report (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2001-2002)' of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

- (7) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 29th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 22nd Report (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2001-2002)' of the Ministry of Water Resources.
- (8) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 39th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 34th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2002-2003)' of the Ministry of Water Resources.

12.05 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Action taken report on recommendations of JPC on stock market scam and matters relating thereto*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, because I did not hear clearly earlier, permit me to submit the Action Taken Report on the Joint Parliamentary Committee's recommendations to the House.

The Report of the JPC on the Stock Market Scam and Matters relating thereto was presented to the Parliament on 19th December, 2002. It had recommended that the Government present the Action Taken Report within six months. I am glad, Sir, that we are doing so. We have endeavoured to ensure that the maximum possible recommendations of JPC are implemented.

We are grateful to the Joint Parliamentary Committee for its extensive deliberations in finding out the causes of the scam and suggesting preventive measures. The Government has greatly benefited by the deliberations of the JPC. This has helped in initiating certain amendments in the SEBI Act even during the pendency of the proceedings of the Committee. Through these amendments, the powers of the SEBI have been enhanced to take action against the securities' market defaulters, initiate action against the brokers and

corporates involved in insider trading and price manipulation of various scrips, etc.

In addition, during the pendency of the proceedings of the Committee, the UTI Act was repealed. Effective from 1st February 2003, the UTI has been bifurcated into two units: TUI-1, comprising US-64 and assured return schemes; and UTI-2, comprising the net asset value based schemes.

In respect of important recommendations about corporation and demutualisation of stock exchanges, the Government has initiated measures to amend the Securities Contracts Regulation Act, 1963. In the meanwhile, broker members have been disallowed to become office bearers of the stock exchanges. SEBI and the Government have also taken a number of measures to further enhance the efficiency and safety of the markets and ensure investor protection. SEBI has also set up a separate division for inspection of exchanges and taking of follow up action on the status of compliance of recommendations.

The Government have taken steps to honour the commitments made by the UTI to investors of US-64 scheme and assured return schemes. All the NAV-based schemes are being managed by UTI-II which is SEBI complaint.

Sir, it has been the endeavour of the Government to act upon each of the recommendations/suggestions of the JPC and complete the action taken at the earliest. In certain cases where wrong doers had to be identified and punished, action is in hand. We shall ensure that wherever such action is pending, it is completed early.

12.08 hrs.

(ii) Successful Launch of Second Test Flight of Geo Synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle D-2*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday the hon. Prime Minister made a brief statement. I have been asked to make a detailed statement today.

*Also [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7747/2003]

*Also [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7748/2003]

Sir, I am happy to inform this august House that the second test flight of GSLV-D2 was successfully carried out from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, Sriharikota on May 08, 2003.

GSLV-D2 is a three-stage vehicle. It uses solid propellant first stage with four liquid strap-ons and a liquid propellant second stage. While the cryogenic third stage has been supplied by Russia, the control, guidance and electronics for the stage have been designed, developed and implemented by ISRO scientists. The 49 metre tall technologically complex GSLV-D2, weighing 400 tonnes, lifted off at 4.58 PM carrying GSAT-2 satellite. After a perfect count down and about 17 minutes of smooth flight, GSAT-2, spacecraft was successfully placed into its intended orbit. GSLV-D2 has significantly demonstrated a payload capability of 1825 kilogram, which is about 300 kilogram more than what was launched in the first test flight. This was made possible by improvements such as the use of higher pressure engines for strap-ons, introduction of improved propellant loading for the core solid stage and optimisation of structural elements. This successful GSLV-D2 flight has validated the various technologies demonstrated during the first flight as well as improvements made for the second flight.

The first signals acquired from the GSAT-2 satellite indicated normal health of the satellite. GSAT-2 will be raised to its final geo-synchronous orbit in the coming days followed by deployment of its solar arrays and antennae. The satellite, in addition to carrying transponders for communication and mobile satellite services, has four scientific experiments.

With this successful flight of GSLV-D2, the payload capability has been established for launching operational communication satellites of 2000 kg class. Accomplishment of this technologically challenging mission is the culmination of efforts of ISRO Centres supported by Industries and academic institutions in India.

Through you, Sir, I request this august House to join me in congratulating ISRO and other participants associated with the successful launch of GSLV-D2.

Sir, if I may give the latest position, the multiple orbit raising operations are planned on GSAT-2 satellite to raise from its current Geo-synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). The first of these orbit-raising operations was successfully carried out at 8.45 this morning by firing the 440 Newton Liquid Apogee Motor onboard the satellite

for a duration of 47 minutes 30 seconds. The health of the satellite is normal.

12.13 hrs.

(I) Re: Reported Denial of State Honour to Shri Jagdish Bhai, renowned freedom fighter, by the Government of Uttar Pradesh

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up the Calling Attention Notice of Yogi Adityanath.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important question. Shri Jagdish Bhai was a freedom fighter. When Jai Prakash Narain fled from the Hazaribagh jail, it was Shri Jagdish Bhai who lay on his bed posing as sleeping Jai Prakash Narain only to beguile the police. He ran too many risks in his life during the freedom struggle, but on his death, he was denied state honour which he so well deserved. While the Central Government and the Delhi Government had full information of his death. Shri Jagdish Bhai stood shoulder to shoulder with Jai Prakash Narain in the freedom struggle. He contributed fully during the struggle for freedom and after independence such a renowned freedom fighter was denied state honour by the Central Government, Delhi Government and the Government of Uttar Pradesh. It was utterly inhuman and should not have happened.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave notice for suspension of Question-hour, for Adjournment Motion. Shri Arun Jaitley ji is sitting here. Shri Jagdish Bhai was among the pioneers of 'Sampoorn Kranti' (complete revolution). Several of his comrades are sitting here. Shri Jagdish Bhai was a pillar of the J.P. Movement. I have worked under his leadership. When J.P. fled from the Hazaribagh Jail, Jagidhs Bhai slept on his bed posing as sleeping J.P. 'simply to hoodwink the police. When such a person dies unnoticed despite the fact that the information of his death was duly conveyed to the Prime Ministers' Office and to Deputy Prime Minister by Shri Chandra Shekharji, it is really regrettable. Hon. Minister of Home Affairs stated that arrangements were being made for his funeral with full state honour then how was it that he passed away on the 6th and no state

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

honour was given to him. It is only through the efforts of such freedom fighters that we are sitting in the House today it is only through their efforts that our country became independent and it is only because of them that we are representing in the House after being elected, if we deny state honour to such freedom fighters on their death then it is indeed regretful.

Sir, we have very few freedom fighters, left in the country today. If our Government cannot honour those freedom fighters who are living then it has no right to remain in power. The centre may not have honoured them but through you, I would like to request the House that this House should respect and honour those individuals, at least a message should go to their families from this house. Let there be any freedom fighter, this House gives him due honour.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not wish to say anything in this regard because it a very painful subject. It is true that Shri Jagdish Bhai actually passed away on 5th itself. That day I got this news at 4 p.m. but the doctors did not declare it them. On that basis hon. Prime Minister, Vice-President and I were informed and hon. Home Minister was also informed. Hon. Prime Minister and the Vice President, too sent a condolence message. It was reported in the newspaper that the Home Minister said that he had told the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh that his funeral rites be performed with full state honour but despite all this when I reached there on 5th at 8.15 a.m. no Government official was present there. So far the Government has been kind to me that Government official are invariably informed about my visit. But despite knowing that I was coming to attend the funeral no government official could be seen even when we took the body to the cremation ground at half past eleven. I remained there till 12.30 to 1 p.m. While I was returning from there, his funeral was almost over when an official of the rank of tehsildar came there with a garland but he was not allowed to go near the funeral pyre. No officer waits on me, it has become very normal for me in Uttar Pradesh. Wherever I go across the country officers wait on me but in Uttar Pradesh barring few places I am sparingly attended by any officer. I went to Jai Prakash Nagar straight away from there and remained there for the day. Excepting an Inspector incharge of police station and a C.O. who is equivalent to Deputy S.P. who were waiting on me, no officer from Ballia went there.

Sir, I would like to know how far we will take politics. Jagdish Bhai was not only Jai Prakash Narainji's

secretary, but he joined the movement in 1938. When Jai Prakash ji fled from Hazaribagh jail in 1942, as stated by Mulayam Singh ji, Jagdish Bhai lay sleeping on his bed. He spent his entire life in prison and in 1951 when he was released from jail Jai Prakash ji requested Jagdish Bhai to construct a house for him and for remaining years of his life Jagdish Bhai lived in that village. The village people and the localities were wondering why no one came from the Uttar Pradesh Government to pay tribute to him. Hon. Home Minister is not here, I would like to know whether even on his intimation no step would be taken? All these things have been reported by the newspapers but all this file on the deaf ears of the U.P. Government. How the Government is functioning? Kindly excuse me, but I would like to ask the hon. Minister present here that how far they will breach the decorum. You may win the elections, but you will be responsible for disintegrating the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not an ordinary incident in Uttar Pradesh. Mulayam Singh ji called Jagdish Bhai an unselfish person. He never asked for anything. He was the secretary of the monument there. Hon. Prime Minister and hon. deputy Prime Minister also went there. Two Vice-Presidents went there. But Jagdish Bhai ji always remained back stage and he never even tried to get a photograph snapped with them, he was such a person. I am a member of the trust where he lived. He never ate food from the trust's fund, he always lived on his pension. Such a person was given this kind of treatment by the U.P. Government. Hon. Home Minister, hon. Prime Minister and hon. Vice President have expressed their regret for it. I regret to say that power has really gone to the head of those who are at the helm of affairs in U.P. Government. It has not only gone to their head but they have done a heinous work of breaching the decorum and conventions of the country. I was closely associated with Jagdish Bhai.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to conclude, by submitting that the kind of administration which is going on there, that some day a person like me may not be compelled to take such a step that in this very House, where we are congratulating you for completing one year in office, I may be detained under POTA and you may not have any information of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the episode related by hon. Chandra Shekharji, Mulayam Singh ji and Paswan ji right now is extremely regretful. I share the grief and sorrow expressed by Chandra Shekhar ji and express the share of sorrow on behalf of the Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people who had been close associates of Jai Prakash ji were not unknown to Jagdish Bhai. Chandra Shekharji knows it himself that I have myself been amongst the close followers of Jai Prakash ji. I have had much affection of Jai Prakash ji, so I am aware of the close relationship which Jagdish Bhai had with Jai Prakashji.

Chandra Shekharji, with due respect I would like to simply say that there has been no politics in this matter. He himself mentioned that the condolence messages. Conveyed by the Pradhan Mantriji and the Vice-President reached him and the hon. Home Minister said that he would ensure that the message is sent forward. But, as he has questioned, the instructions of the Home Minister, were not followed. How did it happen that no senior officer reached there. We would definitely look into this matter. And the feelings which have been expressed here would reach the Home Minister. I would like the Government and this House to pay homage to respected Jagdish Bhai ji. The Government would definitely take proper action for the lapses committed in this matter. I associate myself again with him in his grief and sorrow.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, we all pay our homage and respect to Jagdish Bhai. It is unfortunate that such a feeling of respect has not been shown to him. Let us see what the Government does.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should also say a few lines on this from the Chair.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Speaker, Sir, everyone is of the opinion that it should come up in the House in the form of a proposal so that the feelings of the Members find expression and thereby the mistake that has been done may also be corrected.

MR. SPEAKER: What has been said here about Jagdish Bhai is quite correct. I can understand the feelings of the House. Therefore, I urge upon all the Members to observe one minute silence to pay our condolences to Jagdish Bhai.

12.22 hrs.

(*The Members then stood in silence for a shortwhile*)

12.24 hrs.

FELICITATIONS TO HON. SPEAKER ON HIS COMPLETION OF ONE YEAR IN OFFICE

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate you on completing one year in office as Speaker. We assure you our full cooperation for future also. The way you controlled the agitated House deserves our fullest commendations. We cannot forget your tenure for you have really been able to maintain the traditions and dignity in the House. We hope, you will conduct the proceedings of the House in the similar fashion in future also and for that you will get our full cooperation.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Before the Calling Attention Motion is taken up, I would like to submit that not all the Members are aware that the hon. speaker has completed one year in the office. However, we are aware of this. What is remarkable is not that he has completed one year in his office, but the fact that he has handled the proceedings of the House so efficiently despite so many hurdles. Today is the last day of the present session of the Parliament and we can say now that you have never evoked feelings in others that you have ever been unfair to them and that is exactly what is expected of Presiding officers. You are occupying the seat of a judge and you have done justice to all. Therefore, all political parties and Cross section of the society are indebted to you. We congratulate you and your staff and including secretaries who have worked with devotion. I, on my behalf and on behalf of my colleagues congratulate you. May you live long and continue to provide your guidance to us.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is really a very happy occasion. I am feeling extremely happy to be able to offer my whole-hearted appreciation of the manner in which you have been presiding over the deliberations of this most important institution of our country.

Sir, you will be completing one year term tomorrow. Not only I wish to convey my sincere congratulations but also our best wishes for your continuing success.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Every section of the House feels that in you we have a friend, not only of the Members here but a friend of the entire Opposition also, and a Presiding Officer who is keenly concerned with the maintenance of the basic principles of parliamentary democracy. We have always received full consideration from you. And, the faith we had expressed during your election as Speaker, has been more than fully justified. We deeply appreciate it.

Sir, you are presiding over a very large family—a family of the Members, a family of the entire Secretariat and staff. I am sure, everybody will feel happy, as they do feel happy under your dispensation. I can, on behalf of my party, assure you the fullest cooperation from our party and Members, and I believe that the entire Opposition shares with us this feeling that we want your success because you have shown your capability, you have earned our faith and confidence by the way you have conducted the House.

Sir, once again, I wish you continuing success so that this great institution becomes an institution of the people.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate you on behalf of the Congress Party for completing one year in office as Speaker of Lok Sabha. I associate myself with the views of the Members who spoke before me. I express my compliments to you for conducting the House properly by maintaining the dignity of the House and I hope you will be able to perform your duties similarly in the times to come. We extend all our good wishes to you and we also wish you a good health. With these words, I congratulate you once again and conclude.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the way you have patiently tackled the difficult situations in the House and if I may say, the boldness you have shown deserves our heart felt commendations. I hope you will steer clear of these situations. At times, I was apprehensive that this House might be totally inactive while you were still these presiding over the House. At times, I feel like responding to the kinds of speeches that are made here, but I prefer to keep quiet in view of the situations. But I really congratulate you from the core of my heart for showing patience, firmness, and skill in handling the proceedings of the House. I wish you may keep on conducting the House in the same fashion.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate you on behalf of our party for successfully and efficiently completing one year as Speaker of Lok Sabha. There are 35 to 40 political parties representing in this House. Several parties have formed coalitions in the treasury bench side as well as in the opposition. It is very difficult to conduct the proceeding of the House in such a situation. But the way you have handled this difficult situation is praiseworthy and I hope this House will continue to be conducted in the similar fashion in future also.

This is perhaps for the first time that any speaker is being felicitated for completing one year in his office. I think this is a great achievement for you that all are complimenting you for successfully completing one year in the office. I once again congratulate you.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Some members want to speak. Let them do so first.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me also speak for five minutes. All other members will also speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to allow you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: No other member is now left to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are many more members left to speak. I am feeling very much embarrassed. You can understand this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It shows that there is no favouritism for the Minister!

MR. SPEAKER: It is very embarrassing for me.

[Translation]

You know I shall give only a little time. We will complete this in five-ten minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I shall call one by one. Each of you should take one minute. Much time of the House should not be invested on this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have completed one year as Speaker very successfully. For this, I would like to congratulate you on my own behalf and on behalf of our party. The courage you have shown to run this House and the way you have managed smooth run of the House that was the result of politeness and bravery, courage and novel style adopted by you. With all these qualities you have run this House. You never lost patience and courage even in the face of great difficulties and crises. All my good wishes are with you and I fully hope that even in the future, you will run this House in the same way. I request the Almighty to bless you with power to run this House with the same competence.

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, on behalf of the DMK Party, I felicitate you on completion of one successful year in your career. You have improved the image of the House, both inside as well as outside, by giving importance to the national issues, as well as by taking unanimous decisions. I hope you will be successful in future also.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Hon. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Members of AIADMK, I congratulate you for the way in which you have managed the difficult situations in the House. You have given equal opportunities to both senior as well as junior Members. On this day, I on behalf of 51 crore women of this country, request and hope that the Women Reservation Bill will be passed during your tenure. Thank you.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the office which you are holding require at least two essential qualities—impartiality and competence. You are blessed with both these virtues. It is because of this that you are managing this difficult task with your dynamic personality and without any fear. Under your stewardship the problems of the vast multitude of this country are being highlighted. Under your direction and supervision, we are able to place the difficulties and

problems of the villagers in this House. As such the manner in which and circumstances under which you have handled the job of Speaker throughout the year that has added to the dignity of the Parliamentary democracy and has strengthened democracy. You have discharged the duties of the office of the Speaker with dignity throughout the year and given opportunities to all hon'ble Members to raise problems of their respective constituencies in order to fulfil aspirations of the people. For this I would like to congratulate you and I wish you well for the future that like this. ...(Interruptions) Actually this is an occasion which signifies our rights. As such I congratulate you.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Baliala, Bihar): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, today you have completed one year in office. On this occasion hon'ble Ram Vilas, respected Chandra Shekhar ji, respected Somnath ji and other hon'ble members have expressed their sentiments and I also associate myself with them. No-a-days running the House is like doing physical exercise. When you had assumed the charge of Speaker at that time while giving congratulations some hon'ble Members had expressed apprehension as to whether or not you would be controlled through a remote control. But the way you have exercised your powers with efficiency and impartiality during the course of this one-year, this is nothing less than magic and now everyone is appreciating you. I am also one of them. I wish you well. May you live long and win election again and again and continue to grace the august office of the Speaker.

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): We are proud of you, Sir. You have brought rich experiences of your administrative ability and public life experience to this House. You have been very nice to everyone. There is a *Kural* which starts like this:

"KADITHOCHCHI MELLA ERIGA"

It means that you must raise your *danda* but you should not beat. You have been very strict sometimes as it was necessary, and you have been very lenient also as it was necessary sometimes. I would make one observation that you have not adjourned the House unnecessarily. You have been controlling this House very well. You have been lenient in giving opportunity to every Member of this House. We all join together to wish you all well. On behalf of our PMK Party, we wish you all better than the best.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): On my own behalf and on behalf of the Muslim League, I would like to heartily congratulate you. The great poise with which you are running this House, is adding to the dignity of the august office of Speaker and the Chair. By blending common sense with rules you have set such a fine tradition which is an example in itself. I hope that this House would continue to be run in the same way. It is Zero Hour at the moment and we all are sitting here very serenely and none of the members is thinking about his/her zero hour notice. Please do not put any time limit on anyone's speech during this time at least and whatever we have to say, let that be allowed because the way the House has been running and functioning, you deserve every appreciation for that. You have got cooperation from the members whenever the House went turbulent. I congratulate you and hope that this House would continue to run under your able speakership with same grace.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): Sir, with the greatest pleasure and with the utmost sincerity, I congratulate you on the completion of one year of your rule. It has been a very turbulent and rocky passage over the past one year. There were some Bills which rocked the House and raised our emotions. I would take this opportunity to tell you that even I need protection sometimes.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, what about the protection that we need from her.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, when we uphold the cause of plenty of women, we always hope that there will be many more 'Renuka Chowdhuries'. I think it is half the reason why they do not allow the passage of the Women Reservation Bill to come through in our House.

Besides that, we are the representatives from the farthest corner of our nation sitting here in Parliament looking after the interests and welfare of the people of India, upholding the finest traditions of Parliament, and the sovereignty of this nation. Sometimes when our emotions run high, you have gently stirred us back into the proper channel. I wish you all the very best and good health and happiness as also some tax free holidays if the Finance Minister and Parliament willing.

We wish you many happy returns till the next elections!

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with the kind of bravery and politeness you have run the proceedings of this House as Speaker and completed one year of your term, for that I would like to congratulate you on behalf of our party and Chief Minister of Haryana. Chaudhary Om Prakash Chautalaji and the Government of Haryana. The virtues and qualities I have seen in you, reminded me of Late Chaudhary Devi Lal ji. I would certainly mention that as Late Chaudhary Devi Lal ji always showed new direction to the politics of this country uniting the countrymen like head of the family likewise you have also brought all the parties closer and with the kind of bravery and ability you have run this House, that deserve appreciation and for that I would like to congratulate you. I hope and pray to the God that in future also you may succeed with the same ability.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (Moradabad): Sir, I on behalf of my Party, would like to congratulate you for the successful completion of one year. You have managed the House in a very commendable manner. You have been very patient to bear with all of us with our divergent views.

[Translation]

There is no difference of opinion that you have made many members recall their student life. You have worked as a headmaster quite smoothly and hope in the coming year, you will give some time to smaller parties also. With that hope many-many congratulations.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Shiromani Akali Dal and the minorities, I want to congratulate you and place our thanks on record about your impartiality as the protector of our freedom of speech, our privileges. You have done a remarkable job for which we will ever be grateful.

Sir, if the Opposition, of which I am a Member, is really sincere in congratulating you, then I hope this House will follow the time old traditions of British Parliamentary democracy and not allow anyone to context against you in future elections.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, you are sitting on a throne of thorns. But I find that you have really made in a throne of flowers. Your humongous patience—courtesy Shri Jaipal Reddy—your statesmanship, your experience, your general nature and your way of dealing things is something unique. I would like think that you have given chance to all—be it the senior Members, the junior Members, the big Party or the small Party. You have a policy of looking through the benches and seeing everybody. I wish you all success. I am sure, you would continue with your success for a long time to come. I, on behalf of my Party wish you well.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE (Ichalkaranji): Mr. Speaker, Sir, toady you have completed one year in office. For that I would like to congratulate you on my own behalf and on behalf of my party *i.e.* Nationalist Congress Party.

[English]

I wish you a happy, healthy, wealthy and a prosperous life!

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate you for having completed one year of tenure in your office.

“Ap Ne bahut hi accha ek sal pura kiya,
Sare Sansdon ko apne bahut pyar diya,
Apne virodhi dal aur sarkari paksha ko kabhi-kabhi
krodh diya
Isliye Apne ek sal pura kiya
Aaz ka yeh awar, hai zero
Magar aaz zero awar ke ban gaye hain aap hero.

There are members like me and Raghuvansh Babu here in this House so one can imagine how difficult it is to conduct the proceedings of the House. You might have realized this, yet you have conducted the proceedings of the House so ably. Your party has a different character, but your character is altogether different. You have been able to manage all. I, on my behalf and on behalf of my party congratulate you for completing one year as Speaker of Lok Sabha and at the same time I extend my good wishes to you for the next one and a half year. I do not know what will happen after the period of one and half year. I assure your that I will continue to cooperate you

in future also. You gave honour even to a Member like me. So, I also pay regard and honour to you. I wish you to continue to conduct the House efficiently. There are several other smaller parties like ours. As of now our party has only one Member in this House. The Bhartiya Janata Party had only two members in this House in 1982, but now the BJP has 182 members. Even our party may have 100 or 182 members in the House after 10 years. In view of the above, I am thankful to you for giving me a chance to express my views.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joy Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I on my behalf and on behalf of my party felicitate you for completing one year in the office. I congratulate you for the impartiality and efficiency you exhibited in conducting the House and for the way in which you gave equal importance to the big and small parties, senior and Junior members.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ali Mohammad Naik is not present. He will make his speech later. Now Shri Suresh Jadhav will speak.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Sir, you are our Guru and it is a matter of great happiness and pride for me that you have become Speaker of Lok Sabha. You have been supported by all members of the House which has been reflected in the speeches made just now by several members and leaders in the House. This is all a matter of pride for me. The ideals which you have set before the House are the guiding principles for all the members like me. I congratulate you on my behalf and on behalf of our party the Shiv Sena.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have sought time since I represent a National Party. The members from south India have already spoken. But no member from the North India has spoken. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the last one year which we have spent under your speakership makes us feel as if only two months have passed. That simply shows how great a man you are. Initially we had a doubt that you would be able to conduct the House so successfully. The appreciation which you receive outside the House far exceeds the appreciation which you received inside the House. That also bespeaks of your dignified personality. I have also had the opportunity of being the Chairman of the House and the mayor of Kanpur. I know the difficulties being faced by the presiding officer. Particularly the situations arising during the thirteenth Lok Sabha are horrible and I really appreciate you and extend my good wishes for the way you handled the situations

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

and have been able to conduct the business of the House. We all are part of the democratic process. We seek guidance from you and assure that we will try to do all those things which strengthen our democracy. Please accept my congratulation once again.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Many speakers have spoken. There are many others who want to speak. But, firstly, it is very embarrassing to me and secondly it is also not proper that the time of the House is taken on this discussion. Therefore, I request all of you—I have received your sentiments—to please bear with me. Let us not spend more time on this issue. Now Shrimati Sushma Swaraj.

[Translation]

SHRI MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are completing one year in your office today. You had assumed this office on 10th May last year. At that time some Members might have been skeptical about your ability, but just within a weak after assuming the office you succeeded in dispelling the doubts of those members. You have shown total impartiality while conducting the house efficiently. Depending on the situation, you have been both soft and harsh in dealing with Members and in your efforts to bring unanimity of opinion in the House. During the Budget session, with my new assignment, I got an opportunity to work closely with you. I give my special compliments to you for the affection and cooperation extended by you in fulfilling my responsibilities.

The sentiments expressed today in the House candidly reveals that the Members of the opposition benches are more satisfied with you than the Members of the treasury benches. Nothing can be more satisfying than this for any speaker. Your tenure is full of achievements which includes several national and international events. There is however, one thing which is being strongly felt by the lady Members. May be that will be done in your second tenure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have convened a meeting on 16th June to discuss the matter which the leaders of all parties have assigned to you and I wish that you may succeed in arriving at consensus and that may mark the beginning of your next tenure. You have succeeded so far in reaching a consensus. So, I pray to God for your

success in resulting the ticklish problem during your second tenure and with these words, I congratulate you for your splendid tenure.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. members, I am so grateful to you all. I have never heard my discussion being held in so congenial atmosphere. I am thankful to you.

[English]

I am indeed grateful to all of you and I profusely thank you for the words that you have expressed. I must say that it was with some apprehension that I occupied this exalted Chair one year ago. I was somewhat apprehensive because I thought that the job of the Speaker was very demanding. Now, with one year's experience behind me, I have to hesitation in admitting that this job is indeed much more demanding than I expected.

Hon. Members, during this period, I had to face many difficult situations in the House. But with the kind cooperation of the hon. Leader of the House, the Leader of Opposition, Leaders of all political parties and all sections of the House, I have been able to conduct its proceedings more or less in an orderly manner, and I trust, to the satisfaction of all of you.

I have always believed that debates and discussions are the life and blood of parliamentary democracy. Therefore, I have exercised the powers conferred on me by the Rules of Procedures to enable all sections of the House to express their views so that different shades of opinions may be placed before the House on matters under discussion.

The House, you will agree, may be a place for verbal duels but certainly not for anything more aggressive than that. That being so, the Members have to realise the responsibility to cooperate with the Presiding Officer in ensuring orderly conduct of the business of the House and desist from disrupting its proceedings. We are all representatives of lakhs and lakhs of people and it is the duty of each one of us to conduct ourselves in a manner which will enhance the dignity of this august House and enable it to effectively function as the supreme legislative institution of the country. That is why, we should all work collectively for the welfare of the people who have elected us to this august House.

My endeavour through the last one year has been to facilitate this process by further streamlining the functioning of the House. With the kind of cooperation of

all of you, the Lok Sabha has been able to pass almost hundred Bills during the past one year. In the Winter Session alone, the House gave approval to 37 Bills which has been a record in the last thirty years.

I may also inform the hon. Members that the percentage of Questions orally answered on the floor of the House has gone up to 19 per cent out of the total listed Questions during this Session as compared to 9 per cent, 11 per cent and 16 per cent respectively during the previous three Sessions. The time of the House lost due to interruptions and adjournments on account of disruptions of the proceedings has also come down. We are definitely making progress though you all will agree that there is still scope for further improvement.

I consider myself fortunate that I came to occupy this august Office of the Speaker during the Golden Jubilee of our Parliament. With the cooperation of all the Leaders and Members of both the Houses, we have celebrated the Golden Jubilee in a befitting manner.

Hon. Members, I trust that I will continue to get the cooperation and affection of all sections of the House in future also and we shall, in this spirit of cooperation, be able to find a way to consider the Women's Reservation Bill as well. With all of us working together in a consensual manner, we can make our Parliamentary Democracy more meaningful and address the grievances of the common man in a more positive and purposive manner.

I would finally like to once again thank the Leaders, the Deputy Leaders, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, the Leader of the Opposition Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Leaders of all the political Parties and Groups and each one of you for your kind cooperation and the courtesy that you have extended to me. I am also thankful to the Deputy Speaker Shri P.M. Sayeed Saheb and the Members of the Panel of Chairmen for their unstinted cooperation in conducting the House proceedings.

I would also like to thank all the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their wholehearted cooperation in conducting the House.

I once again thank all the hon. Leaders and the hon. Members for their graciousness.

Friends, I express my sense of thanks to all of you for the confidence that you have bestowed upon me.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we go to the Calling Attention. Shri Yogi Adityanath.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Sir, we have given notice of a Censure Motion against the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests. That may be taken up at the earliest. ...(Interruptions)

Sir, the House has to decide the conduct of the Minister for issuing a notification which is prejudicial to the general public of this nation. He has gone on record to the Press just to score a political animosity. A notification was issued banning all construction activities in the coastal areas. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All these issues can be discussed when we come to the "Zero Hour."

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: We may be permitted to raise it.

MR. SPEAKER: We can go to 'Zero Hour'. During that time, you can raise this issue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: There is paucity of time. I want to take 15-20 minutes in taking notices of Zero Hour. Calling Attention Motion may have to be postponed for the next session. That time I shall allow you to speak.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter is concerning pollution of the Ganga river. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your matter is very important, but it should be completed soon.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: I shall complete in soon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a holy place of Hindu Religion and culture which has symbolic importance.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): May I seek a clarification? ...*(Interruptions)* Will the Matters under Rule 377 be taken up before Lunch or after Lunch?

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 will be there. They will be taken up after Lunch.

13.00 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE*

Situation arising out of pollution being caused in river Ganga due to Industrial effluents and steps taken by the Government to prevent it

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests to a Matter of Urgent Public importance and want him to make a statement:

"Situation arising out of pollution being caused in river Ganga due to industrial effluents and steps taken by the Government to prevent it."

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ganga Action Plan (GAP) was started in 1985 with the objective of improving the water quality of the river to acceptable standards. Under the first phase of GAP, pollution abatement works were taken up in 25 Class-1 towns in Uttar Pradesh (UP), Bihar and West Bengal.

To address the problem of pollution of Ganga from industries, a total of 187 grossly polluting industries have been identified for monitoring. Of these, 133 industries have installed effluent treatment plants and the remaining 54 are closed. The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) are regularly monitoring these industries.

In January and February, 2003, the water quality of Ganga at Sangam at Allahabad was affected due to discharge of coloured effluents from distilleries and agro-based industries upstream of Kanpur. After the intervention

*[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7749/2003]

of the CPCB and the UP Pollution Control Board (UP PCB), the discharge of these effluents was stopped in early March, 2003. The UP PCB has been directed to take action against the defaulting industries and to ensure that such industries do not discharge effluents into the river during non-monsoon months.

As regards the domestic pollution, total waste water estimated in 1985 was 1,340 million litres per day (mld). Against this, due to resource crunch, works corresponding to a treatment capacity of 873 mld. Only (65%) were taken up under GAP Phase-I which has been declared complete in March, 2000. The total expenditure incurred on the project is Rs. 452 crore. However, since the present estimated waste water generation in towns along Ganga is about 2,500 mld., the sewage treatment capacity created under GAP Phase-I presently correspond to about 35 per cent of the total load only. Part of the remaining pollution load (about 800 mld.) has been taken up under the ongoing GAP Phase-II. The balance of about 830 mld. (most of which is in Hardwar, Allahabad, Varanasi and Patna) could not be taken up due to shortage of funds in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

After the implementation of GAP Phase-I, problems of operation and maintenance (O&M) of assets have been reported. The responsibility of O&M of assets rests with the implementing agencies of the States which have not been able to provide adequate funds for this purpose. With the interaction of the Government at various levels in the States, the situation has now been showing improvement in this regard. The Government of Uttar Pradesh, through a Cabinet decision, has decided to provide adequate and timely funds for O&M to the agencies out of the devolution of funds of the State Finance Commission. The Government of Bihar has also taken a decision to provide matching funds for this purpose. In West Bengal, the situation with regard to the O&M is reported to be satisfactory.

13.03 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, among the things which the hon. Minister has stated in his statement and has drawn the attention towards the facts about pollution, he has drawn the attention towards the industrial wastes and the pollution caused by the sewage water of the cities situated on the banks of the Ganges and that too is not fully satisfactory. One of the main causes of

the pollution of the river Ganga is the dams constructed at different stages which have stalled the natural flow of the river.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the second reason is that there are several industrial units along the banks of the river Ganga and the pollution is caused by the industrial effluents, discharged into the river by these units which have not yet installed treatment plants third reason is that discharging of dirty water and sewer water into the river without filtering has also resulted in its pollution. The hon. Minister mentioned about 187 industries which are mainly responsible for the pollution of the Ganga. Whereas Kanpur city alone has more than three hundred tanneries. Besides there are paper mills also. There are thousands of industrial units along the course of the Ganga right from Rishikesh to Ganga Sagar which have not installed treatment plants so far. The hon. Minister has mentioned about the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards, but there seems no transparency in the functioning of these boards. They are doing nothing substantial. I, therefore, want to know from the hon. Minister that on the basis of which study he has referred to only 187 industries and when was that study conducted just now he was referring to the year 1985. But there has been a lot of developmental activities from 1985 to 2003 and which Ganga Action Plan you are talking about and I don't think that it has not functioned anywhere in a manner conducive to the real public interest nor has it fulfilled the purpose for which it was set up. It has failed to achieve its objective. What is the basis on which these industrial units have been identified. There are more than three tanneries in Kanpur alone besides there are paper mills also. And right from Rishikesh to Ganga Sagar be it in Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar or West Bengal, industrial effluents are discharged into the river Ganga and there are no treatment plants in these industrial units. I want to know as to what action the Ministry of Environment and Forests is going to take in this regard.

The hon. Minister has told one more thing that polluted water and sewage water of various metropolitan cities is discharged into the river Ganga. And no filter or treatment plants are installed for this purpose. The constant and natural flow of the river Ganga has been stalled at Tehri. When the Ganga water will not flow in its course, then the industrial effluents, polluted water and sewage water are bound to aggravate the crisis and pose a danger to its existence. The religious saints who have expressed their concern over the existence of Ganga, that is but natural and the religious saints also

expressed their resentment on this situation on the Magh mela at Prayag this year. The holy Kumb mela will be held at Hardwar next year. What situation will develop on that occasion. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the opinion of the Ministry of Environment and Forests was obtained when the Tehri dam got underway. Secondly, dams are also proposed to be constructed at Koteshwar and other places like at Khuni and Laxman Jhula, whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests have given its approval for all these dams and besides, I also want to know that. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot make a speech. You can put your question is.

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: I also want to know as to whether there was an attempt earlier also to halt the constant flow of the Ganga. An agreement was entered into with the Hindu Samaj in 1916 not to halt the constant and natural flow of the Ganga river. Whether the attention of the Ministry has also been drawn to that?

[*English*]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, in fact, I want to tell the house that, within a year's time, I had twice requested the Members who are part and parcel of the Ganga-Yamuna banks to give their views. I had invited more than 130 Members of Parliament for this, wherein my officers had presented the case before the Members.

I was very much interested to interest with the friends so that the local problems can be solved through the Members of Parliament. On both the occasions only a few Members attended those meetings. On the first occasion, four Members attended the meeting and last week, on the second occasion, only 14 Members of Parliament attended the meeting. I had invited Yogi Adityanath too, but he did not attend that meeting.

They are very much interested. I think Yogi Adityanath is not interested. But the fact remains that out of 187 industries, 133 industries have got ETPs (Effluent Treatment Plants). The 54 plants which were not having the ETPs have been closed. The real problem is this. Sir, last time in *Sangam*, there was coloured water flown into the River Ganga. It was because of that psychologically, people were afraid of taking holy dip in the river Ganga. It is not a pollution at all. Even during

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

the holy period, they used to play with the coloured water. It does not mean that they were playing with the polluted water. Were you able to catch the point? Actually, it is not polluted water. But, Sir, to avoid such things, I have instructed my officers to immediately go and stop the discharging of dirty water into the River Ganga. After treatment, water was being discharged. I have asked the officers to stop all those industries which are discharging dirty water. Only during the rainy seasons, water can be discharged. Till such time, they have to hold water in their industries only. It does not mean that the coloured water has got pollutants. Even during my recent visit to Washington, I went and saw a laboratory. I had also interacted with the engineers and scientists in Washington who said that colour in the bisleri could be removed. They have also said that they have not yet achieved that level. They do not have any such technology. If there is any such technology, we can make use of it. Till such time, the coloured water will have to be stored inside the industries only. Only during the monsoon season they can discharge into the river. Of course, it would not have any harmful effect. This is the crux of the issue. Now, I do not think there is any clarification required.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Jaunpur): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I want to ask a question from the hon. Minister on the basis of statement made by him and I have a great interest in the river Ganga and I have attended all the meetings which the hon. Minister has called.

Sir, hon. Chandra Shekhar ji also belongs to a city situated on the banks of the Ganga. The entire country is aware of the present condition of the Ganga. The figures which have presented here are incorred altogether. I am terming these figures wrong because as a member of the Public Accounts Committee. I had visited places from Tehri to Patna recently to review the Ganga Action Plan and I also travelled by ship from Howrah to Allahabad in 1998. I would like to submit to the House that when the hon. Late Rajiv Gandhi had inaugurated the Ganga Action Plan in 1985 at the Dashaswamegha Ghat in Varanasi, the place from where the work got underway, a open nullah is falling into the Ganga river uninterruptedly, without any let or hindrance. I want to tell from the figures given by the hon. Minister that 160 M.L.D. is discharged at Hardwar. While only 18 MLD is treated. Similarly, there is 360 MLD discharge in Government record at Kanpur and only 102 MLD is treated. The treatment plants and pumping stations which

have been set up in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the situation of power is so bad in these states that the electricity is available only for four hours. As a result of that, these plants and pumping stations operate only for four hours. They have shown in their figures that the pumping houses and STPs have been constructed. When there will be no electricity, how a pumping house or STP will work and as a consequence the untreated water gets discharged in the river directly. As for generators, I want to cite one example as I reached Daryaganj Pumping Station in Allahabad. The generator which was installed there a year back was lying idle on a trolley. When I asked as to why this has been lying like that on the trolley, the people there told me that it was brought there the trolley, the people there told me that it was brought there the previous night only as the same was installed in the house of an officer. When I called for the register showing the filling of diesel that too was not available there. Therefore, I would like to submit that the Ganga Action Plan is only a sham. I want to ask some questions relating to it.

My first question is that when Rs. 452 crore were allocated at the time of formulating the Ganga Action Plan, whether any study was conducted beforehand as to the types of pollution and quantum of effluents discharged into the river.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think that not only the effluents of the cities are discharged into the river, pollution to the tune of 25 MLT gets into it is in addition to that. Besides that, factories are also causing pollution. Dead bodies are also discharged into the river and dead bodies are buried at ghats along the Ganga river, which also cause pollution. Dhobi ghats have also come up along the banks of the Ganges. Washermen wash their clothes with detergent. That also causes pollution. Fertilisers are used in fields and these are washed away in the Ganga due to rain, that is the fifth type of pollution.

Sir, the second thing which I want to submit is that the Government of India provides funds for undertaking work. Under the entire Ganga Action Plan, State Government formulate the scheme, Zila Parishads implement them and Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils are entrusted with this work. And they do not have resources. The hon. Minister himself has admitted this thing. That is why they are not able to take this responsibility.

Sir, who takes care of the rivers it is the irrigation department. Whether the Union Government took the

irrigation department into confidence, whether the Union Government ensures the participation of the Department of Industries in this action plan to check the discharge of effluents into the river which emanate from the factories. Similarly there are tourist centres in the cities situated along the banks of the Ganges, whether the Union Government took the Tourism Department into confidence? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given you enough time. Let the Minister reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHINMYANAND SWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Government's Scheme is lying incomplete, the same manner you are not letting me complete by question by interrupting the time and again. At least, let me complete my question.

Sir, I want to know as to how many tributaries converge into the rivers like Yamuna, Gomati and Saryu. What is their condition. Let me complete my question. Let me ask those questions which I want to ask, then only the hon. Minister will be able to reply. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot make a speech. I have given you enough time. You please sit down. Let the Minister reply now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: I want to know what is the condition of the rivers like Yamuna, Gomati and Saryu and what arrangements have been made to take out the effluents which are discharge into their tributaries. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the hon. Member has already been informed about this last week when he made a representation. He has got enough materials and he can speak. But at the same time. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, they are not letting me to complete my question. When they do not let me ask my question, what the minister will reply and in such a situation what purpose will be served even if I keep sitting in the House. I feel very

sorry about it. What is the point in my listening to the Minister's reply when I am not allowed to ask the questions, what reply should I listen to from the hon. Minister. Therefore, I stage a walk out from the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

13.17 hrs.

(*Shri Chinmayanand Swami then left the House*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are a number of notices given by the Members. All of them are waiting here. You are consuming all the time. What is this? Please sit down.

Mr. Minister, you can continue your reply.

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are not allowing me to ask question from the hon'ble Minister. How he will be able to reply to my question if he does not hear my question. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, 75 per cent of the pollution load which the river *Ganges* receives from sewage water flowing into the river is pertaining to the State Government and the local Municipalities. In 1985, the late-lamented leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi hastened to have a project to clean the river *Ganges*. At that time, because of paucity of funds, a sum of Rs. 452 crore had been provided and the total pollution load was of the order of 1340 mld. At that time, within the limited scope, they were able to tackle up to 65 per cent of the pollution load. Now, the pollution load is 2,500 mld. When compared to 872 mld, which has already been tackled, now the remaining percentage is 35 per cent only. We have provided funds for 45 per cent. How do you expect that the river *Ganges* will be cleaned for ever? It is not possible. People should understand that the Municipalities, which are on the banks of the river, should contain throwing of polluted water into the river. But, at the Central Government level, within the kitty, whatever amount that is provided, we have created some assets.

But, once again the assets created will have to be maintained properly. The question mark lies there. We have tried many times with the Governments of Bihar and U.P., but I am not finding fault with them. Both the Governments have been advised properly. During the recent visit, the people have been advised. Now, they are taking up. They have come forward to maintain the assets. If they maintain the assets properly, some good result will occur. I think, most probably, now the things are going in a proper way and the quality of water will

[Yogi Aditya Nath]

be improved as quickly as possible. But, unless and otherwise they provide more funds, we cannot expect good quality of water. But, at the same time, whether we have spent whatever the amount we had, properly or not is not the question. We have received 20 per cent IRR. The Internal Rate of Return, which has been certified by a particular institution, is 20 per cent. It goes to show that the particular project has been successfully completed. We have also provided Rs. 400 crore towards Ganga Action Plan-II. It is also making a good progress. So, let us not curse the darkness. Let us have a candle to see that the darkness is removed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. V. Saroja to speak.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, on my behalf, hon. Member, Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi may be allowed to raise the issue.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): Sir, are you taking up 'Zero Hour'?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): I would like to invite your attention to the notice of Censure Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is speaking.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, a notice of Censure Motion was given to the hon. Speaker on the 4th of this month against the hon. Union Minister of Environment and Forests to disapprove his conduct and to express deep concern over the illegal Notification issued in order to avenge his political and.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, I may be permitted to speak after his speech is over.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: The notice is of very serious nature. The Notification issued by the hon. Minister is totally against the interest of the nation. We have to discuss the conduct of the Minister for having issued this illegal Notification. We have to discuss this issue because his action is contrary to the public. When the Government of Tamil Nadu passed an order to demolish a dilapidated building in a college and construct a Legislative Council complex, the Minister went on record and he has taken an oath through his public utterances that he will not

keep quiet and the same has been widely published in all the newspapers. He has gone on record in speaking publicly that as long as he is alive, he will not permit the new Secretariat building to be built by the Government of Tamil Nadu headed by the hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Jayalalithaa. Sir, this is the utterance. A hurried Notification was issued without consulting the State Government and without consulting the Ministry of Urban Development, which is responsible for issuing orders with regard to the construction of building in any area.

He had conducted himself in such a manner so as to act with total disregard, with utter disregard of the oath of office and oath of secrecy which he took in terms of article 75(4) of the Constitution. He has completely violated the Constitution. Therefore, he has no business to continue in the office. This House has to disapprove his conduct and express its deep concern over the illegal Notification issued by himself. How it affects the whole nation? After he has gone on record publicly against the action of the Government of Tamil Nadu in building a legitimate Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Council, he has abused and misused his office as the Environment Minister by issuing this Notification, which has a far reaching consequences, unmindful of the effect of the same in the coastal area.

The entire eastern and western coasts are affected because of this illegal notification. This notification is aimed only at settling political scores with the AIADMK regime in Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have given a notice under Rule 184 and it is under the consideration of the hon. Speaker.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, this notice was given four days ago and no information is forthcoming from your side. This matter is of serious consequence and of a serious nature. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, if he have given notice under Rule 184, why are you allowing him to make so many allegations now? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, he has been allowed to raise it during 'Zero Hour'. If you want, you can also say what you want to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): He has no business to raise this issue in 'Zero Hour' if he has already submitted a notice under Rule 184. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Speaker has allowed him to raise it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: I am not disputing that but he should not be making all these allegations. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, my only request is this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already raised it now. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: This matter should be taken up at the earliest. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today is the last day of the current Session. You have raised it now. The matter is under the consideration of the hon. Speaker.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have raised it. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, I may also be allowed to speak on this. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want, you can also say something briefly.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, the same issue was raised in the Tamil Nadu Assembly. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had made a statement. In that statement, the Chief Minister made an allegation against the hon. Union Minister. ...(*Interruptions*) So, I request the Central Government to take necessary action to protect the hon. Minister. ...(*Interruptions*) The case is already in the court and the matter is *sub judice*....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, we want the Minister to reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I will now pass on to the other items.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, the hon. Minister is here. He should give the answer. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): If you do not allow discussion on the matter relating to the farmers, we will not allow the House to function. This is what I want to tell you.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, are you saying that they should not be allowed to raise their problems?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Do you want uproar in the House daily? You had set a convention that we could raise the matter here whenever we gave notice for Adjournment Motion. The hon'ble Speaker has repeatedly said during the last two days he will allow me during the 'Zero Hour' and despite the assurance if my point is not heard, it is not fair.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Every hon. Member has got a right to raise his or her problems. Now, Shri Ramjilal Suman has got his chance.

...(*Interruptions*)

13.28 hrs.

(ii) Re: Problems being faced by Sugarcane growers in the country

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had given the notice of breach of privilege against the Minister of Agriculture Shri Ajit Singh to the hon'ble Speaker on 2nd May in regard to problems being faced by the potato growers. On the problems of the potato growers, I gave notice of Calling Attention Motion on 11th March and on 10th April during the 'Zero Hour'. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramjilal Suman, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given notice of breach of privilege.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Speaker has received your notice of question of privilege against the Minister of Agriculture for allegedly misleading the House and suppressing facts while replying to a Calling Attention on 11th March, 2003, in responding to a matter raised during 'Zero Hour' on 10th April, 2003. The hon. Speaker has called for the comments of the Minister of Agriculture in the matter on 5th May, 2003. He would take a decision in the matter after receipt of the comment of the Minister in the matter.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the worth mentioning point is that the facts the hon'ble Minister has produced have been received from the State Government. One person has committed suicide and another one has been hospitalised.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot speak now. This is a question of privilege and I have just now read out the status of your notice.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The facts relating to the problems of the sugarcane growers have been concealed deliberately. The Government have said that only one farmer has died whereas actually three farmers have died. The problems of the potato growers are grave. Unemployment is increasing there. *...(Interruptions)* The House has been misled. It is a serious matter. I seek your protection. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, hon. Speaker has received your notice. It is under his consideration.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to wait till the Minister gives the reply.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, will we not be heard until the minister gives the reply. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, you have to wait till the Minister gives the reply.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, the hon'ble Minister will never come here to give a reply. *...(Interruptions)* We are giving notices of Adjournment Motion on the problems of sugarcane growers and potato growers for the last three days. Today the resentment among farmers has reached to such extent that they have gathered at Vijay Chowk and burnt the effigy of the Prime Minister. Despite all this not an iota of shame is left in this Government *...(Interruptions)*. The farmers are committing suicide. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, I will call you later on.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Please call him here. I have no objection to it. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will call you according the list. Do you want me to call you immediately.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I am telling you that the Prime Minister will not be able to make his speech. I am telling it in advance. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are two units to National Textiles Corporation in Kanpur ...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The country will see what you want to show. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, fortunately the Minister of Textiles is present in the House. ...(*Interruptions*) There are two mills namely Atherton Mill and Myor Mill. These mills are lying closed for the years together and the workers working in these mills rendered jobless. Besides the money of MVRS, the salaries of the two hundred fifty workers is outstanding for the last eight years. The hon'ble Minister is sitting here. The machines of these mills are being sold at the throw-away prices. The machines of the Atherton Mill worth rupees eight crores have been sold for rupees four crores. Similarly the machines of the Myor Mill worth rupees fifteen crores have been sold for rupees six and half crores. The workers of these mills have filed a petition in the High Court to get their salary arrears and dues against MVRS but the management of the National Textiles Corporation even did not wait for the decision of the High Court. Not only this, the management is neither considering to make payment of salary arrears nor the dues against MVRS to these workers. The assets of these two mills are being sold at throw away prices. Sir, through you I would like to demand from the hon'ble Minister not to dispose of the machinery and other assets of these mills till the matter is pending with the High Court. The salary arrears of all the workers should be paid and the cases of MVRS pending in courts should be settled early. Sale of assets and machines of these mills be stopped till all the related cases are settled.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are about ten notices. If you want me to call all the members, then we have to skip the lunch. Now the time is 1.30 p.m.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is severe drought situation in Maharashtra particularly in Marathwada and Vidarbha region. Twelve districts of the state have been hit badly by the drought. The people are not getting drinking water and there is no fodder for the cattle. Even the assistance provided by the Union Government from the drought relief fund to the Maharashtra Government has not reached so far to the drought hit farmers. Water is being supplied through tankers. Labourers have no work and people in 12-13 districts are facing acute water shortage. There is no work for the labourers, no drinking water is available and no assistance has been provided by the Union Government. The amount provided by the Union Government to the Maharashtra Government for drought relief has also not been utilised. The farmers have been hit badly by the drought. Their entire crop has been destroyed. I request you to kindly direct the State Government. The Union Government should intervene immediately to provide relief to the drought affected farmers and some measures should be taken in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a Charter of Demands submitted by the National Fishworkers' Forum has been pending with the Centre. The demands mentioned by them are:

- Enhancement of subsidy component on diesel supply to fishermen.
- Enhancement of kerosene quota for traditional fishing vessels.
- Implementation of recommendations of Murari Committee.
- Withdrawal of Aquaculture Bill, 2000.
- Ban on deep sea trawlers during monsoons.
- Modifications on Coastal Zone Regulation guidelines permitting dwelling units/huts of fishermen community in CRZ areas.

I urge upon the Government to address the genuine grievances of the fishermen community from all over India by acceding to their demands.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Akhilesh Singh to speak now.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, not once but on a number of occasions this House has witnessed discussions on the issue of sugarcane growers, potato growers and paddy and wheat farmers and afterwards the hon. Ministers replied on behalf of the Government but the same was not complied with. The hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Sharad Yadav is sitting here in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Akhilesh Singh, you have given a notice regarding service condition of the promotee Assistant Engineers.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: This is a Zero Hour Notice and I have given a notice for Adjournment Motion on the issue of the sugarcane growers, I am speaking on that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is over.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The hon. Speaker had ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thought that you are going to speak on the subject of notice which is given for 'Zero Hour'. You cannot raise any other matter.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: When I had given a notice of adjournment motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot raise any other matter than the one mentioned in the list.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: When I gave the notice for adjournment motion, The hon'ble Speaker permitted that I would be allowed to speak during Zero Hour. You may see it in the proceedings. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No I have been given the list by the hon. Speaker.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Not once but so many times we have discussed the issue of sugarcane growers. When three farmers were killed in Munderwa, Shri Sharad Yadav stated in this House on the basis of the statement of the State Government that only one farmer had been killed, but the same day in the evening we proved that three farmers, not only one, were killed in Munderwa and the State Government had given a false statement. But this House took no action for this falsehood which in turn emboldened the State Government unduly to such an extent as they did not hesitate in taking side with the sugar mill owners of the state in the backdrop of the Hon. High Court of Allahabad and saying that the State Government had no right to determine the price of sugar cane. This House runs as per conventions. So far this has been the convention that the sugar mill owners have been giving the same price as determined by the State Government. Last year also the sugar mill owners in the State gave the same price to the sugarcane growers as was determined by the State Government and the sugarcane growers got Rs. 95/- and Rs. 100/- per quintal of sugarcane. I want to bring this to your notice because when the Prime Minister recently called for the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh to settle this issue, she said that if the State Government is empowered in this regard. The sugar mills owners will be set right. I want to submit that under the Uttar Pradesh Sugarcane Purchase Act the State Government is empowered to ensure that the determined price for sugarcane is paid by the mill owners to the sugarcane growers within 14 days. If it is not paid within 14 days, they will have to pay interest to the farmers on their arrears under the said act and if the payments are not made within 30 days, recovery certificates will be issued to the sugar mill owners. I urge the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to direct the State Government to take effective steps under the said act. ...*(Interruptions)* By doing so the State Government can benefit the farmers to a great extent and put a check on the arbitrary attitude of the sugar mill owners.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, if you want to respond, you can respond.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I have not yet put forth my view.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 15 notices.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: This issue is related to 80% people of the country. How is it possible to settle this in two minutes? ...(*Interruptions*) I said so because you should give me a chance to speak on the notice of adjournment motion. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (*Mavelikara*): Other members also have given notice. I have also given notice. ...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: If the Congress people are not ready to cooperate, let me leave. A Senior member like Ramesh Chennithala is not cooperating. ...(*Interruptions*)

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (*Sangrur*): I should also be given a chance. ...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: You may speak first. I have already said that I will speak as the last speaker. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: There are other Members also who want to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You finish it.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (*Kolar*): I am supporting you on the issue of farmers. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kunwar Akhilesh, you address the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You try to finish it.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: It pains to say that this House is not serious about the issue of farmers and the resentment among the farmers has reached its peak today. Yesterday the farmers resorted to burning an effigy

to the Prime Minister. The farmers have burned their sugarcane and now they are burning potatoes. They are anguished. You try to understand this. If you do not try to understand this anguish properly then the farmers movement may culminate into extremism giving rise to a new problem in the country. Farmers are being exploited today and we will have to free them from this exploitation.

Now I would like to bring to your notice the orders of the hon'ble Supreme Court dated 31.1.2001. The Uttar Pradesh Government has cheated the farmers, it has cheated the hon. Supreme Court. I want to put before you the facts and figures in this regard. As per the hon. Supreme Court's order dated 31.1.2001 the agreed price is to be applicable, but the State Government concealed this order in the High Court and contrary to the High Court's order the hon'ble Supreme Court has recently issued contempt notice on 28.02.2003 against the State Government and the Sugar Mill owners. I urge the hon. Minister of Food to implement the order of the Supreme Court so that the sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh could get at least Rs. 95 and Rs. 100 per quintal for their sugarcane which is equal to the price they got last year also. This order also envisages that if there are two sugar mills under one sugarcane society and one sugar mill is offering higher rates, then the second sugar mill cannot give less rates. I want to cite an example of my constituency Maharajanj. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is here. You can respond.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: There is Siswa Sugar Mill, Government sugar mills as well as private sector Garora sugar mill in my constituency. Definitely Siswa sugar mill is giving 95 rupees and 100 rupees per quintal to the farmers and Garora sugar mill is giving 82.50 rupees a quintal whereas as per the order of the hon'ble Supreme Court, the Garora Sugar mill should also give 95 rupees and 100 rupees per quintal to the farmers. Recently a day before yesterday farmers and women of our constituency had gathered at Sanduriya crossing in Mohanapur village in a huge number and had blocked the road there. Then the administrative officers of that area caught the women by their hair and dragged and beat them. Today the condition of the farmers is not good. ...(*Interruptions*). The Government is not serious about it. If women of farmer's families are beaten mercilessly by police and Administration, then it is natural that resentment will spread.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kunwar Akhilesh, you have raised it. Let him respond. hon. minister, you can respond.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want the response of the Minister?

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: On the question of Potato, the Minister of Agriculture had stated in this very House that Government would procure potato, but Potato has not been procured by the Government till date. A number of families have committed suicide in Agra. As such what I want to say is that the Government should initiate action to bail out the farmers from their present condition.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Chairman. Sir, the issue raised by hon'ble Akhilesh Singh ji has been discussed many a times in this House. The Government of India have increased the maximum support price by rupees five. We have also given the internal freight rate of transportation. Yesterday only we have introduced release mechanism. Under the SDF we have set a target of rupees 1100 crore out of which 676 crore rupees have been allotted for the farmers. In this way we have taken a number of steps in this direction. Hon'ble Prime Minister had also called meeting in this regard on three occasions and he himself remained present in those meetings. The Government and this House have also been grappling with the problem. Regarding the issue raised by Akhilesh Singh ji, I would like to say that the Government of India give the maximum Support Price. Traditionally the State Governments make the announcements. Last year the price of sugarcane was fixed at rupees 95 per quintal. This year also the rate was announced. The order Shri Akhilesh Singh ji has been referring to, I would like that he should give me that order. I would get that order examined and if we are in a position to extend some help thereby, we would do that.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): The issue is related not only to Uttar Pradesh sugarcane growers in Maharashtra are also getting rupees 540 per tonne. The hon. Minister should also mention Maharashtra besides Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the way. Please sit down. He has already spoken on that. No.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of Maharashtra has been raised. The buffer stock that has been created. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this? No, there was not even a quorum when the issue of farmers was discussed here. I was present there, and I was participating. Now, you talk about the farmers' issue. When the farmers issue was discussed in this House, the whole House was not packed.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are right. As regard the issue raised by Shri Jadhav ji, I would also to tell him that buffer stock of 20 lakh metric tonnes has been created. We have made that buffer stock as the base. The farmers of your state are going to be benefited to the maximum. The policy of the Government of India is focussed on the problems of sugarcane growers throughout the country. But a new problem has arisen in Uttar Pradesh. There are two states which produce 80% sugar in the country. One is Uttar Pradesh and the other is Maharashtra. The crisis that has arisen in Uttar Pradesh is that the state has followed the tradition that statutory price fixed by the Union Government used to be the minimum and the State Government would increase that price. The minimum support price in the State was given 95 rupees during last year. But a deadlock arose thereon and people went to the High Court and got the stay. To deal with this problem, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and other ministers had come here in this connection. On behalf of the centre, Deputy Prime Minister, Ajit Singh ji and myself participated in that meeting. In that meeting this serious matter was discussed. The main issue of the meeting was as to who would make up this difference. This is the main problem before the Government. Either the State Government should make up this difference or it should be done by the sugar mills or by the Government of India. We called the private sugar mill owners here and discussed the matter with them and told them that they should suggest any solution. This time the price has not been increased. Only it has been announced that rupees

100 will be given in place of the price given last year. There, the Cooperative and other sugar mills are giving this price. We have told them to discuss it and advise us as to how a solution can be found. In this case whatever was possible for us, we have done that. There are 1300 crore rupees under the SDF. Relief worth 1100 crore rupees has been given to the industry. Whenever we talk of industry, that covers the farmers, consumers and the industry. All these three are interlinked and we want to protect all of them. This is a very big industry of the rural area and the farmers of this area are prosperous. If their financial condition is good in any area, it is in this area only. The financial condition of the farmers throughout the country should be good and we are trying with this intention and the discussion is still going on. We are trying to find out the solution. I share the concern expressed by the hon. Member. He has referred to some judgement of hon'ble Supreme Court, I will examine that and if with the help of that decision, the matter is resolved, I will try me level best for the same. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, it was reported in the Press that the Central Government is contemplating to give dual citizenship rights to Indians working abroad. The idea is good, but there is discrimination in this. People who are living in Western countries like Great Britain, France and Europe will get the benefit, but others will not be getting this benefit. There are lakhs of people who are working in the Gulf countries, but they will not be benefited. There are people working in Singapore. Tamilians as well as Malayalees, employed in Singapore and Malaysia, will not get the right of dual citizenship. There are Indians in Australia, who will not get the benefit. This is a discriminatory step.

I would request the Central Government to consider all the Indians working abroad alike. Giving dual citizenship to people working in the Western countries and denying it to others is not a correct procedure. It is not a correct treatment. People who are working abroad, Tamilians as well as Malayalees, and in the Middle East and the Far East should also be benefited by this decision.

In today's papers, it is reported that the Indians born in Britain would get this benefit. However, when not more than 50 per cent of them are born in Britain, how can they be given dual citizenship?

Therefore, considering all these aspects, it is only just and fair that the right should be given to all the Indians who are working abroad.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I give the floor to Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate with the Chair because we have to take up a Bill at two o'clock.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those who have given the notices can alone stand up and speak. Shri Ramesh Chennithala has given a notice to speak during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): More than 15 lakh people are working in the Gulf countries. There are a large number of people who are now coming back from UAE and other Gulf countries. It is because of two reasons. One is that because of Arabisation of major departments in Arab countries, thousands of people are being thrown out of their jobs. Second, the job opportunities in the Middle East are coming down. Thousands of people—more than 50,000 people—have got 'exit passes' because of the general amnesty declared by the UAE Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. At two o'clock, we have to take up the Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I associate with him because what he says is correct.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: You have given half-an-hour on the issue of sugar cane farmers.

[English]

Let me complete this one sentence.

Thousands of people are coming out of the Gulf countries. It is the duty of the Central Government to rehabilitate these workers. The people who are coming back from these Gulf countries are all low-paid workers. The Department of NORKA, Government of Kerala, has already started some schemes. The External Affairs

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

Ministry should come forward to help those people so that they can be rehabilitated in various departments and institutions in different parts of the country.

I request the Central Government to take appropriate steps so that these people can be rehabilitated properly in various parts of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to associate, if you let me know, then I will say that you are all associating with him.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We want to associate with him.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): We want to associate with him.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I associate myself with Shri Chennithala on this issue.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, I also associate myself on this issue.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, the Central Government should take immediate steps to rehabilitate these workers. ...*(Interruptions)* NORKA Cell's powers are very limited. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You all have associated yourselves on this issue.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I have given another notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Thomas, if there is time, I will call you. I have called Shri Simranjit Singh Mann now. Please take your seat.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to raise this very important issue on the floor of the House. This is regarding the misuse of POTA. I have received very distressing reports about Raja Bhaiyya in Uttar Pradesh, a journalist in Tamil Nadu and some Muslim detainees. The Samajwadi Party leader has also made statements that he is in fear of being arrested under POTA. Former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar also made a statement today in the House that if things go on like this, he might also be arrested under POTA one day.

Sir, I have also received news that the temperature in Shri Vaiko's cell in Vellore jail is soaring to 47 degrees centigrade. There is no fan in that cell. He is taken from

Vellore to Nagapattinam, a distance of 500 kilometres, in a van and no security is provided for him. I would kindly ask the House that the statement made by the Prime Minister yesterday on the floor that after holding free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir and installation of a democratic Government there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is only a one-line mention here. It says, 'regarding the security of Vaiko'. That is why I allowed you. You have not talked about him. Now you are talking about Jammu and Kashmir, letters and all that. It is not good.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Let me place the letter that I have written to the Prime Minister on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It cannot be laid on the Table. It is not a matter under Rule 377. You send it to him.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, reduction of import duty on palm oil was announced by the Finance Minister in the House during his reply to the debate on Finance Bill. It was also said that if the repercussions turn out to be adverse to the farmers, that could be considered further. I submit that the coconut farmers are seriously affected. Farmers producing edible oils from other items of farm produce are also getting affected. I would request the Government to take into consideration the plight of coconut farmers and the other farmers, and take necessary steps to alleviate their problems.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Ajmer is one of the sensitive districts of Rajasthan. But as the elections are nearing, the present Government in Rajasthan has been trying to gratify the minorities and disturb communal harmony by allotting a total of 14 Bighas and one Biswa of land to the Anjuman Committee, an institution formed by the Khadims of Ajmer at village Palra, Tehsil and district Ajmer at Ajmer Bypass on Delhi-Mumbai national highway no. 8 to open a madersa in violation of all rules which led to deep resentment among the thousands of rural people living nearby and they are on agitating path for about last two months.

Dreaded criminal elements have been getting shelter in this institution of the khadims. Recently, a Burqa clad criminal was nabbed in Delhi at Dhaula Kuan after ten years. He is the same person who brought disrepute to India in 1993 for his involvement in the vulgar photography episode in Ajmer. This institution has been used to commit

rape on women. Later on, it was found involved in smuggling of smack valued at 23 crore rupees. These khadims are the members of the Anjuman Committee which is abetting I.S.I. activities and patronising Bangladeshis. That Anjuman Committee has been allotted 14 Bigha and one bisva of land for madarsa which has led to resentment among the villagers. I request the Government of India through you to intervene in the matter and issue instructions to the Rajasthan Government for cancelling the allotment of land in order to maintain communal harmony.

14.00 hrs.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the newly created state, Chhattisgarh. The roads in the state are in dilapidated condition since even before the formation of the new state. The transportation facility has been interrupted. Raipur has become the capital after the creation of new State of Chhattisgarh. High Court, railway zone and other divisional offices are located in Bilaspur but the people are facing inconvenience in transportation to and from the capital. The traffic has increased there which is causing accidents. The State Government has sent proposal to the Central Government to seek funds under the Central Road Fund, but the proposals are pending. These proposals should be cleared without any delay. The roads proposed to be constructed are from Chirhulla to Patheria, Patheria to Chindbhog. Pendra to Kechhi, Ratanpur to Belgahna road, Bilaspur-Mungeli to Pandaria, Mungeli to Jabalpur and Mengeli to Raipur *i.e.* the capital. I request you to consider my demand and accord approval to the proposals relating to pending work on roads.

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (Nainital): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the unit of HMT at Ranibagh, Nainital of Uttaranchal is operated from the headquarters at Bangalore under the GOI Ministry of Heavy Industries. Only 619 employees are left with the aforesaid unit as on April 1, 2003 which includes 124 employees belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes too. Globalisation, liberalisation and policy of privatisation followed by the Central Government has affected this factory also. Anti industry and anti labour policies of the headquarter management has further aggravated the situation. The target for manufacturing watches has been revised to 8 lakhs from it's installed capacity of manufacturing

20 lakh watches due to the non-co-operating attitude of the management. Working capital and raw material are not being made available according to the set target. The employees have not been paid salary for seven months *i.e.* from October, 2002 to April, 2003. In the absence of salary, the employees are finding themselves unable to get their wards admitted in the schools and to pay for their books and note books and monthly fees. Had the working capital and raw material been made available on time, the employees of this unit would have been working to the optimum installed capacity and earning benefits. The watches manufactured in this factory are in demand in the entire country, especially in the north India. Some items needed by the army are also manufactured here. I, therefore, request the Government that working capital to the tune of five crore rupees may be sanctioned for the smooth functioning of the unit and early action should be taken to supply raw material.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Muniappa, as a special case, I am allowing you to raise your matter though your notice is not here with me. Kindly conclude within half-a-minute.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Sir, I am raising a very important matter. The workers of the Bharat Goldmine Limited are not getting their salaries for the last 20 years. Moreover, they are not at all given the VRS. Sir, thirty workers have died so far. The matter is pending before the court. But the Government is not coming forward to settle the matter.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to settle the VRS and solve the problems of workers of the Bharat Goldmine Limited immediately and once and for all.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to raise a very important matter concerning my State, which is pending since very long with the Central Government.

Over the past several years, the Government of Gujarat has been making repeated requests to the Central Government to hand over the surplus land presently in possession of Kandla Port Trust to the State Government of Gujarat for development. The matter is still unresolved.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to resolve this matter once and for all.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, one section of the society, which has often missed out on housing schemes of the Chandigarh Union Territory Administration or the Chandigarh Housing Board, is the Lower Middle Income Group/the Lower Income Group. Nothing has ever been done for them.

So, I urge upon this Government to take immediate steps in this direction so that in future, a contributory scheme is prepared wherein those people could contribute something, the employer could contribute something and a corpus could be formed, which could be used for that purpose.

Sir, when we talk of providing shelter to everyone, this important vulnerable section of people who are employees, who have been residing in the city for many years—whether in Government service or in private service—are the only people who do not get the benefit of that. So, something for that section of the society ought to be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, let us take up legislative business. Shri Arun Jaitley to introduce a Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I have not read out my submission under Rule 377. I want to finish that. Since you have raised that point, my humble submission is that Matters under Rule 377 should not be ignored. ...*(Interruptions)* There are many hon. Members who have given notices regarding Matters under Rule 377. The Rules have become the casualty now. We are wasting our time. I am sorry for using that word. We are also wasting time on other things but we do not take up this item for which many hon. Members have given notices. They wait for a week; they wait for the ballot. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Every section is to be blamed. Do not attribute this to only one section of the House. We do not waste time. It is because of the exchange of views that we lose time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I am sorry to use that word. Why should the axe fall on Matters under Rule 377 always? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We do not waste time.

...(Interruptions)

14.05 hrs.

(i) THE SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF THE JUDICIAL OFFICERS OF THE UNION TERRITORIES BILL, 2003*

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of the salaries and allowances of the judicial officers in the Union Territories and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of the salaries and allowances of the judicial officers in the Union Territories and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I rise to object to the introduction of this Bill. The question is that he has sought exemption from the notice period. My submission is that it cannot be granted. In the first place, the Minister has given a Memorandum in which it is stated:

"As directed by the Supreme Court on 5th May, 2003 in the All India Judges Association case, an affidavit has to be filed in the supreme Court on 8th May, 2003 informing them about the contents of the Bill."

So, it is clear that the Government has already filed an affidavit before the Supreme Court as per direction. If that be the truth, how can the contents of that Bill be the basis of an affidavit, without being introduced in the House? The Bill is being introduced only today, but the affidavit was filed on 8th May, 2003 about the contents of the Bill which is being introduced today. It appears that it is either a clear misrepresentation or a fraud committed by the Government of India in filing a wrong affidavit before the Court. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): How can this issue be discussed at the stage of introduction? ...*(Interruptions)*

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Sect-2, dt. 9.5.2003

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Do you want to do only what the Supreme Court says? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Just now the Chairman has made a valid observation that we are wasting the time of the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The Chair has allowed me to speak. Let me complete. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It has become the habit of the Government to state even in the Statement of Objects and Reasons 'as directed by the Supreme Court'. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, let me call upon the Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Let me finish. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It is the function of the Parliament to legislate laws. Others do not have to ask us to frame laws and also to say in the Statement of Objects and Reasons "as per the directions of the Supreme Court or High Court, we are doing this." ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Due to interruption, I could not complete. Let me complete it first. In the first place, an affidavit cannot be filed without the introduction of the Bill in the House. If the contents of the Bill are to form part of the affidavit, the first thing to take place is the Bill must be introduced in the House. The Bill is not introduced. He further says in the Memorandum:

"As current Session of the Parliament is slated up to 9th May, 2003, it is necessary that the Bill is introduced on 8th May, 2003 in the current Session of the Parliament."

But yesterday, he did not introduce this Bill; he is introducing it only today. It is a clear case of misrepresentation, and the House is being treated as a rubber stamp. The Executive cannot treat the House as a rubber stamp. But they have done it. Not just that, but even in the case of the Airports Authority of India, they had done that. Two exemptions were given—notice exemption and discussion exemption.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Just wait for a minute.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have not finished. One more point I want to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Please sit down.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Why are you in a hurry? Let me finish. These are all legal points.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wait for a minute. You said that in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it is stated that the Supreme Court had directed the Government to introduce the Bill. I read the Statement of Objects and Reasons. But it is not there. Do not speak like that. No court can direct the Parliament to legislate in a particular way.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: That is another thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When it is not there, why did you say so?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I will come to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You said that in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it is stated so. When you said that, I was taken aback.

I rule that no court including the Supreme Court of India can direct the Parliament to legislate in a particular way. The Parliament is a sovereign body; it states the will of the people and it is the House of the People.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I fully agree with you. Anyway, I am coming to that. My second point is that the court cannot give us directions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It did not give us any direction. They are also knowledgeable people.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There is a callous negligence on the part of the Central Government; the Supreme Court has given a direction to all the State Chief Secretaries to appear for not implementing the judicial officers' salaries. Tamil Nadu and other States have already implemented it. But the Union Territories had not implemented it because of their negligence.

Moreover, the first thing is that they cannot file an affidavit with the contents of a Bill, before introducing

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]
that Bill here. They filed the affidavit yesterday, according to the statement of the Minister. But the Bill is being introduced only today. At the most, what they could have done is to give only a draft of the Bill and not the entire contents.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. You can reserve all other matters for deliberation purposes. Now, hon. Minister.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: At the stage of introduction, there are two possible objections—one, relating to the legislative competence of this House and second, whether the Bill is constitutionally *ultra virus*. ...*(Interruptions)* None of the objections that the hon. Member has raised relate to these two. Therefore these two objections really are not sustainable; and it is for the Chair to decide.

As far as the contents are concerned—since some observation was made by the hon. Member, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal—I would say that this is precisely in accordance with the spirit of what he has said, that is, determining salaries is an Executive function and not a Judicial function. There were certain directions of the Supreme Court. Keeping all those factors in mind—because it is an Executive function to really give effect to the right of this legislature to decide what the salary structure should be—this Bill is being brought before this House. There may be some variance even with what the directions are because the Supreme Court had to be told; several State Assemblies have also legislated in this particular matter.

As far as the Union Government is concerned, its functions relate only to the Union Territories as far as the salary structures are concerned; and this Bill covers those contents. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, how could he file an affidavit before introducing the Bill in the House? The House cannot be taken as a 'rubber stamp'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of the salaries and allowances of the judicial officers in the Union Territories and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I introduce* the Bill.

14.14 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Matters under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of U.P. for providing relief to the people affected by fire in Gonda Parliamentary Constituency

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH (Gonda): Sir, due to fire in my Parliamentary constituency Gonda in U.P. moreover eight hundred families have become homeless and crops of hundreds of farmers got burnt. The State Government did not extend timely assistance and the assistance which was given was on reduced scale. The condition of the affected families is very pitiable.

Through this House I demand immediate financial help from the Government for the fire affected families. Houses should be built for the people rendered homeless and compensation be provided to the farmers whose crops have been destroyed. The State Government should be provided with additional funds for this purpose.

(ii) Need to set up a Doordarshan Kendra at Beena, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, a major plant on the lines of Beena refinery is being set-up by Bharat Petroleum Limited in Beena city of my Parliamentary Constituency, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. Beena is a big grain market in addition to an important railway junction. All important places of my constituency are connected with the Doordarshan Kendra. Khurai Nagar, which is located at a distance of 22 kilometres from Beena also has Doordarshan Kendra whereas despite its being a prominent place, Beena city is not having Doordarshan Kendra and resultantly the people are facing a lot of difficulties and have to depend on the private channel operators even after paying exorbitant charges. The former Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had taken initiative to start Doordarshan Kendra in Beena city.

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

I therefore, request the Central Government to extend cooperation in setting up a Doordarshan Kendra here at the earliest in view of the importance of the Beena city from economic, social and transportation point of view.

(iii) Need for effective implementation of child labour laws in the country

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the child labour working in various hazardous industries in the country. Crores of child labourers are engaged in various hazardous industries in various villages and cities in the country. They are engaged in match-sticks and match-box making, fire-works industries in Tamilnadu, incense sticks (agarbatti) industries in Karnataka, glass-bangle industries in Uttar Pradesh, lock industries in Aligarh, Carpet industries in Bhadoi, Zari works in Varanasi, brass industries in Moradabad, porcelain/china clay pottery industries in Khurja, tanneries in Agra and Kanpur, Bidi industries in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, Carpet industries in Jaipur, etc. In addition to this, they are engaged in industries related to papad making, pickle making, garments stitching, paper bag making and packaging works; etc. Sir, the child labourers are in such a miserable condition that they are deprived of necessary facilities in life. They have access neither to education nor to medical facilities.

I urge upon the Government that free education and medical facilities to child labourers keeping their problems in view and employment opportunities may be provided in view of the economic condition of their parents. Child labour is a social evil. The present law should be effectively implemented in order to bring this evil to an end.

(iv) Need to bring the ashes of Krantivir Shyamji Varma from Switzerland to India

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Need for additional efforts by Ministry of External Affairs to bring back the ashes of Krantivir Shyamji Krishna Varma. Due to lack of coordination between Passport Division of MEA, Home Ministry, Gujarat Government and the Embassy at Switzerland, no action has been taken for the last 15 years. Need to take immediate measures to bring back the ashes to India.

(v) Need to solve acute drinking water problem by allocating adequate funds for Labour Intensive Work Link Projects In Kalahandi and Naupara districts of Orissa

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): There is acute shortage of drinking water in the districts of Kalahandi and Naupara in Orissa, alongwith contamination in Boden Block of Naupara district. Also due to lack of work in rural areas there is heavy migration and destitution in the two districts. So, I request the Central Government to allocate sufficient funds for Labour Intensive Link Works till July, 2003.

(vi) Need to clear the proposal of the Government of Maharashtra relating to National Child Labour Project

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur): Sir, the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) is a Centrally aided scheme through which child labour gets benefits of education and rehabilitation. The Government of Maharashtra has submitted proposals under NCLP to the Union Ministry of Labour for their administrative approval and a number of reminder letters were also written by them. The NCLP proposals, in revised format, as required by the Union Ministry of Labour, have also been submitted by the concerned District Collectors of Maharashtra in respect of their districts in this regard in the year 2002 but the Union Government have so far not given their administrative approval to these proposals. I request the Government to give their administrative approval to these proposals of the Government of Maharashtra under the National Child Labour Project soon.

(vii) Need to make adequate budgetary provisions in the Union Budget for the welfare of other backward classes and minorities

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): The Indian Constitution provides for the advancement of the Backward Class citizens, especially under Articles 15(4) and 16(4) relating to the education and appointments to Government jobs respectively, which is being implemented in all the States. But, the Central Government is not implementing the reservation measures under Article 15(4) for admissions to various educational institutions under the Central Government which in turn makes ineffective the implementation of reservation under Article 16(4) for appointments, in its true spirit.

There is also the problem of inadequacy for funds for the Backward Classes in the Central Budget:

[Shrimati Margaret Alva]

The Central Budgetary provision for the various welfare schemes for the backward classes and minority population of more than 55% in 2002-2003 was Rs. 107.43 crores a year as compared to SCs/STs Budget allocation of Rs. 1872.24 crores for a population of 21%.

I urge the Government to intervene urgently and undo this injustice to the OBC and minority population.

(viii) Need to float an affordable self-financing LIG Housing scheme for the Low Income Group people residing in the Union Territory of Chandigarh

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): One section of society which has often missed out on housing schemes of the Chandigarh U.T. Administration or the Chandigarh Housing Board is the Lower Income Group (L.I.G.). There are people who have lived in Chandigarh for decades, employed either with Government or private establishments and have had to shell out major part of their meagre on rent of residential accommodation. They legitimately yearn to own a modest shelter of their own in a city to which they have given the best of their lives but the costs are prohibitive.

It is, therefore, necessary for the U.T. Administration to float an affordable self-financing LIG Housing Scheme which may be available to all the residents whose income is between the fixed parameters and who have lived and worked in Chandigarh for at least five years. While there is need for the Administration to provide land, banks need to be involved to extend soft loans.

Besides this measure, a continuing scheme based on contribution of the employee and employer towards the corpus of a housing fund is the need for the hour to make available a flat ten years later. I urge the Government to initiate these two schemes.

(ix) Need to set up a Medical College in Tripura

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura West): At the instance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had set up a High Level Committee to assess the medical infrastructure in the North East region. The Committee has found that Tripura has a shortage of 442 Medical Officers, 477 Specialist Doctors and huge shortage of other paramedical staff. A small quota of medical seats is provided to the State in various Medical colleges in the country, which is inadequate. Every year hundreds of patients go outside Tripura for treatment. For everyone, heavy financial burden and the physical

difficulties in getting treatment pose major difficulties. Consequently, the high level committee recommended the setting up a Medical College in Tripura. The Government of Tripura has since prepared a project report for setting up of 100-seated medical college. The State Government has prepared hospital with investment of Rs. 109 crores to serve as the hospital for the medical colleges.

It is requested that both the projects may be funded by the Ministry of Health or the Department of Development of North Eastern Region on a high priority basis to ensure that a medical college becomes functional in Tripura at the earliest.

(x) Need to open handloom showrooms on railway platforms with a view to promote handloom industry

SHRI Y.V. RAO (Guntur): The handloom industry workers need a lot of encouragement from the Government of India. If Government provides space on railway platforms at railway stations, more than 1000 kiosks could be handed over to unemployed educated youths to sell handloom products. This will not only serve the poor but also help the weavers. Success of 'Rythu Bazars' and Kisan Mandis in several States should be followed up by taking suitable steps in shaping the handloom showrooms on railway platform in association with Textile Ministry and Railways to provide more than 1 lakh jobs to youths as promised.

I request the Government to take early action in the matter.

(xi) Need to declare Tamil as a classical language and establish a Tamil Academy in Delhi

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur): There is a continuing demand from all the Tamils to declare Tamil as a classical language and to make Tamil as another official language of the country, as a first step, before all other Indian languages are helped to grow as official link languages in due course. Delhi is a national capital territory with good number of Tamils settled here right from pre-Independence period. Tamil is a subject taught in Delhi University from the days of the Britishers and research facility is there now. More than 6 colleges and 7 schools in Delhi offer courses in Tamil. Jawaharlal Nehru University which also teaches Tamil is getting a Tamil Chair for research purposes. All India Radio broadcasts in Tamil right from 1941 through its ESD and NSD. But unfortunately a Tamil Academy is yet to be established here in Delhi, the national capital. Considering

the fact Tamil-speaking population is in good number in the neighboring countries in the South East Asian region and also in Middle East Asia, there is an urgent national duty to establish a Tamil Academy in association with the Delhi Administration. I urge upon the Union Government to initiate immediate action in this regard.

[*Translation*]

(xii) Need for construction of road between Manjhi and Barauli via Maharajganj in Saran, Bihar under National Highway Link Project

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): The road from Manjhi to Barauli via Maharajganj in Saran, Bihar is in an extremely dilapidated condition. There is only a remnant of the road now. The condition of the road is so bad that it is very dangerous to travel through it by any vehicle. Even, it is very difficult to walk down the road whereas this is one of the main roads connecting Bihar and Uttar Pradesh apart from the road connecting Chhapra, Sewan and Gopalganj district. This is the only road connecting National Highway-88 and the National Highway between Hazipur and Ghazipur. This road has maximum traffic while it is in an extremely bad shape. I want to urge upon the Government to undertake construction work of this road under the CRF scheme or the link NH scheme of the Central Government. Earlier the State Government had also submitted its proposal to include this road under the said schemes.

(xiii) Need to bring apple crop in Himachal Pradesh under Crop Insurance Scheme

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Sir, Himachal Pradesh is known as "the State of Apples". Seven out of its twelve districts produce apples. Being a cash crop, the apple production has improved the financial position of the farmers as also we have benefit like soil conservation and environment protection with the planting of apple trees. Sir, apple growers are facing some problems for the last several years. Natural calamities like change in climatic conditions and hailstorms have affected apple production adversely. Farmers and horticulturists are in bad condition financially and are in debts as they did not get good price of their produce. Despite support price offered by the State Government, there seems no improvement in the condition. When the farmers facing all these problems bring their fruits to the Mandis in the capital city, they are charged excise duty. In view of all these problems, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister of Agriculture to bring apple crop under national agriculture and horticulture and crop insurance scheme so that condition of farmers, fruit growers and apple growers may improve and their problems may be solved.

(xiv) Need to amend the Sikh Gurudwara Act, 1925 to make elections of SGPC mandatory after five years

[*English*]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Elections to the general house of SGPC are overdue. In 1996, general elections to the SGPC were held after a gap of 17 years and in 1979, after a delay of 14 years.

Since 1966, all amendments—substantive and procedural are carried out by a mere notification of the Home Ministry in consultation with the SGPC.

The popular will of the sikhs, as expressed by resolution of the SGPC are the yardsticks to be followed by the Ministry of Home Affairs and this has been the case all along. As per the provisions of the Act, the elections are to be held after every five years. The term of the present Committee was over in September 2001, but elections have not been held so far.

In the interest of justice to the Sikhs, I request that;

- The elections of the SGPC should be held without delay.
- Appropriate amendment must be made in the Sikh Gurudwara Act, 1925 to make elections after every five year mandatory.

(xv) Need to increase the number of seats for SCs and STs in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, lakhs of dalits of Maharashtra got initiated to Buddhism from Hinduism under the leadership of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar at Nagpur on 14 October, 1956. After that, facilities available to Scheduled Castes were denied to Mahar community of Maharashtra. At the same time, their quota of seats in Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha was reduced. Earlier the number of Lok Sabha seats reserved for Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra was 6 which was reduced to 3 and in 1990, the then Prime Minister took a decision to give reservation to the people of Buddhist community but there has been no increase in the number of seats. Now, I demand that the Government of India may take a decision to increase, through the Delimitation committee, the number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra by three for Lok Sabha and 18 for the Legislative Assembly before the coming Lok Sabha Elections in 2004.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, already the time is 2.15 p.m. There are other Bills also which are to be taken up.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I will not use the word which I used earlier. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. You had your chance.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, there are other hon. Members who are sitting here. We prepare for them also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. I have already laid them.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, when we can give one hour for 'Zero Hour' and that too, on the last day, why can we not take it up?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Please cooperate. I have already said so.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The axes always falls on Matters under Rule 377.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have, on my own, already extended it for half-an-hour. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up the Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, I have the highest regards for you. Kindly sit down.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: (Chirayinkil): Sir, Airports Authority of India Bill is very important concerning the policy decision. If the Government is very particular in helping the case, it should be taken up with a view audiences. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, Bills cannot be introduced in a shabby manner. There is some sanctity of the Legislative Business in the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This Bill has already been introduced. I think you were not there yesterday.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, please cooperate with us. We do not raise certain matters which could be raised otherwise but our humble submission is. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Radhakrishnan ji, kindly receive your seat. You were the Speaker earlier. I would cooperate with you.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I would like to make my point. Please do not just rush through the matters. Sir, we are not raising objections on certain matters which we can do. I take a very serious objection to this. With utmost humility I want to say that this is not how to respect the wishes of the Members, the desire of the Members, to raise certain important matters concerning their constituencies, about which they prepare copies, give notices and wait for the ballot. ...(Interruptions) I want to raise an important matter and I would like to have a response from you. There has to be no prompted response on this matter. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: On earlier occasions also we had treated Matters and Rule 377 as paid.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, we are not raising other objections which we can. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No Minister is going to respond to the matters raised under Rule 377. That is why we have decided to lay it on the Table. They have already been laid on the Table now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: In the 'Zero Hour' the Members just raise a point and it is over. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today, I gave chance to the maximum number of Members. We have even skipped the Lunch Hour.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, certain corrections are to be made in the Matter and Rules 377, being submitted by me because of wrong printing. I would like to give the corrected version of my copy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you can do that.

14.18 hrs.

AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003*—*Contd.*

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you and our leader, leader of opposition, Smt. Sonia Gandhi for having given me an opportunity to initiate discussion on such an important bill. The need for such a bill was being felt since a long time and it is a matter of happiness that the Government has now realised that the existing airports of the country should be upgraded and new international airports should also be developed so that the passengers get better facilities. It is good, better late than never. I would also like to congratulate our young Civil Aviation Minister Shri Shahnawaz Hussain under whose stewardship the ministry took a giant leap forward and explored new vistas. We have lot of expectations from this young minister in future. I hope that the hon. Minister will take the Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2003 seriously and will consider all the issues likely to come up during the course of discussion and will also take necessary action.

We will have to be careful despite having a hurried discussion on such an important bill on the last day of session today since this is a very important matter.

Sir, several members from all sections wanted to take part in the ongoing discussion on this important matter but we are short of time and this Bill has to be passed. Therefore, we want to pass this bill in the House today itself. The Amendment Bill, 2000 which was withdrawn related to leasing of airports only and the new Bill which has been introduced now is of comprehensive nature and other provisions have also been incorporated therein.

Sir, other infrastructural related works, like upgradation and the work called green field could be undertaken in the airports under the Airports Authority of India, through this bill, in other words private participation would be encouraged for new airports so that latest technique is fully used in these airports.

Sir, there is scope of improvement in services and facilities to make them at par with the international standards and this bill has been brought in to facilitate

these improvements. Consequently, it will boost tourism and trade and the economy of the country will look up in general. But for this heavy capital investment is required. Meanwhile, the Government should also see that injustice is not meted out to other sectors.

Sir, we keep three aspects in view while framing any bill or rules social justice, regional balance and national security. When the discussion is going on this important bill, the hon. Minister should see as to what extent the aspect of social justice has been taken care of and as also the regional balance and national security as well.

Sir, as for social security, I would like to submit that the hon. Prime Minister has made substantial provision for the development of the Mumbai and Delhi airports in the budget passed recently. Three thousand crore rupees have been provided for the modernisation of these airports and focus has been centred around only two cities. Rs. 3000 crore is quite a big amount. I want to submit in this regard that when we talk about social justice, Mumbai is our commercial capital and Delhi is our political capital, both are major cities. The capital requirement which we need for these two airports, through this bill will easily be mobilised. Private portion will come forward.

Sir, I want to submit in this connection that we have several commitments when it comes to social justice. The issue of making available water for irrigation, the issue of providing drinking water, the issues related to construction of roads, health, education are covered under it. Therefore, the Government will also have to take care that these important things are not overlooked.

Sir, I know that why we are trying to make our airports of the international standards and the extent and kind of potentiality they have. It is true that several countries in the world today like France, Germany, U.S.A, China, Hong Kong, Australia etc. are spending crores of rupees of the modernisation and expansion of their airports just to attract a large number of tourists to their respective countries.

Tourism is also a source of earning foreign exchange but I have to say with regret that India despite being a major centre of tourism, the Government is not paying enough attention towards it. Several airports of the country are in a neglected state. We have failed to attract foreign tourists as we could not provide them facilities at par with the international standards at each and every airport. We could not give these facilities any where. There are

*Bill was moved by Shri Syed Shahanawaz Hussain on 8th May, 2003.

[Shri Vilas Muttemwar]

many cities and spots in our country which are near to tourist centres. My suggestion is that India may be reckoned amongst the developed countries of the world, and for this we must equip our airports with facilities of international standards and seriously implement such major projects.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of Capital investment and viability is discussed repeatedly. As far as the question of viability of such airports is concerned, there are several places in the world where new airports were constructed with an expenditure of crores of rupees. When they were started, it appeared they were not viable but later on such airports become viable. I would like to give the example of Munich airport when this airport was opened for passengers in 1992, it ranked 51 amongst world's airports in 1999 it came at 44th rank and in the year 2000 it rose to 37th rank and now a days it is as important as Frankfurt and is reckoned as one of the major hubs of this area.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of our apprehensions in regard to the viability of such airports in our country could be obviated from the fact that passengers throughout the world strive for shorter routes to travel from one place to another. If a person has to go from Delhi to New York he would prefer going via London or Paris or Frankfurt or Amsterdam instead of taking a direct flight. These airports have an attraction they are equipped with many a facility. They are showcased with state-of-the-art aircrafts, where passengers can spend 4-5 hrs. before taking their next flight. Such facilities should be provided at Indian airports also so that the passengers could benefit themselves from the transit facilities and duty free shops. Maximum transit facilities of international standards should be made available in the country. International air traffic is heaviest at the four European airports. The Heathrow airport in London has approximately five and a half crore passengers every year, followed by Paris with approximately four and a half crore passengers, Frankfurt with approximately four crore, Amsterdam with approximately four crore. In South Korea approximately four and a half crore passengers use transit facilities and in Hong Kong approximately three and a half crore enjoy these transit facilities. As far as India is concerned similar projection has been made here and that is why I feel that the Ministry has contemplated upon the modernisation of airports for transit facilities to passengers. The Senior Vice-President of the Boeing aircraft company, Dr. Dinesh Keskar came to India recently in this regard. During his visit he said that:

[English]

"A country's or a region's GDP growth in a good measure of its air traffic potential. South West Asia, where India in the dominant country, is expected to average the second highest growth rate in the world, of 4.9 per cent, during 2002 to 2021. It will be second only to China's anticipated 5.9 per cent. By contrast, the global average is expected to be only 2.9 per cent. China leads the world with an amazing 7.8 per cent followed by India with 4.8 per cent. Incidentally, a recent World Bank projection expects India to be the fourth largest economy by 2020. In terms of traffic increase, South West Asia is expected to achieve an average annual growth of 6.7 per cent over the next 20 years.

Commenting on global commercial aircraft requirement during 2002-2021, a total of 23,929 new aircraft would be required, worth a total of 1.79 trillion dollars.... India's overall requirement during that period is projected at 290 new jet aircraft worth a total of 22 billion dollars."

[Translation]

In view of these facts, it is imperative that we accord priority to the construction of airports of International standards and formulate a scheme for at least next 20 years. For this purpose, relentless efforts should be made for budget allocation and for mobilising other resources. ...*(Interruptions)* I have just begun.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I have said the future of aviation industry in this country in the forthcoming years is bright but for that we will have to remain attentive.

As far as development of new airports is concerned, certain provisions have been made in this amendment for removing encroachments and the Airports Authority of India along with the Ministry are likely to be given some powers through this Bill. In this very context through you I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the biggest hurdle in the construction of new airports being made or proposed to be made is of land acquisition, which is not referred to anywhere in this Bill. We have the case of Bangalore before us. It took almost 7-8 years for acquiring land in Bangalore which even delayed the project. Some problem was faced in Hyderabad airport also. In future wherever we are constructing new airports the question of land acquisition would crop up. I would like from hon. Minister that even a slight initiative could help resolve land acquisition problem where this kind of a scheme is in pipeline. The most important factor in land acquisition

is that we have to pay handsome compensation to the party from which we acquire land. It has always happened that in such major projects where crores of rupees is involved, the amount of compensation is Rupees 5-10 crores. It is a very serious issue because the party which would sell its land, would be deprived from it permanently, that land is the source of their income that is why this factor needs to be contemplated upon that they get compensation at market rate, that they are nicely rehabilitated and if their houses are removed, they are rehabilitated properly, this subject be given priority in the Bill. In this regard, I would like to submit that the responsibility of land acquisition always lies on the State Government but the sources of State Government are limited. Therefore, I demand that our Civil Aviation Ministry should come forward to assist the State Governments for funding land acquisition.

At the moment hon. Minister is busy developing the Delhi and Mumbai airports, I would request him to develop Bangalore and Hyderabad airports in the same manner after this Bill is passed. A private airport has come into existence in Kocchi. The people of Vidarbha are constantly demanding the construction of International Multi-Model passenger and Cargo hub in Nagpur also. The Chief Minister is holding talks with your Ministry in this regard. He has met hon. Minister as well. Earlier Shri Vilas Rao Deshmukh and now Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde are meeting hon. Minister on regular basis.

I would like to urge him to award recognition to this airport immediately. As far as Nagpur is concerned, it is a fact that it lies in centre of the country. The facilities which are needed in a modern airport are all available there. The airport of Nagpur which comes under Airports Authority of India is operative and B-747 type aircraft can land there. This facility is not available in Hyderabad as in Nagpur which is equipped with 10,500 ft. long runway. The building there can handle 700 passengers at a time. All these facilities are there. I would like to submit that the permission to construct international airport cargo and passenger hub there be granted immediately. I feel this Bill would facilitate this.

As far as the question of equity partnership is concerned, earlier there was an obstacle that Airport Authority of India could not give its property to any one but this proposal has been mooted by the Government of Maharashtra through this Bill. And the State Government has made entire arrangements. It is not that they have given application for construction of a hub without any motive. They have incurred an expenditure

of Rs. 5 crore by engaging Larsen & Toubro Rambol company for preparing a techno economy feasibility report which is lying with you for the last one year. It has been done with a view to keep the Maharashtra Airport Development Corporation in their own hands after its creation.

Through you, I would urge the Minister to announce the construction of international airport in Nagpur as well alongwith Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad and the property belonging to the Airport Authority of India in Maharashtra may be given to the state as equity. If you act upon this request then international cargo operation can be started there within six months. Only your intervention can help expedite this work.

I would like to make one more submission for it would be unfair if I fail to do so. I am expecting it from the Minister since he provided facilities for "haj yatra" from Nagpur and only because of this our runway was upgraded. Now any wide-bodied aircraft hub cargo or passenger aircraft can land there. Recently some six thousand haj pilgrims took flights from Nagpur and came back. Now you may please announce that it has been upgraded as international airport therefore, assistance should be provided for its construction.

With these words, supporting this Bill I would like to conclude and thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANAJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Respected Chairman Sir, I rise in support of the Bill that has been brought before the House by the hon. Minister suggesting amendments to the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994.

I respectfully bow before the hon. Prime Minister who has presented a grand vision before the entire world that we will present a fully developed India by the year 2020. To fulfil the vision of the hon. Prime Minister of India, the hon. Minister has announced several new projects to be taken up.

We have to take up projects to develop the Airports, Seaports etc. We have to take up projects for developing of national highways, State highways and other major roads. We have also to take up projects for construction of godowns at the *tehsil*, district and State levels in order to provide facilities for the farmers to store their products

[Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar]

and also for enabling transit of goods. We have to make available fully developed markets for sale of the agro-projects as well as the industrial products.

The hon. Prime Minister has been telling all of us that there is no dearth of fund if there is a will to work. Under his dynamic leadership, this Government has been able to mobilise funds to the tune of Rs. 56,000 crore for construction of roads, establishing connectivity among all the villages. This work has never been done in the last fifty years.

The *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* is one of the most successful programmes that has ever been implemented in this country by the Government. The laying of the Golden Quadrilateral and the development of the North-South, and East-West corridors at a cost of Rs. 60,000 crore by the year 2005 is a unique one. All these projects are really eye-openers to show as to how we can transform India into a fully developed country.

In this regard, I would like to say that the hon. Finance Minister, while presenting the Budget for the year 2003-04, has no doubt made a mention about providing funds for developing two important Airports, the Airport of Delhi and also the Airport of Mumbai. They will be developed according to the international standards. Our experience shows that of the total number of Airports in our country, less than half of them is civil Airports. More than half is the Airports constructed for defence purpose. There is an urgent need for developing the existing Airports, establishing new Airports because India is a vast country. From Kanyakumari to Kashmir, the distance is 3000 kilometre. Almost it is the same distance from East to the West of our country. Ours is such a thickly populated country that the domestic tourism itself would require better air connectivity between various stations. We are blessed with many places of tourist interest. The potential of domestic tourism itself has not been tapped by us so far. If we can establish proper air-link among various stations, I am sure we will be doing a great service for the people of our country to see the various parts of our country. This will help in enhancing not only our economic condition but also in improving the cultural relations between the people living in various parts of our country. Funds have been the constraint for a long time. This constraint is coming in the way of the Airports Authority of India. Experience shows that the Airports Authority of India has been unable to utilise the funds in developing the airports according to the international standards.

They were not able to set up new airports. A little while ago, my hon. friend Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh was mentioning about the difficulties that are being faced in the matter of acquiring land. Then there is also the problem of unauthorized occupation of the existing lands with the Airport Authority. We are frightened several times when we approach the Mumbai airport whether we are properly landing on the air strip or we are landing somewhere else. This is the difficulty and we know the experience. Governments after Governments have been striving to get those unauthorised occupants evicted but for one reason or the other, they have not been able to evict these people.

So, sufficient provisions are not available in the existing Airports Authority Act to implement all this. Now, the Government has come up with all these proposals. It is a welcome measure. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee had a detailed deliberation on the provisions of this Bill. They have made valuable recommendations and suggestions. I am happy to see that the hon. Minister has taken due care in incorporating all the valuable suggestions made by the Standing Committee while deliberating on the provisions of this Bill. Now, I am sure that with the passing of this amendment, the process of developing the airports and the process of construction of new airports will be speeded up. Now, a reference has already been made about this. I will not take much time of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At 3 o'clock we have to take up the Private Members' business and yet two other hon. Members also have to speak.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: I fully agree with this. It is a long pending requirement and request of the people of the State of Karnataka that an international airport should be constructed at Bangalore. The process of acquiring land has been going on for a long time. The only constraint is the availability of funds. Funds could be raised by levying, what is called as, 'development fee' on the people who are embarking in the existing territories.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): This falls under Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief's constituency.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Yes, Sir. It is for entire Karnataka. By providing an airport of international kind, it would not only provide facilities for the tourists, but would also boost the prospects of export of agricultural products.

From Bangalore alone lot of flower, 'gulab' is being exported to the United States of America and other places. So, this would give a boost. I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister that in the guise of developing only the bigger airports, he should not forget about the Mangalore airport. The Mangalore airport has the smallest air strip. Land has already been acquired and it has been handed over to the Airport Authority. I am sure the Airport Authority has already made a provision for the construction of a new runway. This will have to be speeded up. That is all what I want to say and with this I support the Bill that is placed before the House. Thank you very much for the opportunity you have given to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Premajam, you may please complete in five minutes.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagra): Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. At the outset, I would like to submit that a Bill of this significance should not have been treated in this manner with such time constraint. To say anything about this Bill in five minutes in just nothing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then we can take it up at 5.30 p.m. after the Discussion under Rule 193.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: But my opportunity is here, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You know how the time is managed here.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, I welcome the Bill, but I have certain apprehensions. At present, the Airport Authority of India is having a very vast network of 94 civil airports and also 28 civil enclaves for defence purposes. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill it is stated that this amendment is meant for helping developmental activities at various airports in different parts of the country. It is a laudable objective. Nobody will object to that.

Sir, due to constraint of time, I will straightway mention some of the important points. One is regarding regional imbalance. Though we have such a vast network of civil airports, certain regions are not having the required facilities like the North-East and South India. We do not have as much facilities as they are on the Western or Northern parts of India. So, when we think in terms of developmental activities, I would like to submit that they should be equitably distributed throughout the country so that the people do not feel that certain areas are discriminated against.

Another point of concern is regarding security. As per the provisions of this Bill, the airports will be leased and fees will be collected. Of course, the fees will be credited to the Airports Authority of India and it will be utilised for developmental work. But we still have apprehensions about the security of these airports once they are leased, especially to international bidders.

The next point that I would like to make is about the extent of foreign equity participation. If the Government is having the major portion of equity, then, of course, the Government will have control over all the airports, but if the major portion is given to the foreign bidders, then it will create a real problem.

Another point of concern is about the job security of the employees presently working in the Airports Authority of India. In the Bill, on specific provision has been made for providing job security to the employees who are presently working. The important point to be noted here is: what will happen to the reservation policy once the airports are leased to the private sector? Will the policy of reservation be continued even after the airports are leased out? The international bidders may not comply with the governmental directions as far as this point is concerned. I am emphasising this point because of the past experience that we have had after disinvestment of certain public sector units. When a public sector unit is disinvested, the private company which takes over that unit gives a guarantee to continue with the reservation policy, but once they get control over the company, they just throw out this guarantee and follow only 'hire and fire' policy. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister, through you, to specifically reply to this point.

As far as management of the airports is concerned, the present situation is that the airports are not actually managed well. It is an admitted fact. But once certain airports are leased out to the private sector, what is the guarantee that they would manage them properly?

14.54 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, all these years, the argument that is given for privatisation is, the Government machinery, the bureaucracy is not doing things properly. Instead of trying to improve things, everything is being given private enterprises in the hope that things would go well. I do not know whether this will guarantee improvement with regard to the present situation of our airports.

[Prof. A.K. Premajam]

Then, I would request the Government that foreign equity participation should be restricted to 49 per cent only and not beyond that.

Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to give specific reply to all these queries that have raised. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul): Sir, I want to lay my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, you are allowed to lay your speech.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for the opportunity given to me.

Sir, in the North-East, there are twelve airports, which are maintained by the Airports Authority of India. Out of these twelve airports, six are in Assam, one in Mizoram, one in Meghalaya, one in Tripura, one in Manipur, one near Sikkim and in Nagaland. In this regard, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation that out of these twelve airports, only two airports have got ILS (Instrument Landing System).

North-East is monsoon prone region where there are lot of clouds and mist in the summer season and over and above without the ILS, it is difficult to operate aircraft at that time. Most of the pilots do not want to land or take off after 5 o'clock in the evening. With the flow of traffic that we have, we have to have these airports upgraded and ensure that all the infrastructure is build up in these airports of the North East.

In Agartala, there are two Alliance Airlines Services, two Indian Airlines, no Jet Airways and no Sahara services. In Dibrugarh, there are five Alliance Air services, four Indian Airlines and seven Sahara services. In Dimapur, there are fourteen Alliance Air services, no Sahara and no Jet Airways services. In Imphal, there are eleven Alliance Air services, four Indian Airlines services and twelve Jet services. Then in Guwahati, there are 31 Alliance Air services, 13 Indian Airlines services, 41 Jet Airways services and seven Sahara services. In Jorhat, there are two Alliance Air services only and two Jet Airways services. In Bagdogra, there are nine Alliance Air services, seven Indian Airlines services and five Jet Airways services. In Lilabari, there are three Alliance Air services, no Indian Airlines services and no private airlines services. In Shillong, there are only three Alliance Air

services. In Silchar, there are eleven Alliance Air services and no private airline services. In Tejpur, there are only four Alliance Air services.

I want to say that in the present scenario, out of these twelve airports, ten were constructed during the Second World War, except Aizwal and Meghalaya airports, which were constructed in 2000 and 1970 respectively. Therefore, I would like to say that these airports need to be taken care of by the Government of India and not by private parties because the infrastructure is not there and no private party would be interested to invest in these airports in the North East. The ILS is not put there and the most alarming thing is that recently there was a report from across the border that Chinese have already started building airports even of international standards in Myanmar which is about 200 kms from Nagaland.

Keeping in view of all these issues into consideration we need to strengthen the airports in the North-East and if suppose there is an eventuality as we had in 1962, what would happen to us. Therefore, I would request the Government of India that these airports should be taken as strategic airports and the expenditure should come from the Defence Ministry and not from the Airports Authority of India since Airports Authority of India is not competent to take it up in such a short period of time. Of course, we have a very competent Civil Aviation Minister in the person of Shri Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain, but the condition of the Airports Authority of India which is looking after the airports in the North-East is pathetic in every state affairs, because they do not take these matters seriously.

Sir, I would request that Silchar and Dimapur Airports should be upgraded immediately. Kohima, which is the capital of Nagaland, does not have an airport till today. Sikkim, is also the State, which do not have the airport in the capital. All these things need to be looked into; otherwise, we will have a serious situation where international airports are built across the border by the neighbouring countries. Therefore, I would like to conclude by making a special request to the Government of India to look into these matters seriously.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul): The Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000, which sought to lease out the airports in the hands of private sector was withdrawn 3 days back and it has been reintroduced

*Speech was laid on the Table and translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

as the Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2003, and is being considered as a new wine in the old bottle. Of course the new Bill seeks to incorporate the suggestions made by the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism.

This has been brought as a comprehensive Bill with certain improvements based on various suggestions. The functions proposed to be assigned to the lessee, provision for protection of interest of the employees, appointment of a regulator, application of the Act to facilitate operation of airports by private operators other than Airports Authority of India, provisions for levying of Advance Development Fee by AAI, financing development of existing airports, construction of greenfield airports and provisions for eviction of unauthorised occupation on airport premises, have all been incorporated in this comprehensive Bill. The Government now claims that it is introducing this Bill on the lines suggested by the Standing Committee of the Parliament.

I would like to know whether this Government takes up seriously the well meaning suggestions and act according to its promises. For instance the speed with which this Bill is brought before this House, in my opinion, aims at taking away the rights of the members to participate extensively in the discussion on this Bill. The wider ramifications and far reaching consequences of this Bill cannot be evaluated and analysed properly.

Small airports in several parts of the country lack maintenance. I would like to specifically point out the condition of Tuticorin Airport which was opened 10 years back. It is lying under utilised. No flight is operated from there and no passenger can get any benefit. Crores of rupees spent on it remain unproductive.

If the Civil Aviation Ministry cannot initiate steps to run the State owned aircraft or the planes of the public sector airlines they must at least allow the private fliers to operate small carriers between small airports. This would arrest the trend of wasteful expenditure. Excise income is more in Tuticorin. So naturally this would help the State to earn more of revenue.

Similarly Salem Airport that was constructed spending crores is also laying idle as no flights are operated. Why should you waste an available infrastructure facility! Shri T.M. Selvaganapathy the people's representative from Salem had raised on the floor of this House several times the rightful demand from the people of Salem. But

it has fallen on deaf years. This Government is turning a nelson's eye. I am afraid this trend is there only because these airports are in Tamil Nadu. I cannot understand the justification for this step-motherly attitude. I am sound echoing the feelings of the people of Tamil Nadu. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to operate flight service from Salem to several commercial and industrial towns.

Madurai Airport is in the neighbourhood of my Dindigul Lok Sabha constituency. It is long since land was acquired to extend the airport. Land acquisition proceedings are over but there is no take off of the extension project. I urge upon the Union Government to initiate steps to develop Madurai Airport as an international airport. The Government must consider operating flights from Madurai Airport to Dubai and other Arab destinations. Flights to London and other Western destinations must be considered.

Maintaining time schedule and vigorous implementation of the same come naturally to the private operators in the aviation sector. But unfortunately Indian Airlines has become a synonym of delay. It is needless to impress upon this Government to arrest this trend and ensure timely operation to the dot. Government must act on this.

I am coming to the in-flight catering service. The food items served in Indian Airlines are insipid and unpalatable. Hon. Minister Shri Shahnawaz Hussain must initiate suitable action immediately. As Minister he may get good food when he is on the flight. And the must not think that the same quality food is provided to all other passengers. It is really a pitiable situation.

It is necessary to have Tamil knowing crew in the flights that take us to Tamil Nadu. This is necessary to make the passengers feel at home in the air. If you do not have enough of Tamil knowing crew then you must go for recruitment drive. Every region must have crew knowing the language of the region. Already Shri P.H. Pandian has written to the Civil Aviation Ministry in this regard.

What is happening in our airports at present when they are very much with the Government is far from enthrusing. Members of Parliament are not properly treated in the airports. Even after displaying the identity cards the security guards give scant regard. Hence the Government must ensure that the MPs are extended due courtesy. This is all the more important because the

[Shri C. Sreenivasan]

private operators will be lessees of airports in days to come and public servants should not be left in the lurch.

This Government tries to project itself as a responsive and responsible Government but there are May a slip between the cup and the lip. Many a things are not properly handled and the trait of this Government is to leave its words in the winds. They do not keep their promise. I do not make this statement without any basis.

Recently what happened at Chennai Airport when the second international terminal was opened, the entire nation knows. In that inaugural function which was attended by our Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee a taller one among our leaders, there was an attempt by some small men to belittle the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Earlier it was planned to open this second international terminal naming it after MGR on 14th of April. Out Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani was to attend that function. But, for reasons best known to it, Civil Aviation Ministry postponed that function.

Just a fortnight after that the same terminal was opened naming it after Anna as 'Anna International Terminal II'. Our Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee was the Chief Guest. When there is a terminal already there named after Anna what is the need and necessity to avoid the name of Dr. Puratchi Thalaivar MGR. How does it matter?

I would like to impress upon you at this juncture that both the Centre and the State must cordially come together only then we would be able to serve the people. We need two hands to clap, clap and clap.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was informed that it would be enough she reaches the airport to receive and give a send off to the Prime Minister. There was no proper invitation to attend the inaugural function. Is it justifiable?

Subsequently the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was informed that she would be attending the function sitting at the corner of the dais. Is it a justifiable action, is it justice? When both the Prime Minister and Chief Minister of a particular State are attending a function it would be befitting to provide seats to both of them next to each other. There should not be any excuse in the name of improper protocol. You must understand that this will help to achieve good relations between Centre and the State.

At least from now on the Civil Aviation Ministry and other Union Ministries including that of PMO must follow this good tradition. The Centre which did not name the Chennai Airport terminal after Bharat Ratna MGR must come forward to seek resource to it. You may name Madurai Airport after MGR. I urge upon the Government to name Madurai Airport as Bharat Ratna MGR Airport.

Dr. MGR a darling of the masses founded a party and came to power within 4 years of forming his party. He was a successful three-time Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Dr. MGR who contributed to protect the sovereignty and integrity of the country must by adequately honoured by way of your naming Maduari Airport after him.

Airports are like the air boundaries of a country. Hence care must be taken when you lease them out to private sector people. I would like to sound a word of caution. You must also ensure that no cut in jobs and retrenchment affect the employees of Airports Authority of India.

With this I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the Private Members' Business should start at 3 p.m. Seven more names are there on this Bill. If each Member takes two minutes each and the hon. Minister will take ten minutes, then we can finish it in half-an-hour. So, we can extend the time on this Bill by half-an-hour and then we will take up Private Members' Business.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Half-an-hour for what?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: To complete this Bill.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Then after that only Private Members' Business should be taken up and nothing else. I have given my written objection also.

15.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, you have given it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: No, you cannot extend time for introducing the Bill at the fag end of the day. You can take up only Private Members Bill now. Nothing else.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am seeking the consent of the House whether half an hour may be extended for this matter, after that we will take up the Private Members' Bill.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I want to know whether 'for this matter' means Private Members' Bill only.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, it means Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: All right.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, is it the pleasure of the House to extend the discussion for half an hour more?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): We have so many precedents, many experiences regarding this. We have extended the time for passage of the Bills, a number of times. If hon. Members are interested in this Private Members' Bill, you can extend the time for this Bill also by another one hour. We may extend by one more hour today, up to 7 o'clock. But we have to complete the discussion in another half an hour. Okay, we will take two minutes each. We are giving our consent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me continue. Shri K. Yerrannaaidu, you take only two minutes otherwise it will take one hour and the whole Private Members Business will be over.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): This extension is only for the purposes of this Bill which is before the House and not for any other purpose, the Government Business, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When we have to cross the bridge, we will think of it. Now only this Bill.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Have you asked for the consent of the House by leaving the matter vague. How? Why did you ask for the consent of the House, leaving the matter vague?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am only asking the pleasure of the House to extend the time by half an hour for this matter. You have given your consent.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): How much time will it take?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will take half an hour.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): I rise to support the Airports Authority of India Bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for this Act also one amendment was moved on the floor of the House in the year 2000. The amendment was referred to the Standing Committee. After a detailed examination only, the Standing Committee gave all these recommendations. So, Standing Committee had already discussed this Bill threadbare. They suggested wonderful following amendments regarding eviction and private investment. By doing this, we can develop the existing airports, construct new airports everywhere. We support this Bill.

We have 94 civil airports and 28 Defence airports maintained by the Defence Ministry. The Civil Aviation Ministry maintains 24 airports. So, by this private participation, we are improving all these airports.

The hon. Prime Minister has announced setting up of world-class airports in this country. After this announcement, the hon. Finance Minister has also provided Budget for the development of two airports of the international, world-class standards. Due to lack of open sky policy and due to lack of new airports and aircraft, everybody is suffering. Now, everybody is representing to the hon. Civil Aviation Minister. Now, we have also represented to the hon. Minister that due to lack of aircraft, there is no connectivity to every nook and corner of the country. After the passage of this Bill, private investment will come and it will develop all these airports. Without open sky policy, without introducing new aircraft to the nook and corner of the country, the benefit will not reach the people of the country. So, by supporting this Bill, I am requesting through you, the Minister to announce the open sky policy, to invite more flights from other countries. Simultaneously, the Government of India has proposed to purchase new aircraft. That is the cause of delay. The hon. Minister shall announce the open sky policy and simultaneously go for purchase of new aircraft.

I am supporting this Bill.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (Mahabubnagar): Sir, I rise to support the Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

The earlier Bill, Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000, which was sent to the Standing Committee, had been there for two years. After two years, the Standing Committee has sent back the Bill with good

[Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy]

suggestions. देर आयद, दुरुस्त आयद. So, I really support this Bill and also endorse what Shri K. Yerrannaidu has said. After passing this Bill, we will have very good airports; infrastructure of the airports will be built; and privatisation will be encouraged.

We are waiting long for this Bill. We know that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has already gone forward to construct the Shamshabad airport but some lacuna was there in the rules. This Bill clears that lacuna. I really welcome this Bill and support it.

No other Government has really done this. So, I appreciate the NDA Government for bringing forward this Bill. Once again I support this Bill.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF (Bangalore North): Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for Civil Aviation for bringing forward this Bill. Although there is a delay in bringing forward this Amendment Bill, I welcome it.

Now, we are living in the world of global economy, global trade, technology, and bio-technology. So, traffic has increased and infrastructure has become inadequate. Bangalore has become a focus in the global market in terms of technology and in terms of bio-technology. Heads of countries and Heads of Governments from different parts of the world are visiting Bangalore. The existing airport is very inadequate. It has to have terminals for arrival, for departure and even, in the same way, for cargo. A lot of parking area, hangar, is required.

Anybody who has seen the kind of infrastructure in a developed country for meeting the fast growing trade and improving the economy will understand it. Delay will only hamper the development and the escalation cost will unnecessarily be a burden for anyone, whether it is a Government sector or private sector.

Sir, when I am saying this, I must fully support my friend from the North-East, who made a strong plea. Every Government has given importance to the North-Eastern Region. I think, the hon. Minister for Civil Aviation should keep in mind as how much they are lagging behind. Also the communication system needs to be developed.

I am sure that with this Amendment Bill, all the impediments that were coming in the way of having a world-class international airport at Bangalore will be cleared and the work will start soon. In addition to what I am saying, I also support what Shri K. Yerrannaidu has said.

I think it is time to acquire new aircraft. You cannot go on with the way the traffic is growing. Otherwise, you will have to leave more and more to the private sector. I must compliment the Civil Aviation Minister for his excellent handling of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. I think we see a lot of improvements, particularly in the area of punctuality, safety and security.

Lastly, I would request the hon. Minister, the entire Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Airport Authority of India that the rest of the work which has to start, should be enabled to start. I think full co-operation and support will froth come from the Government of India for this.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I am watching is that the Government is interested in getting the Airport Authority of India (Amendment) Bill through in a hurry. Earlier also one bill was brought forward but the same was withdrawn and now the second bill has been brought forward. This department of Civil Aviation itself is very slippery because earlier, Shri Sharad Yadav ji was the Minister-in-Charge and then Shri Ananth Kumar ji took over the charge and now Shri Shah Nawaj ji is the minister of this Department/Ministry. What type of Department it is where the Minister is changed quite frequently. What is the intricacy behind it that is what I want to know?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister had given a statement that Bangalore, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai airports would be modernised to international standards in order to promote tourism. I would like to tell the Government that not even a single of our airports matches the international standards. It is believed that the Government are contemplating to develop some airports of international standard. Hon'ble Finance Minister has said that the airports should be privatised given on lease. In this way the Government is indulging in sale of everything. What else the Government would sell. The Airport would be sold, Railway station platform would be sold, what is it happening? It appears that this Bill has been brought forward to facilitate all these things. This Bill has nothing to do with increasing the income of the Government or strengthening/serving interests of the consumers. It should solve the difficulty of the investors but God knows how much anxiousness, fastness and restlessness is being shown. What is the intricate reason owing to which the Airport Authority is quite unwilling. Even the legal intricacy is not involved. People are facing a lot of difficulty. This Bill does not throw any light on

whether or not the Bill should be brought for that purpose. The government can put it this way or that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in order to develop and modernise Delhi and Mumbai airports in such a way as to bring them at par with international standards, an amount of Rs. 3000 crore and Rs. 2000 crores respectively is required. Whereas Airports Authority has got only one Thousand crore rupees. That leaves a gap of rupees 4000 crore. Now it came to the minds of the people that the Bill has been brought forward to give the airports on lease. Let the government clarify whether the measure has been taken for their privatisation or for solving the difficulty of the investors? What steps are being taken to bring them at par with the standard of the airports of South-East Asia? The Minister has just told that Patna airport has been given the status of international Airport. The people from Thailand, Srilanka and Japan are visiting the Buddhist Circuit for tourism purpose. How do you take into account? The work of Gaya Airport has not been done. People have to take a round via Ranchi to reach Patna by air. I would like to know from the Government as to what steps have been taken to improve the Patna Airport? What about the Gaya Airport which was to be developed. It can become a very famous airport in the world. People from all over the world may come to this place for the purpose of tourism. Then there is the Muzaffarpur airport in our area which is almost non-functional at present and has not been attended to. I have said that on the occasion of 26 hundred birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira. This airport should be named after him. But nothing has been said about its development too. In this way we do not agree with this Bill. This Bill is being brought in a haste to help the private people/parties. The Bill does not indicate about modernisation of the airports to the international standards by the Government. Keeping all these things in view, this Bill should be rejected.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill.

Airports assume a significant role in the national economy and the quality of airport infrastructure contributes directly to the country's international competitiveness and flow of foreign investments. In this context, the whole purpose of this Bill is to attract private investment. Today, this is one important sphere where we need more and more private investment.

I am coming from a State in this country where a first of its kind private airport has been built by the efforts of the State Government and the Ministry of Civil Aviation. By attracting NRIs, a company had been formed in Kochi and a new airport has been constructed in Kochi. It has got international standards. Similarly, if we have private initiative, we would have more and more airports in various parts of our country.

Today, in this discussion, from every corner of the House, it has been mentioned that our airports need to be upgraded. We want to have international standards because foreign tourists are coming in and there are no facilities. Now, Trivandrum and Calicut airports are not having international standards. Of course, Trivandrum is the capital of the State and its airport has been officially declared as an international airport but the facilities are not adequate. There are complaints that the Airports Authority of India is not taking care of the Trivandrum airport. The cargo handling facilities and other facilities are not available there. Ground handling facilities and night landing system are also not available in Calicut. In Kochi airport, all these facilities are available. Therefore, my request is that these are new profitable potential have to be utilised.

Agati, from where you are coming as a Member of Parliament, Dr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is one of the best tourist destinations of our country. If you go there, you would find the condition of the airport. It is poor. The VIP lounge is where only MPs and officials are followed. For normal passengers, there is no place even to sit. For people going from Kochi to Agati on their way to the other nearby islands, there are no facilities. This is the condition of one of the best tourist destinations in our country.

The Calicut airport is one of the best and profitable airports in our country. The maximum number of passengers are handled in this airport. Even Haj pilgrims are going from the Calicut airport. The lengthening of the runway was a dream for all of us but it has not materialised. I request the hon. Minister that it should be taken up expeditiously. More facilities should be given to Trivandrum, Kochi and Calicut airports.

The maximum number of Indian passenger flights to Gulf countries are from Kochi and Calicut. So, more facilities should be provided for them. The treatment given by the airport people to these Gulf passengers is very poor. I request that this situation has to be rectified.

With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

The main reasons for supporting the Bill is that they are going to make it more open and they are going to privatize the Airports Authority of India's activities in the airports.

Secondly, Hyderabad and Bangalore are going to be converted into international airports. But, here, I would like to put forth my grievance of an M.P. from the Eastern India. The Eastern sector has been always neglected.

Let us take the example of Kolkata Airport. In Kolkata Airport, no improvements have taken place since long. Besides, all the originating flights which were going to the Asian countries, like Japan Airlines and British Airways, they were also originating from Kolkata to their respective countries. But that has been stopped. I request the hon. Minister that it should again begin. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, are you supporting the Bill or not?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, I am supporting the Bill. But, at the same time, I would like to demand the Bhubaneswar, the Capital of Orissa, should be made into an international airport as there are a lot of tourists' potential. Moreover, it is mineral-rich resource State and has got a future for development. But because of the lack of air flights in Orissa, development process/activities cannot take place.

Therefore, I request to the hon. Minister, at least, to introduce the small aircraft service or ATR (small aircraft) in the original old Vayudoot air-route, that is, between Jeypore and Rourkela, via Utkela; and this would maintain air connectivity in the State of Orissa.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the privatisation of Airport Authority can cause security and safety problems. As such I would like to request the government that it is not good to privatise the Airports Authority. If Mumbai Airport is to be developed, then there is a need to properly rehabilitate the slums there. I also demand that slums should be rehabilitated elsewhere. Airports Authority should not be privatised. If money is needed, that we can provide.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. You conclude in one sentence whether you are supporting the Bill or not.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I strongly oppose the way in which the Bill is passed.

Nowadays, there is a tendency to curtail the Members' rights. During the Budget Session, we do not get time to discuss the matters. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, of all the persons, you cannot have a complaint.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Shri K. Yerrannaidu's wish could be easily met. There is a provision in the Constitution. They can issue an ordinance. Why should the Members' right to discuss be curtailed/ Of course, the House is coming to a close. It can be prorogue tomorrow. They can issue the very same thing as an Ordinance and get it through. It can be discussed threadbare in the next Session and it can be passed. *...(Interruptions)* Why is so much hurry? Why are we limiting our rights? We have a right to discuss about the privatisation of the Airports Authority. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, we have decided the time, we have apportioned the time, we have exhausted the time, and we have extended the time also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am only saying that this tendency should not be developed. The House should not be taken as a rubber stamp—the Executive's right to make it a rubber stamp. Why do you want to curtail our rights? We have a right to discuss. Why are you curtailing so many measures? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, now you have to conclude. Will you please conclude your speech?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There is a provision which I have mentioned earlier. There is a Constitutional provision for the Government to implement and help the Karnataka people. But why should it be at our expense? We have a right to discuss. It is an important Bill. Each and every Member should be given a chance to speak. What is this parliamentary democracy? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, from your Party, Prof. A.K. Premajam, had already spoken more than her allotted time. Now, you are taking the time of the House and you are complaining about the timings.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, not only in this case, but in so many other cases also, they come before the House for hon. Speaker's direction to be waived. I strongly oppose it. I express my disappointment. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all the hon'ble members who have participated in this brief discussion on this Bill. While expressing their views on this Bill, hon'ble Members Shri Vilas Muttemwar, Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar, Prof. Premajam and Shri Yerrannaidu have raised very important points.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this bill should never give such a message that we are going to privatise the Government Airports or make provisions to lease them out by this bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary ji, you please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Sir, with this Bill, we are going to reframe lease provisions and make legal enabling provisions to bring about improvement in respect of any airport. It is the airport which gives the first impression of any country. The people from all over the world come here and if our airport will not be good, then our impression will not be good, howsoever good our country may be.

Sir, there are 124 airports in our country. Many members raise this question that there is no airport in their constituency. I would like to tell that out of 124 airports. Only 68 airports are operational and 56 non-operational. We have brought a new bill. In this regard our Prime Minister had also announced on 24th October, 1998 that we want to develop airports of international standards in our country. Then on 12th February, 2000, the Cabinet met and Amendment Bill, 2000 is before us. This Bill was sent to the Standing Committee. Standing Committee returned this Bill in November, 2000 with its suggestions which we have submitted before the House. We have accepted almost all the suggestions made by the Standing Committee.

Sir, now it is not possible to give a detailed reply of all the points which have been raised here. But through you, I would like to reply to some important points. This Airport Authority Amendment Bill, 2003 is very important bill for this country. This will pave the way to develop airports of international standards at Bangalore and Hyderabad. We have set up an airport with private sector participation in Cochin. Now the Airports Authority has got the right to acquire any airport it likes. Now had we strictly followed the rules and regulations, then we would never have been able to set up a good airport with private sector participation in Cochin. This has become a reality because the Kerala Government, taking the initiative, undertook work for the construction of Cochin Airport.

At present this has been provided in the rules of Airports Authority of India that it can take over any airport it wishes to. No private party is interested in putting money for the modernisation of airport because of this power vested with AAI. So far as this Bill is concerned, I would like to clarify that this message should not go down that we are going to privatise the airports or making provision to hand over the management of any airport to any private party/company. If we would like to do it, we would approach the Cabinet, the Government for the purpose.

Sir, we have taken care of the issue of safety and security in the Bill. I would like to thank all the members and my gratitude of all of you for supporting this bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 12 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 12 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motions was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will have to seek the consent of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Speaker has accepted the Supplementary List of Business.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I extend the time by another 10 minutes for introduction of the Bills mentioned in Supplementary List of Business.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, we will walk out. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not do that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): There can be no Supplementary List of Business. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have given the notice. I will come to that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has some objection. Please allow him to speak. Then, the Minister is in a position to reply and let him convince as to why it is urgent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. There are four Bills. I think, on two Bills, there is no objection and there are two Bills on which there are objections. I will give the floor to them and then the hon. Minister will reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your leader is on his legs. Now, let us hear Shri Shivraj Patil.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we have strong reservations. Our Members have strong reservations. Let them say what they have to say. We will hear them. Let him convince us as to why it is so important and necessary. After he finishes, allow me also to speak. Then, we shall see what can be done in the matter. *...(Interruptions)*

15.30 hrs.

RE: INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take Supplementary List of Business.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Sir, you had said that the time was extended for the particular purpose to pass that Bill. No Supplementary List of Business can come. It will be disrespect to our feelings. I have also given a notice of objection. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is time to take up private member's Bills.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Speaker has already approved it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Shivraj Patil, only on two Bills, objections have been raised.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we will read the directions and rules. Let them convince us. We do not mean to be obstructive, but please allow us also to do our duty. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. Shri Arun Jaitley, you just explain to them.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce the Constitution (Ninety-eighth Amendment) Bill, 2003. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You explain to them what is the need for a hurry—this is what they want to know—so that you can clear their objections.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, this Bill has not even been circulated. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, we have co-operated with this Government. This is one of the best Budget Sessions. With co-operation of all the parties, everything has gone smoothly. We come from the North-Eastern region, which is as volcanic as Kashmir. Do not play with us in every matter. This Bill, which has come today, is a very disputed Bill. This was given to us by our mother Shrimati Indira Gandhi in 1983 for the safety of the minorities—religious and linguistic. Now, without discussing it, this Bill has been brought on priority. I do not know why they are in a hurry. Even if they are in a hurry, let it come in the next Session when we will discuss and debate it. I will humbly request Shri Advani, who knows the situation of our area, to not give scope to have another ethnic trouble or linguistic trouble in the North-Eastern region.

We supported another Bill, the Bodo Bill. Our Government had brought it. Why are you in hurry? Please do not rush it like that. You bring it in the next Session. We will discuss it and come to some adjustments, and something will be there, but please do not do like that. We have to answer our electorates. They will say that

on the last day, this is how we are performing our duties in Parliament. Kindly do not press for it and leave as it is. This is my humble request.

Sir, even if you go through the book, Direction 19(B) clearly states that without giving two days' notice, the Bill cannot be brought. Even the object of the Bill has not been circulated right now. How can it be done like this? So, please do not allow it. Sir, you are trying to help the Government out of the way by superseding the wishes of the majority of the Members of Parliament, which should not be done.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): There is no cause for hurry. All the rules are being ignored. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, unfortunately. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: ...(Interruptions) The supplementary agenda comes up even when there is no time. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: ...(Interruptions) In the past we introduced a Bill, and it was objected to by the present ruling Government. They were sitting on this side at that time. Shri Shivraj V. Patil was in the Chair. He did not allow our Minister to move the Bill. You should go by the precedent. There is a precedent in this House. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, it has become a regular practice. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: There is no cause for hurry. There is absolutely no cause for this hurry, and there is no cause for suspension of any rules whatsoever.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the Government wish to introduce any bill, the time of the session may be extended by two more days. We are prepared for that but it is unfair to pass this bill in such a hurry. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the Government intend to increase the time, then the Private Members' Bills should be postponed for the next session. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: There is no cause for hurry or for suspension of any rules. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me be heard. There is no cause for any hurry whatsoever and there is no cause for suspension of any rules. They rule with respect to two days prior circulation of the Bill is being suspended, and the time is also being unduly extended.

Sir, this is Budget Session. This Session started in February, and we are now in May. More than two and a half months time was available with the Government to have managed its business. This is not the way the House should be taken. A very important Bill, which flouts the provisions of the Constitution or the agreement, is sought to be introduced.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. He has given a notice for raising an objection.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I strongly object to this procedure.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I have received your notice.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: As I have already mentioned, there is a tendency to treat the House like a rubber stamp.

Now, we were meeting here for the last two or three months, as pointed out by Shri G.M. Banatwalla. Was the Government sleeping? They had ample time to think over the matter and do it at the proper time. They did not do it, and at the fag end of the Session they are coming up with some disputed matters in the form of a Bill.

Now, this Constitution (Amendment) Bill is not a simple Bill. It is a well thought out Bill. It was drafted after much discussions and deliberations. After doing that and after going through that exercise, they have come here and they say that we have come to move a Bill as a supplementary item. It is not even in the List of Business which was circulated. This has become a practice for the ruling party to come on a day, appear before the House, and say that we have to do it. They have circulated it in the List of Business for the day

thinking that the computer is there, and they will get it typed and circulated. They think that this is, more or less, a Library meeting. They have turned this House into a Library meeting, disregarding all Rules of Procedure; violating all Rules of Procedure. Everyday they come to this House for exemption of the rules; for exemption of the Speaker's Directions 19(A), 19(B). Everyday you come with that. Is this a Parliament? Are we not ashamed of doing such things in this august House, the supreme body of the land? I am ashamed. I can understand if some innocent person from the Library or the Secretariat comes and asks for something like this. They have a Law Ministry and they have the legal experts. They could have done it in an appropriate manner, at an appropriate time. Without doing that, they come to the House and ask us to sit at their whims and fancies. This cannot be allowed and I strongly object to that.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are our custodian and I request you to simply follow the rules.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is written here that these Bills will be taken up for consideration and passing today itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give the ruling after this.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI (Autonomous District Assam): Sir, I should also be heard because I have given a notice in this regard.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, unfortunately, there has been a tendency, a practice, which is rather now a habit with this Government, that the number of sittings for every succeeding Session is being curtailed. If you look at the Sessions for the last three years, the number of days for which we should have been sitting have been drastically reduced. If there is an emergency and a Bill is introduced even in the last minute, we can understand that and we would certainly like to cooperate with the Government. What is happening here is that even Bills warranting waiving of certain rules are being circulated just when the members are present in the House. It is not that we receive them in the morning. The requirement is of two days. One can understand that. In the morning, at our residences, we receive certain things which would, in fact, enable us to raise some objections about the legislative competence etc., if it occurs to us. However, sitting in the House, I am personally collecting papers right now; even the papers

have not been circulated to us. I am going around and taking the papers from another hon. Member. That is how things are being done.

I would certainly object to the procedure that is being followed. What it really leads to is that the quality of work suffers. Everyday, we find more than is the length or the substance of the Bill is the form of corrections thereto and corrigendum to every clause. Even to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, we find that the corrections are being supplied. Is this the way the Government should function? Is this the way the legislative records of the country should be maintained? This is what is happening today. I know that the hon. Law Minister and the hon. Deputy Prime Minister are competent persons. It is not they, who draft everything. Today, these two Bills have been circulated and, I am sure, tomorrow, we would have corrections to these Bills. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand that it is a very important matter. Let us hear the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on this issue.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (*Vaishali*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, your bills have already been introduced. ...(*Interruptions*) The session is going on for the last 3-4 months. We have the right to register our protest under rule 72. ...(*Interruptions*) How a bill can be introduced in such a hurry and scurry. ...(*Interruptions*) The time allotted for the Private Members' Bill has also been slashed today. ...(*Interruptions*) In view of all these things, this bill should be withdrawn. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, let me hear what the hon. Minister has to say on this.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Sir, I should also be heard because I have given a notice on this.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, please give me half-a-minute more because I have not yet completed. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only when I give permission, you can speak. Let me hear the Minister. I have given the floor to her.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Let me complete my arguments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already completed your arguments.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: How in a hurry, they are introducing that bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, please give me half-a-minute. When we have the statements, when we have the reasons for moving these Bills at the last moment, we do not expect it to be done as a formality. They say that the House is adjourning and it is necessary to bring these Bills before the House and, therefore, it is being done. what really has to be told to the House is when the decision was taken by the Government, what are the circumstances that warranted this decision and why the decision was not taken earlier. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give my ruling on that.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: If you do not want to listen to me, it is a different matter. I am making a point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me hear her.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The moment I complete what I want to say, you can hear her.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already stated whatever you wanted to say.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You are not even allowing me to complete my point.

[*English*]

You are presuming all that. You are not letting me complete. All that I am saying is that in this half-a-page, they have given the reasons. In fact, it is no reason at all. It only says that 'the Government considers it expedient'. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Within five minutes time, they want to take away the rights of nearly one crore minorities.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: We would like to know the exact details as to when the Cabinet decided on it and what led it to decide at this moment and not earlier. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, let me hear the Minister please.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Sir, the Bill involves one of the tribal areas of Assam. I represent a tribal area in Assam. You must give me protection and enable me to discharge my responsibilities as a Member of Parliament representing that area. I did not get a copy of the Bill in advance. I got a copy of the Bill just a few minutes ago. How can I go through it and formulate my opinion on it in such a short time? How can I discharge my responsibility as a Member of Parliament? I seek your protection.

The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution is being sought to be amended by one of the clauses of the Bill. The entire area of Assam is burning. Clause 8 has been objected to be thousands of youths. Through this clause the entire scheduling structure of the Scheduled Tribes of hills and plains of Assam is going to be dismantled. Lakhs of students are coming into the streets against this. On such a serious matter, I have got a copy of the Bill only a few minutes back. How can I discharge my responsibility? We have seen a serious disaster in Manipur and Nagaland. More dangerous ethnic clashes will be generated if proper time is not spent and the Bill is not discussed properly. I have serious objection to this Bill being brought this way. There should be a proper discussion. The Bill should be deferred.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me hear the view of the Government.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: What is the reason that at the fag end of the Session this Bill has been brought before the House? Why is it that proper time has not been given? Why has the Bill not been circulated in time? We seek your protection so that we can discharge our responsibilities as Members of Parliament.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to clarify one thing.

Some of the hon. Members are thinking that we are going to get this bill passed. That is not the case, we are just introducing it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me hear what the Minister says.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Akhilesh has himself asked as to what was the need to pass the bill in such hurry and scurry. It means that we propose to get the bill passed. Rongpi has just said how could he give his opinion, when the bill has been introduced at the fag end of the session. All these things emanate from this point that it is we, who are getting this bill passed. We are not getting it passed, instead we are introducing it. Two objections have been raised regarding introduction of the bill. One is about the flouting of directions under 19B and the second is about not mentioning the reason, as has been echoed by Shri Pawan. Now, I have to reply to them. First, I would like to reply to those who are thinking that we are getting the bill passed. As far as the clause 19B is concerned, it is quite right to say that the bill should have been circulated two days in advance but clause 19B itself provides regarding what could be the way out in case the bill is not circulated two days in advance. Now, I want to read out that part of the clause 19B.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: You please extend the time of the sitting by two days.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: There is no need to extend the time of the House. We are not at all going to get the bill passed. Now you please look at the clause 19B—

[English]

“...where the Minister desires that the Bill may be introduced earlier than two days after the circulation

*Not recorded.

of copies or even without prior circulation, he shall give full reasons in a memorandum for the consideration of the Speaker explaining as to why the Bill is sought to be introduced without making available to members copies thereof in advance, and if the Speaker gives permission, the Bill shall be included in the list of business for the day on which the Bill is proposed to be introduced."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, she is not correct.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please let her complete.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, you are not to decide, I have to decide. Why do you not hear the hon. Minister?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it means that if you want to introduce the bill without circulating it two days in advance in violation of clause 19B directions, then the Government is expected to do two things. One, it has to give statement of reasons to the Minister and the second is to seek permission of the hon. Speaker and if the Speaker obliges then it will be deemed that the provisions of the rule 19B have been complied with. Here both of the conditions have been fulfilled. The Ministers have cited three reasons to the hon. Speaker for passing these bills. Hon. Speaker has given permission. These bills were included in the supplementary list of Business after having speaker's nod thereon. The bill has passed through proper procedure. Former Speaker is present here. He would have accorded permission on numerous such occasions. He would have been requested for exemption under rule 19B on many occasions and he must have obliged them on each such occasion. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sushmaji, you yourself have said, 'the List of Business of the Day'. That means, it should be circulated in advance. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sontosh Mohan Dav, let her complete. I will call you but let her complete first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Madam, you yourself have said that it should be included in the List of Business for the day.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Supplementary List of Business on any day is a part of the List of Business of that day.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I will accept it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Now the point is that the two conditions have been fulfilled. Both the Ministers have cited reasons. Hon. Speaker has given his nod. The bills have been included in the list. Now, the question is that the introduction stage later, the bill may encounter opposition, only on one basis and that is legislative competence, but nobody is opposing on that ground. Now Shri Shivraj Patil has raised the point that he should be convinced by citing the reasons for the introduction of the bill. Shri Shivraj Patil has raised the same point, it is a matter of coincidence that you were occupying that seat of chairman, here during the last week. The system of Standing Committee here is meant for going through the bills thoroughly. We do not want the Government to bring the bill and put it before the House without referring them to the Standing Committee. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know that today is the last day of the current session. We want to introduce the bill today only because we want it to refer to the Standing Committee. As regards the query of Shri Rongpi about the way in which he can express his opinion or articulate his point. I would like to tell hon. Sontosh Mohan Devji, Shivraj ji, Akhilesh ji, Rongpi ji, Shri Banatwalla ji that the bills would be referred to the Standing Committee by the hon. Speaker after being introduced and there they can give their opinion. The Standing Committee would then give their recommendations. These recommendations would be reconsidered by the Ministry. After that, the bill will come up before the Cabinet. Then the bill will be put up for passing. The bill has to pass through all these stages. Today, the bill is being introduced only because we have one month's time before we meet in the Monsoon session in July.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Should the bill be allowed to be introduced without consideration? ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Let the Standing Committee do their work. The bill may be referred to the Standing Committee. Today, we are only introducing the bill. We are not trying to scuttle it. We want to scuttle

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

scuttle neither the debate nor the opinion of Rongpiji, nor do we want to scuttle what Banatwalla said. We, are introducing the bill today by acceding to the advice of Shivraj ji so that it is referred to the Standing Committee.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shivraj ji, do you have something to say?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Athawaleji, we have had enough of explanation. 19B has been elaborated at length.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I would like to say that the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs in a very-very skillful parliamentarian, and I have that she would not use skill to get permission from us as well as to do certain things which are not correct.

Sir, I would say that I appreciate her very much and thank her very much for saying on the floor of the House that she is not wanting to pass these Bills here in the House now but she is intending to send these Bills to the Standing Committee so that they can be thoroughly examined by the Members. This is a welcome step. We appreciate you and thank you also. This one thing.

The second thing is this. Let me, for the sake of putting the record correct and for future guidance, read certain things. Let me put my argument before you that we are not trying to force you. You have the majority. You will get it decided. You know that we have been cooperating. When some reasonable suggestions are given, we are cooperating more than what we said. I hope that my colleagues also will consider it and they would suggest also as to what I should do. The intention is to cooperate not to obstruct. Yet, we shall have to do things in a correct manner. You are reading only Direction 19A, which says:

"(1) A Minister desiring to move for leave to introduce a Bill shall give notice in writing of his intention to do so."

"(2) The period of notice of a motion for leave to introduce a Bill under this direction shall be seven days unless the Speaker allows the motion to be made at shorter notice."

Direction 19B says:

"No Bill shall be included for introduction in the list of business for a day until after copies thereof have

been made available for the use of members for at least two days before the day on which the Bill is proposed to be introduced."

Why are these provisions made? These provisions are made to facilitate the Members to read the Bills. As far as Shri Jaitley's Bill is concerned, that is in circulation. At least the idea is in circulation, if not the Bill. But as far as the Bills are concerned, we are quite obvious as to what these Bills were containing, until the time they were given to us. Yet, I am not going to obstruct it. I am trying to keep the correct record so that it can help us in the future.

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, you said that I might have allowed so many Bills to be introduced like this. I can assure you that I did not allow four Constitution Amendment Bills which were introduced in the House with a notice of one hour and were asked to be passed. I had not done that. ...(Interruptions) These are Constitution Amendment Bills. Shri Jaitley's Constitution Amendment Bill is relating to the Judiciary. That has been in circulation. The Review Committee has discussed; the media has discussed. We have some idea. Yet, it is a Bill which goes to the very root of the judicial functioning, and it will go to the Standing Committee. That is why we have an opportunity to express our views on this.

The second Bill relates to creating a body which has the administrative powers, the financial powers, and the legislative powers. You are asking us to pass such a Bill. Then, the second Bill is about doing away with a law which was in existence since 1983. You had enough time. We were sitting here for more than a month. It could have been possible for the Government of India to think that these are important pieces of legislation. We should come before the House, and it should be passed. It could have been done. Today is the last day of the Session. Only two or three hours before the House is going to be adjourned, you are introducing this Bill, and you are asking us to pass it. Moreover, why is this misunderstanding about passing it? It is because the note itself says that the same may be introduced and considered. The note itself is saying and you have assured us that it is not for consideration. So, that assurance of yours is helping us a lot to cooperate with you. You please understand. Let me say this is something which should never be done. Never, never should be done. These are Constitution Amendment Bills. This House is a sovereign body. You are expecting us to say

'yes' or 'no' to the Bills which will come before this House to be introduced. We do not know as to what are going to be the implications for the North-Eastern States, as to what are going to be the implications for the entire country, and as to what are going to be the implications for the Judiciary as such.

Then, we are creating so many new things. So, our agony is this. You have been sitting on this side, and you might have realised that agony also. May I tell you that one of such Bills was brought before this House—the Delhi Rent Control Bill—and at the last moment, it was passed.

16.00 hrs.

No hon. Member, but the Chairperson objected to the passing of that Bill. The Government and the Opposition, at that time, asked as to what the Presiding Officer has to do with this Bill? He had to just say 'yes' and 'no' and then, had to pass the Bill. But I had said that if they pass that Bill, they would repent; they would come back to this House very soon thereafter saying that Bill should not have been passed. Exactly, that has happened.

That Bill was passed here; it was taken to the Rajya Sabha; it was signed by the President also; but no notification was issued. Still I think, that Bill was not implemented. In the next Session itself, the Government came with some amendments to that Bill.

The Government and the Opposition, in one voice, had said that we were all sitting here and we were all doing these things; why should the Presiding Officer object to it?

Madam, you may understand the Bill; we may understand the Bill. But if the time is not available and if pieces of legislation are brought forward in this fashion, it is not correct. In other countries, there is no time limitation for passing Bills; as much time you need, you are given. I really wanted to speak on the Airports Authority of India Bill. I really wanted to speak, and I was itching to speak; it was coming from within, but yet I could not speak. Why? It is because time was very limited. Everyone was saying that we have to pass the Bill. We said, okay, if you want to pass the Bill, you could pass it.

But should we do our job of law making in this fashion? Should we allot only two hours when you are changing the entire civil aviation with that Bill and when you are going to do something very important for the

Judiciary? I think, you are going to create a 'sort of a new State', if not a new State; you are going to do away with the law; and yet, you are asking us to do it. Please do not do it in future at least. This is my submission to you.

Sir, you are sitting there; every Saturday it is to your fate and to my fate that we have to get involved in some arguments I hate to enter into my arguments with the Presiding Officers, and others also. Yet, I must say that nice you are sitting there, whatever ruling is given, we have to accept that. We will continue to accept. Yet our inner conscience keeps telling us that what is being done is probably not correct. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Sir, the time of the Private Members' Business is the fundamental issue. Even last Friday we did the same thing. I object to it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me tell you one thing. I will take the consent of the House now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, if the hon. Home Minister wants to say something, we would very much welcome it. I think, we are fully assured that it is going to go to the Standing Committee.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Yes.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, why is the Constitution Amendment Bill is being introduced in a hurry and scurry? Why is it being introduced by encroaching upon the time for private Members' Bill time? We boycott it.

16.03 hrs.

(*Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members then left the House*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The bill is being introduced contrary to rules, our party boycott it in protest.

16.03¹/₂ hrs.

(*Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members then left the House*)

16.03³/₄ hrs.

(II) CONSTITUTION (NINETY-EIGHTH AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of articles 124, 217, 222 and 231 and Insertion of new Chapter IVA)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Now, the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I introduce the Bill.

16.04 hrs.

(iii) THE CONSTITUTION (NINETY-NINTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003
(Amendment of article 332)*[English]*

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I introduce the Bill.

16.05 hrs.

(iv) SIXTH SCHEDULE TO THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003

[English]

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India in its application to the State of Assam.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India in its application to the State of Assam."

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev is not present.

Dr. Jayant Rongpi now. I think, you have already stated what you wanted to.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI (Autonomous District Assam): Yes, Sir.

Sir, I oppose this Bill at the introduction stage. I said at that time also that the Government is taking resort to Direction 19B of Directions of Speaker routinely. It is an extraordinary provision. Direction 19A is forgotten at the same time. This has created hurdles for us.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me tell you that unless the Speaker is convinced with the reasons given, he will not give permission. You may kindly have a look at the last paragraph of Direction 19B.

The hon. Speaker has given permission after fully convinced with the reasoning given.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, 19B talks of 'full reasons'. There is no reason here. Kindly see. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It says:

"Provided further that in other cases, where the Minister desires that the Bill may be introduced earlier than two days after the circulation of copies or even

withhold prior circulation, he shall give full reasons in a memorandum for the consideration of the Speaker explaining as to why the Bill is sought to be introduced without making available to members copies thereof in advance,..."

I have depended on this only and given him the permission.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Kindly see the reasons which have been given here. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not to you, the hon. Minister has given it to the hon. Speaker and after fully convinced with it, he has given permission.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Are these different from the ones which have been circulated? ...(*Interruptions*) It is my right to know. I would just like to know, was whatever sent to the hon. Speaker different from the one given to us. ...(*Interruptions*) It is the same.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Speaker is fully convinced with that and, therefore, has given permission to the hon. Minister.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: My submission is, full reasons have to be given and they have not been given. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: According to the hon. Speaker, he has been given the full reasons and that is why he has given permission.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: At least I can suggest something for the future. ...(*Interruptions*) Since you are laughing, I would like to make my point clear. What has been said in the Memorandum? The Government had taken a decision on 10th of February to do such and such things. It was a day before the Session had started, that is three months back. Why has the Government delayed and brought the bill now? What are the reasons for this delay, is precisely what I am asking. We are giving a go-by to all the rules, all the stipulations. This is the way the Parliament is being treated and my objection is basically to that. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Bansalji, it is necessary to introduce this bill as we have to refer it to the Standing Committee. ...(*Interruptions*) It is for the Hon. Speaker not you to take care of these things. Hon. Speaker is convinced. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The Government had taken a decision three months back. Why is it rushing through the Bill at the last minute? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It can be considered in the Standing Committee.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: This is not a point related to the Standing Committee.

[*English*]

This is about the procedure for introduction of Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The reason is that it is the last sitting of the House in this session. If the bill is not introduced we cannot refer it to the Standing Committee. We are introducing it today to refer it to the Standing Committee.

[*English*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The Government had taken a decision to do something and from 10th February it was waiting till the 9th of May to introduce the Bill. What was it doing for the last three months? Now, it is invoking the urgency provision. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They have given full reasons to the hon. Speaker and he in turn is convinced with them. He has admitted it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: If the hon. Speaker would have been in the Chair, I would have, in all humility, made the same submission. Reasons given are not adequate and not even *bona fide*. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: With complete authority and wisdom, the hon. Speaker has given permission.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the Government has been waiting for three months and now it is invoking the urgency provisions without any basis. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already given the ruling.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): Sir, he cannot question the authority of the Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After having been given the full reasons, the hon. Speaker has given permission. You are raising the same matter again. How can I answer it?

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Sir, I should be heard for two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It is our duty to raise the point. ...*(Interruptions)* Parliament works according to the law and according to the instructions and directions of the hon. Speaker.

What I am saying in this case is that one should understand that there are four Bills. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Sir, he should not question the authority of the Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, in one of the cases, it has been specifically said that this Bill is based on the decision of the Government taken on 10th February. Now, they are invoking the emergency provisions on the last day. This could very well have been brought two days before. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Even on this matter also, the hon. Speaker must have been convinced. That is why, he has given permission.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Sir, now the Government has said that the Bill will go to the Standing Committee. Here I want to request the Government, particularly in regard to the amendment of the Sixth Schedule that it has got very serious implications and that will not be good for the nation. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I would like to submit particularly regarding one clause where it is said that

Bodo communities will be given Scheduled Tribe hill status in the hill district of Assam. So, I want to request that it should be kept in abeyance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir, he can raise this in the Standing Committee. He can also participate in the discussion when the Bill would be brought for consideration and passing but not at the stage of introduction. At the stage of introduction, the only objection that he can raise is about legislative competence and nothing else.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Rongpi, you are a senior Member. You know when the Standing Committee takes up this Bill, you can very well make your submission to them. All other Members can also deliberate and then only it would come to the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, there are many palpable and tangible reasons for us to get it obstructed. We are not doing that. There are many other tangible reasons. I am not invoking those reasons. I am only saying that it is our duty also to bring certain points to the notice of the House and even to the notice of the hon. Speaker for future reference. When I used the word 'future', they were trying to laugh at me as if they know such more than what I do. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India in its application to the State of Assam."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.12 hrs.

(v) ILLEGAL MIGRANTS LAWS (REPEALING AND AMENDING) BILL, 2003

[English]

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND

PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 and further to amend the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 and further to amend the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.13 hrs.

MOTION RE: THIRTY-THIRD REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (Nominated): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 7th May, 2003."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 7th May, 2003."

The motion was adopted.

16.14 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR SC/ST, ETC.—*Contd.*

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to continue the discussion

on Private Members' Resolution regarding implementation of policies and programmes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the answer given by the hon. Deputy-Prime Minister to an Unstarred Question No. 6252 put by Shri Pravin Rashtupal. The question asked as "whether the Government have withdrawn all the circulars, issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, affecting the reservation of the SCs and STs. If so, the details thereof. If not, the time by which all these are likely to be withdrawn". The answer given was that 'already three Circulars have been revoked'. But in answer to part (c) of the Question the Minister replied, 'there is no proposal to withdraw all the Circulars issued by the Department of Personnel and Training affecting the reservation for SCs and STs.

Sir, I would like to again draw the attention of this august House to what had been assured by the hon. Prime Minister both inside and outside Parliament. He said that all the three offending DOPT Circulars issued in the year 1997-98 would be withdrawn. He had assured that it would be included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution to protect the constitutional welfare that has been assured by the Constitution.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, as the Mover of this Resolution you were expected to be present when this was taken up. Otherwise, you are always on your legs.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, the Government has encroached upon my time.

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, through you, I would like to appeal to the Government of India that in the next Session of Parliament, the Government should adhere to the promise made by the hon. Prime Minister to all the hon. Members of Parliament. We had a meeting about all these five Circulars issued by the Department of Personnel and Training. We had debated this issue for three days. In that meeting the hon. Prime Minister had given this assurance. But I was surprised to read the reply given by the Deputy Prime Minister that there was no such proposal to withdraw these orders. I would like to compel the Government to come out with a Constitution Amendment Bill—in addition to withdrawing the other two Circulars issued by the Department of Personnel and Training—for including it in the Ninth Schedule of our Constitution so that whatever constitutional welfare

[Dr. V. Saroja]

measures that have been conferred by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, are given effect to. This is not a charity. It is a right of this community.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the educational scholarships that are given by the Government. I would like to know as to how many students have been given scholarships for studies abroad. What are all the courses the students have selected for study. how many of them have completed their courses abroad and how many of them have come back to the country, and the services of how many of them are being utilised. Has there been any study conducted on these things? I have been given to understand that the courses that have been enumerated for pursuing in foreign countries are not need-based in relation to our country. I stand corrected, not even one per cent of the students have been able to avail of the scholarships for the courses that have been enumerated in the list.

Sir, during the year 1999, I had met the then Minister of Welfare, Smt. Maneka Gandhi and I showed her the list and also the number of courses that are not need-based in relation to our country. If that is the case, then why does the Government not pay attention in selecting the courses? Why not the HRD Ministry and the Welfare Ministry sit together and draw syllabus and also select courses so that our country will be benefited and this community will have upliftment by utilising the scheme of scholarships?

Here, I would like to narrate a painful incident. One poor boy belonging to the Scheduled Castes, whose mother is working at the Noon Meal Centre in my Parliamentary Constituency, was selected by the Netherlands Agriculture University and an amount of Rs. 8 lakh was required by him. The present hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu—who was not the Chief Minister at that time—appreciated that a body in my Parliamentary Constituency had been selected by the Netherlands Agriculture University. She asked me to contact the Central ministry and see that this student went abroad. When I contacted Smt. Maneka Gandhi, she turned a deaf ear to me. Finally, I approached our honourable madam and she said that she wanted this boy to go abroad and immediately did everything to send that boy to Netherlands Agriculture University. He is studying there now. This is the state of affairs as far as scholarships is concerned.

All the hon. Ministers of the Cabinet and this House should discuss separately the issue of educational status

of people belong to SC and ST. Social, political and economic empowerment will not come on their own. The committed responsibility of all the officials and also the planning and policy makers sitting in this august body has to play its role. Otherwise, we are directly held responsible for not attaining the expected elevation.

Regarding reservations, how will 69 per cent reservations come for SC, ST and OBCs? At least 18 per cent, plus one per cent reservations for SC and ST candidates respectively are confirmed in educational institutions and in Government jobs. How many State Governments have passed the Reservation Bill in their States? Why is the Government of India not insisting on the State Governments to pass this Reservation Bill so that at least these many SC and ST people will have social and educational upliftment? I appeal to all the Chief Ministers to take up a study on this aspect for the benefit of not only SC and ST, but also the OBCs are elevated correspondingly so that the country will progress in a better way.

In this connection, as all of us know, our respected leader, hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has done a lot. I was a member of the Tamil Nadu State Legislative Assembly and was one among the persons who passed a Resolution in the Assembly in this regard. It was brought here and both the Houses passed a Bill. Not only that, our hon. Chief Minister brought it under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India. Why not other Chief Ministers are doing this? If they do not do it, how will upliftment of SC and ST people come about?

16.24 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

There are State Units earmarked for the training and placement programme from the Social Justice and Empowerment of Women Departments. The ST Commission has been set up and NFDC is giving financial assistance to the concerned States. This Resolution talks about the implementation of policies and programmes for the SC and ST. With my experience of 20 years in the Government, I have not seen the expected upliftment. That means, there is something going wrong either in the policy or in the implementation of programmes. Therefore, the Government should come forward with policies and programmes which will suit these communities in various States. Similarly, the implementing agencies should be appointed keeping in mind the needs of the States concerned.

In 1994 the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had brought one naval scheme for the economic upliftment of people belong to SC and ST. She had taken loan from the World Bank and the Government of India for setting up of knitting units as that every entrepreneur belonging to Scheduled Castes will be given 10,000 sq. feet of land plus a constructed building. So, knitting units were given to them. Due to the change of the financial policies of the Government of India every now and then, almost 100 units were not able to take up business. Only 50 units are functioning now and those 50 units are also sick units. I appeal to the hon. Minister to waive the interest part of it so that they will be able to run their business and repay the loan. They do not want waiver of the entire loan. On behalf of the entrepreneurs belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of Mudalipalayam, Tripur, I plead you to consider my request.

Coming to the economic empowerment of women, hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had given an assurance on wasteland development. Now, the Government of India had come out with a wasteland atlas. I would appeal to the Government of India to improve upon the economic empowerment of women through self-help groups by way of wasteland development programme in association with the Ministry of Agriculture. Tribal women belonging to the Scheduled Castes, especially in the North-Eastern States, can be helped in the field of medicinal plants and other allied business so that wasteland development programme will also progress and there will be improvement in the economic empowerment of people belonging to SCs and STs by way of self-help groups specially by educating the women belonging to the SCs and STs.

The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has given free bicycles to nearly 75,000 girls who are studying in +1 and +2 classes. After two years of the implementation of this scheme, it has been observed that the percentage of drop-outs of students has come down and most of the students have gone for higher studies. I would appeal to the Government of India to suggest schemes like this to all other State Governments which would be very beneficial and useful for the upliftment of the SCs and STs. Thus, people would be able to avail of the facilities given in the Constitution of India.

Last but not least, I would like to say one point regarding sports personnel and athletes. Most of the poor and downtrodden people in the rural areas of my district, especially children residing in hostels meant for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, want a modified form of

balanced diet so that they will be able to compete with other sports personnel in the mainstream.

With these few lines, I conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I rise to support the Resolution moved by Shri Ramdas Athawale. The Resolution deals with the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes alongwith weaker sections of the society. We all know that it was part and parcel of the freedom struggle to eliminate the social inequalities that existed in the Indian society. There were people who were not allowed to travel or even they were not allowed to enter the public schools as also Government schools. They were not allowed access to any public restaurants. These people were prohibited from entering even the barber shops. That was the situation which prevailed at that time. So, there was no free education, not free air, no free travel for these sections of the society. Untouchability was the law of the land. Social inequality prevailed. It was a suffocating situation. So, under these circumstances, it was only just and proper that the freedom movement was started. They also took up the issue.

When we attained freedom, when the Constitution was enacted, specific provisions were made to do away with the inequalities that existed particularly in respect of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes people. We were fighting all along by bringing forward social legislation on an All-India basis as well as State basis. Equality differed from State to State. Social inequality differed from one State to another State. That was the situation. It was specifically provided in the Constitution that ten per cent seats in the elected bodies would be reserved for the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people. All these things are there. In the matter of public service, the reservation policy is to be followed. In the State of Kerala, it was there even prior to Independence. It was there during the time of the Kingdoms. Then also, it was provided that the weaker sections of the society would get a particular percentage of posts in public services. That was the situation. At that time, the Government was the largest employer. We did not have any public enterprises as they have flourished now. Now, we have public enterprises. The public sector enterprises are being owned by the Government. So, naturally, the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people will get the benefit of reservation in the matter of appointments also.

What is the present situation? Because of privatisation, we are strenuously and very forcefully

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

implementing the disinvestment policy. Even the profit-making public enterprises are sold out. The net result of that is that the opportunity will be lost in getting employment. The reservation granted to the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people will be lost. So, their chances of getting employment are becoming less and less. That is the present situation because the Government is selling and privatising the public enterprises.

Today, we have decided to privatise the Airports. Even at the risk of our country's security, we have decided to privatise the Airports. That was the last word said today. Almost all the public sector undertakings are being privatised. That being so, who will give jobs to the poor people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes? We have not improved their conditions so far. This is evident from the fact that every year we are amending the Constitution. We extend the reservation every ten years in the State Assemblies as well as in Parliament.

The situation is that there is no change as regards the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people. They are in the same position as they were prior to Independence. That is why, we are forced to extend it. But reservation is not a rule of perpetuity. It is for a particular period. When equality is attained, there is no question of any reservation for any section of the society. This reservation is meant to bring up those people to the level of the other developed people. That way, we could not achieve the desired objective. That is why, we are amending the Constitution every ten years. That is what we are doing. So also, in the matter of employment, the Government is the most important, largest employer. It holds good in respect of the States as well as the Centre. They were giving employment to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes on a Constitutional basis as well as on a State basis. There could be no escape. For the people who invest money, the big businessmen who are controlling and running the industries, they are not bound by reservation. When disinvestment takes place or when it is sold out, a section of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes employees will be thrown out. These people will be thrown out of employment not only from the public sector undertakings, but also from the Postal Department, the Telegraph Department and so many other Departments. It has become a very serious issue of the country. We will have to find a solution for this problem in the context of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation. The net result is that the poor people are thrown in the streets.

If we remember, there was an attempt to reserve seats for the weaker and backward sections of the community. There is Constitutional protection for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes but there is no Constitutional protection for the backward community. It was enshrined as a Directive Principle of State Policy. As a result of this, the Central Government appointed a Commission called the Mandal Commission. The Mandal Commission submitted a Report to the Government of India and they slept over the Report for years together. It was only in Shri V.P. Singh's time that the Report came out. It was published and it was made compulsory to be implemented. Then the matter went up to the Supreme Court. Now, simply because a person is belonging to a particular community excepting the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and he is rich enough to maintain himself, is he entitled to maintenance? The Supreme Court went into the issue, discussed the issue and they brought out this famous 'creamy layer' doctrine. The 'creamy layer' doctrine is still in force and in some States it is a denial of employment to candidates belonging to the Backward classes. So, everywhere we find that the issues are going from bad to worse.

There is another important matter relating to Kerala which I would like to mention here. The Scheduled Tribes were landless people. Land distribution is the most important aspect of this issue. Land will have to be distributed to them. Land reforms will have to be implemented. Even today, landless people are there. There is an agitation going on in Kerala by the aborigines or adivasis for getting land registration in their names. The recent incident in Mutanga is the offshoot of this. The question could be solved only by giving forest land. The Forest Act is against the proposal. Now, the State Government is in a dilemma about how to distribute the land to these people without getting the forest clearance. Agitation is going on for getting land for these tribals who are living in the tribal areas. The issue has become very serious now-a-days. So, it is just and proper that we find a method for bringing out a legislation.

It is high time that the State Governments as well as the Central Government take effective measures to meet the situation arising out of unemployment due to disinvestment, privatization and the present policy of the Government. The State Governments as well as the Central Government are not filling up the vacancies occurring in public service. Retirement vacancies are not being filled up. The Government is also contemplating to bring down the number of vacancies. Employment

opportunities in public service are also dwindling. Public sector undertakings are being sold out.

So, it has become a very serious issue so far as the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are concerned and it will have to be resolved.

Then comes the question of giving land to landless people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. This also requires enactment of some urgent legislation. On these matters, the Central Government should take the lead to find jobs for those people who are thrown out due to the present economic policy and they should also give land to the landless people throughout India. They should also urge the State Governments to bring in suitable legislation to solve the issue, as has been pointed out in the Resolution.

With these words, I support the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this Resolution was only two hours. That time is going to be over by 4.42 p.m. If the House agrees, we can extend the time by 45 minutes more for this Resolution.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time for this Resolution is extended by 45 minutes.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Resolution moved by Shri Ramdas Athawale.

The modern Indian society should always strive for having a casteless society. As we all know, the Vedic civilisation did not have a caste-ridden society. During the *Kumbh Mela* also, there are no separate *ghats* for different castes. In Orissa and in other eastern parts of the country, before Lord Jagannath everyone of the society is equal and there is no special provision for any caste. Devotees cutting across castes and even religion have sung hymns and have composed *bhajans* in praise of Lord Jagannath. Salbeka is popularly known as a *bhakta* and he is well-known for his numerous *bhajans*. I need not mention that he was a *Mohammadan* by birth, but was a practising Hindu. Dasia Bauri was another immortal *bhakta* of Lord Jagannath who is remembered by one and all in Orissa and Bengal for his utmost devotion to Lord Jagannath. An interesting story about him demonstrates that a devotee is placed much higher above the Lord than a person is determined by birth. Even today, people congregate at the *samadhi* of Bahura

Gosain, another prominent devotee who has a very large following.

Sir, the only way the lot of the depressed and the Backward classes can be improved is by creating a casteless society. The point is, once they lose their caste they lose their profession. That is the main crux of the problem. Then, what would be their mode of income? This basic problem is not being addressed to. For the last 50 years, it has been vouched that reservation is the panacea for the weaker sections, but actually it has not served the purpose.

Sir, in the Resolution moved by Shri Ramdas Athawale, a mention has been made about social justice. What is social justice? What we understand by 'social justice' in India means many things to most people. It is a coin that offers solution on the one side and promises to retain its premium value if the extent of social injustice is allowed to grow on the other side. To the authors of the Constitution, ushering in social justice was an honest commitment with an unrealistic time limit. It was this error in the original document that allowed a certain section of the political class to turn the policy of job reservation into an opportunity for creating a active vote bank. Social justice was a low-key issue until 1989. After the Mandal Commission Report, as was mentioned just now, on job reservation, no one has shown the moral courage to question the rationale of a policy that has increased the level of general tension without offering social justice and the economic emancipation to the country's vast underclass.

Adopting a resolution is not going to help, nor is it going to make the private sector offer jobs without applying the test of merit. The creation of merit will help the depressed class, the weaker sections of the society in joining the expanding mainstream of professional excellence without having to feel small in the eyes of their colleagues. All out attempt should be made to expand merit, not through reservation of any sorts, but through excellence.

Now, I want to deliberate on certain specific aspects. My humble submission is that reservation has not moved the society to create a caste-less society, but has created fissures in the society. Those who took the benefit of reservation have created a sub-caste for themselves, especially, economically and have rarely tried to uplift the others who are the weaker lot. This is the situation in the last fifty years of reservation. I want to make it clear that I am not against reservation *per se*. But my point of

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

view is, through reservation, if you are not moving in the right direction, we should make provisions to correct it.

The resolution moved by Shri Ramdas Athawale clearly states that the Government should take rigorous steps for implementation of policies. That means, it doubts whether the Government is actually taking rigorous steps. If they are not taking, they should take them. This is the suggestive clause and policies and programmes for socio-economic and political upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections of the society should be made by strengthening the administration and by bringing forward suitable legislation. These are the two clauses, which he has mentioned.

Today, my suggestion would be that 30 per cent of the Government purchase should be sourced from among the weaker sections of the society. I would request the Government to ensure that this is done. As it is said, in the last deliberations, I think, this was mentioned, that this is a positive discrimination, not a negative discrimination through which this activity that is borrowed from the American usage has been practised by them. This is a positive discrimination.

You have to identify certain areas where large section of women are employed, large section of weaker sections and different sections of the society are employed. You have to identify those areas, those firms, those organisations or those institutes and buy at least 30 per cent of the total Government consumption from those firms and institutes so that it helps the weaker sections of the society. It opens up the avenues of business and trade for the weaker sections of the society and that is the area, which has been out of the purview.

A point was also made about the land reforms and we are all aware about it. Land resources are limited. Land is not being created in our country and as was discussed some months ago, when we were discussing the ban on cow slaughter, a mention was also made how to identify specific land and protect that land for the cows and cattle in our country.

A law is prevalent in most of the States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhartruhari Mehtab, I am not stopping you but there are two more speakers. The Minister has to reply, and then the Member will also reply. There is a limited time. Kindly conclude.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: An attempt was made in the fifties by Acharya Vinobha Bhave which is

very aptly known as *Bhoodan Movement* and we know what is the result of that. There are major hurdles in the distribution of land. There is a problem of the availability of land itself, as was mentioned by Shri Radhakrishnan, a problem which the Kerala Government is facing. In the seventies, ceiling surplus land case came into being. In many States, lands of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes cannot be purchased by others. This law is prevalent. Has at any point of time, any investigation been made? What has happened to the lands that were distributed after the *Bhoodan Movement*, after the ceiling surplus land was distributed to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the weaker sections of the society? Is there a body to look after this at the national level and at the State level? To my mind, there is none. To find out where that land has gone ultimately, nobody is keeping track of that.

I would now come to the education aspect. It was thought earlier that free education will help the depressed and the weaker sections of the society to be enlightened and empowered through knowledge. But nowadays we find that there are two sets of education in the society. Public schools are rampant in most of the urban areas and it has also gone into the rural areas and thousands of rupees are spent to educate children in different curricula. Free schools are in a dilapidated condition. Many schools do not have adequate staff, they do not have adequate infrastructure. *Ashram* schools are there but they are not sufficient. I would request, through you, to the Government to have more number of *Asram* schools in those areas.

I would come to the Reservation aspect. Reservation deals with two major issues, namely, reservation in education and reservation in services. In educational institutions, in schools and colleges, there are drop-outs. I would deal only with the drop-outs. Who are the drop-outs? Even in primary schools, in the high schools, even at the college level, who are the drop-outs? I would like to insist that more stress should be given to impart different skills to the students. I think, more such polytechnics, ITIs, should be constructed at the State level.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I will conclude with only two other points. I need not discuss about the services but I would mention about the service sector of our society. What was the system earlier before we adopted the Constitution? The system was, a professionalism was created through the support of the society.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate and conclude now. There are two or three more speakers and the hon. Minister has to reply.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I think we have to conclude by 5.30 pm. I will just take another 4 or 5 minutes and then I will conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken 15 minutes.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Okay Sir I am skipping some points. But I would like to mention about the sports activities. I need not go into the reservation in education, reservation in services, reservation in other aspects, but I would like to mention one incident which I had witnessed.

In the United States, which is being quoted for various other reasons, they do not have reservation in sports but the African and American people, by their sheer perseverance, excelled and they are excelling in the Olympics. How could they do it? They were slaves 200 years back. How could they do it? It is only through their sheer perseverance to excel in the society and to make their presence felt. I think, that type of excellence should be given recognition. More schools for football and more schools for hockey—at some pockets, some such schools have been established—should be established through the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the active co-operation of the Sports Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Now, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Sir, more people from the rural areas can be picked up, can be trained and they can excel at the national and international level.

To conclude, Sir, I would like to mention about...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called another Member to speak.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Sir, I am concluding now.

The Social Justice Ministry can collaborate with the Sports Ministry, with the Youth and Sports Affairs Ministry and extend a helping hand to uplift the people, to excel in different scheme of things and establish their position in the society.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was to undo centuries of gross injustice and atrocities heaped on a section of the society whom we now recognise as the Scheduled Castes that the founding fathers of our Constitution had made specific provisions for reservation in certain fields. However, Sir, we find, as it has been said very eloquently before me, that even after 50 years of working of the Constitution we have made no substantial progress in achieving our lofty goals or ideals. And that is what makes us sit up and think as to what has gone wrong where. I would also hasten to add, like Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, that I am not against reservation. Rather I strongly advocate the retention of these provisions in the Constitution till the time we are able to really achieve an ideal classless society. But at the same time we have got to see as to what has gone wrong on our way to achieve that objective. Sir, we have found to our dismay that the benefit of reservations has not really spread across the board. Only a limited section amongst the Scheduled Castes has derived benefit therefrom during these years. And it was in such context that the Supreme Court also referred to what is called the OBC 'creamy layer'. The debate goes on as to what we really to about it though we have not really been able to take really a strong principled stand thereon. But in the process, as I would say, Sir, the needy people among the Scheduled Castes continue to suffer.

I congratulate Shri Ramdas Athawale for bringing about this Resolution whatever its worth before the Government otherwise, but the fact remains that he has focused the attention of Parliament and through Parliament the attention of the nation on glaring inequalities that prevail in our system even today and the need, the imperative to take strong urgent steps to achieve the results which we have intended through various provisions of the Constitution and different laws.

Sir, I would not like to go in detail about those but it is for each one of us to see that even after 50 years, even the basic fundamental rights of every citizen are being denied to those people. Even today, they are living in unhygienic and insanitary slum clusters, where there is no facility worth the name.

17.00 hrs.

There are no roads. Rather, those are things which would sound quite high. There is no approach road to those places. There is no provision for drinking water. There are no toilets provided there. It is unfortunate that

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

the ladies have to go and defecate in the open. They have to suffer all those humiliations in different places. Who does not know that? But what are we really doing about these things?

We have a plethora of schemes before us. The second Resolution talks of some of those schemes. But what has been the concerted effort made in that direction? We find that wherever such a scheme is there, the benefits are concerned not by the needy people but others. In this context I would like to say that the first step that we have to take is towards providing houses which I would say is the basic right. That must be provided to everyone in the country before we move forward. That would, in fact, give them some scope to live with a little dignity. Thereafter, everybody does not really press upon the Government to give a job, but they do expect of the Government that certain conditions are made available whereby those people have the opportunity, and there are avenues open to them. But that is what is missing now. It is not a question of Party line. We have to earnestly introspect on this and see what we have to really do in that regard.

I would feel that besides the reservation, what is necessary to be done today is this. I know there are places where there are certain schemes for the training of the Scheduled Caste youth and others, but that is again inadequate. It is in that regard that I would like to make this point. You have to really provide conditions. You have to equip those people to rise on their own feet and face the challenges of life. You have to prepare them to face the future which is not really being done.

We introduced sometime back the mid-day meal scheme in the school because that scheme was considered to be a way of attracting the students to the schools, but that is again not being followed. I have seen it. ...*(Interruptions)* I would just seek your indulgence for two or three minutes. I wanted to touch those points. I will skip over everything that I have jotted down and I will just come to my last point.

The hon. Minister knows that I have been pressing this point earlier. We are talking of implementing the schemes for the Scheduled Caste people. One thing which entitles them to claim benefit as a member of the Scheduled Caste is being denied, particularly in the place where from I come, that is, Chandigarh. I made that point before the hon. Minister in this House over a year back. We have what is called the Constitution Scheduled Castes (Union Territories) Order, where under, for each

Union Territory, certain castes are enumerated to show that a person who belongs to these caste will be termed as Scheduled Caste and he would be entitled to the benefits available to the Scheduled Caste people. But those benefits are being denied, I would say, in the most bizarre manner.

There is one sentence there that the reference to the Union Territory of Chandigarh shall mean a reference to the Territory which came into being on 1st of November, 1966. I am just trying to recollect the wording. Now, how is that being interpreted? A person who approaches the authorities for the certificate is being denied that certificate if he or his parents came to the Union Territory of Chandigarh after that day. Before that day, Chandigarh was just a town in its incipient stage. There was hardly any population there. Chandigarh is a new town built after acquiring land of a large number of villages. So, there was nothing before that day. Today, Chandigarh is a cosmopolitan city attracting people from all over the country.

This is a very important point which I have to make. Today, if somebody who had come to the Union Government of Chandigarh after 1st November, 1966, but admittedly even if he is belonging to a caste—let me take one particular caste, *Valmiki*, and let me say that he comes from Punjab and Chandigarh is the capital of Punjab—he may be having a certificate as a Scheduled Caste person in Punjab, but if he seeks a certificate in Chandigarh, he is denied that certificate. There may be many such cases. I know of a case where one person who got service as a Scheduled Caste person in the Air Force, but his brother who was a resident of Chandigarh and had shifted unfortunately—that is the word I use for that poor person—to Chandigarh, got selected again in the Air Force, but he was not finally given the job because he failed to produce the certificate and it was not his failure. It was the sheer denial of that right to him by the Chandigarh Administration.

That is the point I wished to make to this hon. House and particularly to the hon. Minister. He assured me that he would look into the matter and get the needful done but the Government moves slow, as we all know, and it is the red tape which binds the Government. What schemes and what benefits are we talking about that we want to extend to these people? He wants only a certificate. A certificate would be given to him only if he belongs to the Scheduled Caste and this is no assurance or guarantee of any benefit being extended to him. After getting the certificate, he would have to carry it in his hand and go around from pillar to post seeking a job though your system of education is only churning out

unemployable unemployed. That is beside the point. I am only asking why do you not give him that certificate and that right to say that he belongs to a Scheduled Caste. Why do you not recognise that and let him go around seeking a job? ...*(Interruptions)*

I think, I will have to conclude now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Punnu Lal Mohale is not here. Shri K.H. Muniyappa.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me an opportunity.

I congratulate Shri Ramdas Athawale for moving this Resolution to implement the policies and programmes meant for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): You have already spoken. Is there a provision to speak twice on an issue? I was present, you have spoken.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Are you saying that I have spoken on this issue?

DR. SANJAY PASWAN: I am sure, you have spoken.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I have no idea.

DR. SANJAY PASWAN: But I am sure of that.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I would give some more valid points for you to take up. It would be useful for you.

DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Sir, the hon. Member has already spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have already participated, you cannot participate again.

DR. SANJAY PASWAN: You may kindly get it checked.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, I do not remember if I have spoken. In that case, Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan would speak.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Or, you can give me time to make a few more points. ...*(Interruptions)* In that case, you can give me two more minutes.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, I request you to permit Shri Natchiappan.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Natchiappan, you have only five minutes and you are the last to speak.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: I fully support the Resolution moved by Shri Ramdas Athawale. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): This discussion was to take place earlier.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will also be given time after the reply of hon. Minister.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: This discussion was to start at three O'clock and it has started at 4.15 now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time has been extended by 45 minutes. You please take your seat, we have to take up Half-an-hour Discussion at 5.30 PM.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: This Resolution is very much relevant at this juncture when we are going towards globalisation. For the past fifty years independent India has given a lot of help to the *dalits* to come out of their trap but at the same time only about ten per cent of the total population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has come out of that trap. The socio-economic and political upliftment of the people is very important and very relevant even at this day because earlier they were helped in education. They have shown that they are not inferior to anybody. Even if they are the surgeons in medical field, they are the top most people; as scientists also, they are the top most people; and they are the top administrators. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who was the leader of the Dalit Movement, made even the Constitution of India. In the same way, there are so many leaders, like Babu Jagjivan Ram, etc. who have come up. Shri K.R. Narayanan was the President of India and he was a famous and international diplomat. In the

[Shri E.M. Sudarshana Natchiappan]
same way, we can go on telling that many people have come up.

But, at the same time, even now, 90 per cent of the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are suffering. Even if we have given the lands to them to plough, houses for them to live and even if we have given them small loans, they have not yet come up in life. This situation has to be taken into consideration as to how they can come up. However, if we make some studies, we can very easily find out by the lands given to them that the lands given to them are not ploughable lands. They have to go for irrigation and they have to beg before others. Then, they have to work till the nature gives them some shower for their work. Therefore, in the agricultural fields, *dalit* people could not come up in life.

In the same way, they could not even repair the houses that were constructed for them. They are living in the same houses which were in a dilapidated condition. Therefore, that is also not useful. Then, what is useful? It is only by giving them skill and by giving them the professional courses that we can do it. That alone will make them to come up in life. Therefore, we have to find out a new scheme by which each and every family is given a skill to come out of that poor trap or that poverty trap. We have to find out some way for them.

Here I would like to point out that TRYSEM training was given for them, but that was left out. Various funds were given to them for their skill development, but that was not pursued. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: When they have gone to different parts of the world as labourers, like Singapore, Malaysia or Arabian countries, they have developed their family background. Therefore, we have to find out in which way they should come up in life.

I would like to mention two important points here. One is, 90 per cent of the people have not come up. Second, people who have been given reservation by late Shri Rajiv Gandhi's proposition of giving 33 per cent reservation in the Local Board election, Panchayat President, the Mandal President Chairmen and the District Chairmen, should have proper training to run their show as the Chairmen of elected bodies. They should be allowed to have more skills to develop. In the same way,

the people, who have come out, who have got the qualification, etc., at the level of Supreme Court, High Court and each and every places, are not given proper representation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: The vacancies, which are now to be filled up even after the directions of the Supreme Court and after passing our Resolution in the Constitution amendment, are not filled up. This has to be done.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, certainly this House has got an opportunity to discuss an important issue wherein we have got a new guidance on what we should do for the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes and neglected sections of the society. Some of the Hon. Members of the House with experience in this field like Shri Ramjilal Suman, Shri Munilall, Shri Ramvilas Paswan, Shri Mohan Rawale, Shri Muniyappa, Shri Subadh Roy, Dr. Jagannath, Dr. V Saroja, Shri Radhakrishnan, Shri Mahtab, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and Shri Sudarsana Natchiappan have enlightened us with their valuable suggestions. We all are aware that scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes constitute a major part of India's population. All should endeavour to bring equality in the society. It is said in the preamble to the constitution that:

"We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a"... the following adjectives are used there....."sovereign socialist secular democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens: Justice, social, economic and political; Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

Equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;"

The term "social justice" means that no one is subjected to injustice. This is the viewpoint taken about social justice in the Constitution of India with reference to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other deprived sections of the society. We have talked about social and economic justice. Certainly, we want political justice and

economic justice in order to bring about social justice. They will get social justice only when they get political justice. It will take a long time to elaborate the schemes started by the Government for their upliftment as this is not a small subject. The Government are trying to implement the suggestions which have been received so that work in the field of education may be carried on. Economic management for them is also to be ensured. An hon. Member was just saying that we should think to provide them facilities for better living standards, health and education. You are aware of the magnitude of the problem, we should work in the field of education keeping this in mind. For the benefit of members of scheduled castes and other backward classes we have decided to start new scholarships, we have decided to provide them admissions to residential schools and public schools we have decided about certain things for establishing community centres. We have constraint of time. The things which should be brought to light, have been repeated time and again. Bansalji wants to know what is happening in Chandigarh and the other parts of the country. Certainly, I am here to reply to his queries but the constraints. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: This is an important issue, so the time should be extended.

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I am ready to reply to all this but I am also bound by the time constraint as you are. I am bound to obey the chair. Some of the rules are such that their application is restricted to the area where scheduled castes have been notified. Therefore, it is not possible in any part of India. State Governments or the Union Territories. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I have mentioned such castes which are entered at both of the places. I am not saying that if it is entered in the list of one place then you give it the same status at the other place also. I am talking about the caste which is entered as Scheduled Caste at both the places.

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Then there should be no problem.

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bansalji has raised a right point. In Madhya Pradesh, some castes are entered in the list of Scheduled Castes in a district while they are not entered in such list in other districts. It is a very serious situation in Madhya

Pradesh. Whenever we happen to visit Madhya Pradesh, people generally come to complain as to why they are being subjected to this injustice? Recommendation of the State Government has come to the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time is running out. We have to take up half-an-hour discussion at 5.30 PM. Hon. Minister will not be able to complete his reply.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): This is really a serious issue. 'Dhobi' caste in Madhya Pradesh is listed as Scheduled Caste in two or three districts but it is not so listed in other districts.

[Translation]

I made a request to the State Government in this regard but it is not sending such a proposal to the Union Government. If it is sent then I would request the Union Government to ponder over it seriously.

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not a question of one state alone but is happening in various states where in one district a particular caste is included in the scheduled caste category while it may not be included in the same category in another district. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, this is a very serious matter.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Minister give reply.

[English]

He has not completed his reply.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the last two sessions. ...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not permitted you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not permitted you. Let him complete his reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing except the reply of hon. Minister will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOHAN POTAI (Kanker): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. ...(Interruptions)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, like hon. Member said that there are some cases which fall in the scheduled caste category in one district and the same cases are not included in the scheduled caste category in other districts.

17.21 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was referring to Shri Athawale's proposal which relates to some cases being included in the scheduled castes category in certain districts and these very castes are not included in the scheduled caste category in certain other districts. You know that the State Government. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOHAN POTAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no uniformity in the entire country in the matter of SCs/STs. As Gond Caste is included in the ST category in the entire country but it is included in the SC category in Uttar Pradesh and the same caste is in the backward class category in Bihar. So, this has led to an anomaly. Therefore, I request the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment that the people of all castes should get equal rights and if a particular caste has been included in the ST category in any particular area, the same yardstick should be applicable to the rest of the country also. What steps the Government propose to bring in uniformity in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: This was not the point of order of the hon. Member. Mr. Minister you kindly give reply to the question.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will try to satisfy the hon. Member. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU (Anantapur): Sir, the Valmiki (Boya) community in Andhra Pradesh is treated as Scheduled Tribe in the agency areas and it is treated as Backward Community 'A' in the plain areas. I request that the hon. Minister may kindly look into this, rectify it and see that it is treated as the same in the entire State. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I want to inform the House that our party in the leadership of Shri Mulayam Singhji is staging a demonstration at Lucknow on 12th May. ...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. We have reliable information that efforts are being put to disrupt our demonstration. Your cadres are being terrorised. People have been arrested in Bareilly, people are being threatened in Agra and Budaun. We have confirmed information that some miscreants and people in the administration are trying to create such conditions that the demonstration by Shri Mulayam Singh earns a bad name. You are aware that the spirit of revenge is prevalent there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want your protection. We want to bring this thing on record in Lok Sabha that there is a possibility of creating such conditions that senior leaders in Uttar Pradesh can be arrested under different section related to serious crimes.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is to adjourn today, so we want to make our submission. We want to bring this thing on record in Lok Sabha that this is a serious matter. I can tell you everything regarding factual position if you want to ask me in private. There is a serious conspiracy. First, orders were issued in Uttar Pradesh to ban the entry of buses and movement of tractors but our people want to reach there. Shri Sherwani the member of our party has informed us that Deputy Superintendent of Police in Badauni called seven persons and kept them in lock up and later released them with the warning not to participate in the demonstration. He formally gave them directions. You please find out the facts in your own way.

Another conspiracy is this that hundreds of policemen will be there in the demonstration in plain clothes. They can carry hand grenades or any other such material which may lead to violence. The Government has lost its case in the High Court and because of this they have got so

annoyed that they are finding ways to frame serious and bogus cases against our leaders like Shri Janeshwar Mishra, Shri Amar Singh, Shri Ramjilal Suman and even myself or nay other leaders and send us to jail. I am saying it every seriously. I do not say anything on phoney grounds saying it and I cannot say any thing which may prove me wrong. If you are alone and ask about it in your chamber then I will tell you the source from where I have got this information. The serious thing in it is this that they may stop the demonstration also. You know that it was also stopped on 21st February. Bullets were fired in our office, hand granades were huled on our office and all the goods of our office were broken. All the vehicles of our party were damaged and then the stage where I was to go there a teargas shell fell upon me. I thought that perhaps it is the smoke emitted from silencer of my vehicle. I got the doors of the office closed. Then Kunwar Akhilesh Singh showed you the bullets. In this way our demonstration was stopped on 21st February also. The history of our demonstration is the that they have always been peaceful. Neither any officer nor any parties can say anything wrong in this regard. So far, all the parties are of this view that demonstrations organised by Samajwadi Pary have always been peaceful. When we want to go to jail then certainly we do something. But this demonstration is peaceful this may be the biggest conspiracy in this that some hand granade may be kept there so that serious cases may be framed and point it as a serious issue.

A full meeting has been held at the level of the Government and the Chief Minister. Big officers right from D.G.P. have connived in this conspiracy. As such I want to raise this matter for information of the House the demonstrations are being stopped there and conspiracy is being hatched to frame some serious and bogus cases against our leaders this is what I want to bring to your notice. The House is about to adjourn. I am one of the members of this House. I need your protection.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, We want that you please give instruction to the Government, the Union Minister Shri Sharad Yadav or other Ministers of the Government who are present here. Shri Sharad Yadav ji, this is a serious matter. Time and situation do not always remain the same. While in opposition we criticise the wrong policies and wrong deeds of the Government and express our anguish through demonstrations. But today we are not being allowed to exercise our democratic and constitutional rights. Therefore, I beseech you Mr. Speaker Sir, to kindly intervene and instruct the government so that we may be protected from the big conspiracy being hatched against us.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister, Shri Sharad Yadav is sitting here. I would only say that he should bring it to the notice of the Hon. Home Minister.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would definitely apprise the Home Minister of the sentiments and facts put forth by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

MR. SPEAKER: You should bring it to the notice of the Home Minister.

I am extending the time of the House by 15 minutes because I want him to complete his reply. But as per the rules of procedure and practice 5.30 P.M. is the time to take up half an hour discussion and after that you will complete your reply.

[English]

A Half-an-hour discussion is in the name of Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi. But, he has authorised Shri K. Yerrannaidu to initiate this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI (Tiruchirappalli): The resolution is left incomplete. Sir, the Members should be allowed to participate in the discussion. The time allotted for this is already very meagre, and in between you are stopping the Resolution and the response of the Minister. At least, you kindly allow the Minister to complete his reply, and then you can go ahead with the Half-an-hour discussion. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can very well understand that the Half-an-hour discussion has to be taken now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker Sir, 3 P.M. was fixed for the Private Member's Bill but this has been taken up at around 4.15 P.M. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Everywhere there is discrimination. It is an important Resolution concerning 35 per cent to 40 per cent of the total population. Sir, you kindly agree and allow more time for this. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will explain him the Rules.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I will complete in 10 minutes. I only need 10 minutes for this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: We come to the Parliament with a hope to express our concerns and problems. It is not that only 'Dalit' Members have spoken here. All the important Members have spoken here on this issue. You have asked the Minister to respond, and he has not responded. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has already started his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: We want a reply from him. Mr. Speaker Sir, we want a solution. Hon. Bansal has said that certificates have not been issued. Has the Minister got any mechanism in the Ministry to find out the details or has he got any idea about it? Let the Minister suggest a solution to this.

MR. SPEAKER: I will explain the rule to you.

Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that discussion on this Bill must be continued. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not mind keeping this pending. At six o'clock, we will have to conclude the business of the House as per the procedure, and the discussion on the Resolution will continue in the next Session.

[Translation]

I am echoing the same thing viz. it will be taken up in the next session.

[English]

Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai, I have accepted your request.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, injustice is being done on the matter of Scheduled Castes

and Scheduled Tribes. The time fixed for it was 3.15 p.m. while it was taken up for discussion at 4.15 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We will now take up the Half-an-Hour discussion. After that, I am not going to take up this Resolution. Shri Ramdas Athawale has the right to reply. Therefore, the Resolution will be postponed and it will be taken up in the next Session.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, You had allotted two and a half hour for Private Member's Bills and Resolutions. Out of that one hour and fifteen minutes have been spent on government business and my resolution has been delayed. One hour fifteen minutes have been spent on government business. I would like to request that I should get at least that much time so that I may be able to introduce my resolution.

17.31 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Withdrawal of FCI from Procurement of Foodgrains

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikulam): Sir, regarding procurement of paddy and rice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We will have to complete this discussion in half-an-hour.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, regarding procurement of paddy and rice, the Government of India has decided to procure 35 lakh tonnes from Andhra Pradesh this year. So far, they have procured only 18 lakh tonnes of rice due to the drought situation prevailing in Andhra Pradesh.

Last year, when the Government of India fixed the Minimum Support price, we requested it to increase the price. Then, the Government of India, in the name of special drought relief have given Rs. 20, in addition to the Minimum Support Price. Now, the farming community and even the millers in Andhra Pradesh have requested the Government of India that instead of 50 per cent procurement of paddy, it should procure 75 per cent of

paddy. Recently, after the requests made by various States, like Punjab, Haryana, Orissa, Chandigarh, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, the Government of India have already permitted them to increase the procurement up to 75 per cent in the above States.

I would like to impress upon the Government of India to increase the procurement up to 75 per cent in respect of Andhra Pradesh also so that the farmers can get the Minimum Support Price. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has also written a letter on 30.04.2003 regarding this increase in procurement, that is, from 50 per cent to 75 per cent. Last year, to provide Minimum Support Price to each and every farmer, the Government of Andhra Pradesh strictly implemented these things and the millers have purchased a lot of paddy, which is now being stored in the mills, and the farmers also have a lot of paddy crop. The FCI has not been procuring from them and, that is why, the farmers are not getting the Minimum Support Price.

Due to the prevailing drought conditions, I am requesting the Government of India to give directions to the FCI to procure 30 lakh tonnes of rice and also increase the procurement of par-boiled rice from five million tonnes to seven million tonnes. Only then, the farmers will get the Minimum Support Price. On one side, we are facing drought. You are sending three lakh million tonnes of rice from Punjab and Haryana to Andhra Pradesh, but due to rakes problem, we are not getting that rice properly. That is why, the price of rice is increasing alarmingly. In this situation, you have to allow the farmers in Andhra Pradesh to give more rice for procurement. Only then, Andhra Pradesh would get the rice and the rakes' problem also would be solved.

The third request, which I have raised in the morning, is that in addition to the Minimum Support Price, Rs. 20 should be given extra as a special drought relief to the farming community. You have given this from the 'Drought Cess' to the wheat-producing farmers in Haryana and Punjab.

The same facility has not been extended to the paddy farmers. So, I request the hon. Minister to give Special Drought Relief of Rs. 20 to the farmers for the irabi crop also.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have with me the names of two hon. Members who want to ask questions. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat may ask the question if he wants to ask.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (*Ajmer*): Mr. Speaker Sir, through you I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether there is any shortcoming in the targeted PDS and other systems under various schemes including welfare schemes of states to supply foodgrains? What does the Government proposed to do in future to remove them because in some states godowns are filled with foodgrains while in other states godowns are empty. As a result of it there is no storage facility in those places where foodgrains are procured while in places where procurement is not being done, there is difficulty in making supply of foodgrains to the people. There is a problem like shortage of railway racks and there are other problems as well due to which goodgrains are not supplied in time.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Food Corporation of India is doing a good job under the guidance of the hon. Minister. The organisation has a very good track record and there are 60 thousand employees, attached with 5696 godowns of the Corporation who are engaged in procurement process through offices. But there are problems like shortage of employed and racks, Foodgrains are not being sent to those places which are running short of foodgrains and where there is not procurement centre. As a result of which wheat is not supplied in time which is generally required to be supplied as a relief measure alongwith cash payment during the drought situation. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would do something to solve this problem.

[*English*]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (*Sivaganga*): Sir, in the CAG Report No. 3 of 2002, it was stated that:

"Unproductive expenditure/investments amounting to Rs. 341.44 crore attributable to construction of excess dwelling units, non-recovery of inter-corporate desoposits, investments in joint ventures, pay and allowances of idle labour, injudicious import of components, procurement of equipment, etc., were noticed in 38 cases."

Has any action been taken by the Government so far in this regard? If so, what is the stage of that action? Is the Central Government going to revise the policy of procurement through FCI? All the State Governments, whether run by BJP or other parties, are opposing the decentralisation. They want the procurement to be done by the FCI. Otherwise, some subsidy should be given to

the State Governments. What is the policy of the Government?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, it was assuring to learn that the Government does not propose to withdraw FCI from the procurement process. Therefore, our next anxiety obviously was the abnormal increase in what you call the economic cost of the wheat which is ultimately released for distribution under the PDS. It was in answer to one of the Questions today that we found that the price is raised abnormally—firstly the procurement cost and then the distribution cost. We would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps he proposes to take because I find storage charges twice, interest twice and cartage twice. How can you curtail this and ensure that the FCI remains in the field, works efficiently and the foodgrains of good quality are made available to the people at affordable costs?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Speaker, during the year 2002-2003, procurement of paddy was supposed to be done by the FCI in the KBK Districts and additional six Districts of Western Orissa. However, I am sorry to state that not a single grain was procured by the FCI. The reason they gave for non-procurement was that the paddy was not of FAQ quality. If that is the case, how is it that for 50 years after Independence, all the farmers have been able to sell their paddy and the grain was FAQ to the miller agents and to rice mill owners? What was the reason for not procuring a single grain of paddy last year in the Districts of Orissa?

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I have not to make a speech, I have to ask one thing. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are constantly in the grip of drought for the last so many years and the condition of the farmers in these states is miserable. I have visited a number of villages in my constituency recently. I want to let you know that the Food Corporation of India is not doing procurement at all in the rural areas. I am telling you about the situation prevalent in Chhatarpur and Tikamgarh district under my constituency and the situation is not different in the neighbouring districts also.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Minister whether the Government would conduct inquiry to ascertain as to how much wheat the Food Corporation of India has procured there and how much money has been

provided for the purpose. The farmers from whom wheat has been procured are not getting payments. They don't have sacks and the farmers all over Madhya Pradesh are facing difficulties due to mismanagement. ...*(Interruptions)* Would you get it investigated and issue directions. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri N. Janardhana Reddy.

Though their names are not there in the notice of this Half-an-Hour Discussion, I have permitted them to ask one small question each, as a special case.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Narasaraopet): Sir, the question asked specifically on the 7th March 2003 was that whether the Government is considering the supply of foodgrains to the deficit States like Kerala.

Those days, Pandit Nehru had established the FCI. But it is only recently, after this Government took over, that they are wanting to do away with the FCI. So, I would like to know specifically whether the Government is thinking to continue with the FCI, MSP and the procurement system that are available in the country to help the farmers.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the questions asked by hon'ble Yerrannaiduji, Chaturvediji, Reddyji and several other hon'ble members can be discussed in detail. I think these questions have been discussed here in this House several times. Just now one of my friend was speaking. The Government are of the view that the instruments given to them are meant to provide remunerative prices to the farmers of the country. Various types of calamities occur in the country. A large chunk of our population is living below the poverty line particularly the people who need food to live. We will have to find out a solution of this problem. Ours is a vast country and different parts of the country some times experience drought, flood and earthquake. Ours is a vast country so the work pertaining to procurement and transportation of foodgrains and implementation of Antyodaya Anna Yojana is a big responsibility. Nobody can sulk from his responsibility. At the time when the N.D.A. Government took over at that time subsidy of Rs. 9000 crores was being paid under the public distribution system and at present that has increased to Rs. 18000 crores. Foodgrains subsidy has

also increased to Rs. 40,000 crores. Whosoever set up this, it is certainly a thing which is absolutely necessary for the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I have emphasised on the role of the Food Corporation of India. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) FCI is the problem. We want to know about it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the issue of subsidy is different but the first basic question, on which there was half-an-hour discussion, I had some apprehension on that. In your reply you had said that Food Corporation of India was not giving up its work. But we have seen that Food Corporation of India is detracting from its functions gradually. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I am coming to that point. I have said that the Government have a big responsibility. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: You have just said that a subsidy of Rs. 40000 crore is being paid. I think it should be checked.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, I mean that mid-day meal S.J.R.Y. are included in it and this subsidy may be for all these schemes. You are right, there may be some discrepancy but certainly. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, address your reply to the Chair.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): It is a very big thing to say that we are giving Rs. 40,000 crore food subsidy in our country. It is not correct, please check it. You can say that it is an overall subsidy. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: This is what I am saying. It is an overall subsidy. Shri Yerranna and Shri Bansalji have asked about procurement by Food Corporation of India. At any cost the Government is not going to back track from procurement. We will fulfill our responsibility. So far as procurement from the farmers at the minimum support price is concerned, as the farmers of the country want that officials of Food Corporation of India should

come personally for direct procurement. In this regard I would like to say that we don't have such a big instrument. We are already working in the states like Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and we have tried to procure in Bihar and Orissa. We have made efforts in this regard.

We have also started expansion of procurement centres of the Food Corporation of India. Last year there were 41 procurement centres in Bihar which have been increased to 100 this year. Just now my friends from Orissa raised the issue of procurement in K.V.K. districts of the state. I have got their grievance and we are acting thereon. I want to assure them that I have got their letter. Why procurement was not undertaken there. We shall try to remove deficiency therein.

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund): There were already several procurement centres of the F.C.I. in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, but this time around procurement was not undertaken there, what was the reason for that?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Shyamacharan ji has rightly said one thing. We have several types of arrangements in place. The procurement method of the FCI is different in Punjab, Haryana, Bihar and Orissa. We have introduced decentralised procurement system in eight states like Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Uttaranchal, West Bengal. We have entrusted this work there with the respective governments of these states. The entire responsibility of procurement lies with the respective state governments. I wanted to inform the House of this fact. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: This is not correct. The FCI personnel are sitting there in these procurement centres.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: That is in your state. I am talking about other states. I am talking about Chhattisgarh that we have introduced decentralised procurement system there. We have also decided to implement decentralised procurement system in your state also. The FCI and the State Government, both are engaged in procurement there. What you have said is definitely true. The procurement centres which have been opened in other states are functioning very steadily. Some persons from other states are engaged in this work there. However, we are short of staff, we have been receiving several complaints in this regard. you have also made a complaint. We have also received some complaints from

[Shri Sharad Yadav]

Jabalpur area. There are some complaints from K.V.K. region. I do welcome these complaints and also request you to kindly inform me, if any irregularity comes to your notice in future. We have deputed our people for procurement in those areas. We will also open procurement centres in those areas where there is no such arrangement. There exists Mandi system in Punjab and Haryana since the Sir Chhotu Ram era. How much discrepancies are in that system and the extent of irregularities committed therein, these are a different issue. We have put in place new procurement system in several areas. Therefore, it is but natural that we come across several new problems in such new areas.

Yerrannaidu Saab has said that drought has hit his state. Therefore, the procurement would be less this time around. He has also raised some questions. The meeting of the Task Force is going to be held today evening. I had also had talks with you. We realise these problems and you have sought 18 lakh metric tonnes of rice this time. ...(*Interruptions*)

Shri Yerrannaidu has raised three-four issues, on which I had a discussion with him. I think that since all these are related to drought and the Government of India has set up a task force to tackle the drought situation effectively.

[*English*]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, there are 2-3 issues. The Chairman of the Task Force is also present here.

Last year, due to drought, an amount of Rs. 20 as special drought cess was given to each of the wheat and paddy farmers. For the Rabi season, the same facility is extended to wheat farmers, but not to the paddy farmers, whereas the drought is still continuing. That is why, the Task Force is sanctioning rice and wheat to some States by way of Food for Work scheme and other schemes. Why have they not extended this facility to paddy farmers and why have they not given Rs. 20 as special drought cess to each of them? If this continues, the farmers will not get the Minimum Support Price.

Secondly, based on Andhra Pradesh Levy Order 1985, FCI was procuring paddy and rice on the basis of 50:50. There is no demand outside. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested them, due to the prevailing circumstances, to increase this 50 per cent to 75 per cent so that it is on par with other States like Haryana, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, etc. At the request of the respective Governments, they have extended this up to 75 per cent.

If they accede to our request, the FCI will also save some money. We are getting rice from Punjab and Haryana; every month we are getting about three lakh tonnes. There is a problem of getting rakes also. We are not getting sufficient rice. The FCI can procure up to 75 per cent; they are procuring for PDS, for social welfare schemes like *Antyodaya*, *Annapoorna*, etc. They could get rice from Andhra Pradesh itself; and they need not send rice now north to south; by this way, transportation charges will also be less. I want clarification on these issues.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: In response to what Shri Yerrannaidu ji has said I would like to submit that in his state there was a system that the Government of India used to procure 50 percent levy rice. Now he wants it to be raised to 75 percent. The old system exists in Punjab and Haryana. I have had a talk with him regarding his demand. We will discuss it with you after thoroughly examining it. He has also raised the issue that the relief of Rs. 20 on paddy which has been given for years should also be given on the crop in rabi season because the drought has affected rabi crops also. Any decision in this regard can only be taken by the Cabinet. This is very much in my mind. I cannot say anything in this regard because it falls under the jurisdiction of the Cabinet.

I have had discussions with the hon. Member on the points which he has raised. He has put all questions on behalf of Murthi Saheb. We will take note of them as answering all the questions will take undue time. I would like to tell that in S.G.R.Y. 90 lakh metric tonne foodgrains have been allocated under special component plan. Since this is an extraordinary situation, extraordinary steps are required to be taken. Free of cost allotment has been made in the drought affected areas.

Shri Shivraj Patil has just made mention about some figures. The increase does not pertain to last year, it pertains to this year. Last year, food subsidy was rupees twenty four thousand crore. Rupees five thousand crores are regular for G.S.R.Y., while rupees eight thousand crores have been allocated under the special component of S.G.R.Y. and rupees one thousand crores are for the Mid-Day-Meal scheme. The amount works-out to around rupees 38 thousand crore. I do agree that there was a little mistake in it which I tried to set right by placing it before you. I hold discussions with Shri Yerrannaidu on regular basis and these discussions will continue in future

as well. The other points which have been raised by him would be taken up in the meeting of the task force scheduled to be held at six o'clock.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I had been very clear while asking about it and the areas about which I am making a special mention are such where the farmers are kept waiting for procurement by FCI for several days yet the procurement of their produce is not made. Would you please conduct inquiry into the matter and ensure that the procurement of the foodgrains takes place and that they have sufficient number of gunny bags and adequate amount. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am ready to hold discussion on the matter at length, if the hon. Member so desires. But you have said that there is paucity of time. ...(*Interruptions*) Shri Chaturvedi is echoing his concern that FCI centres are not functioning properly in the matter of procurement of foodgrains in his area while procuring foodgrains, the FCI buys fair average quality of foodgrains. We take fair average quality machine and all types of weighing instruments with us and follow all types of prescribed norms, whenever we visit the new areas for procurement. If we procure the substandard quality of foodgrains. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I am not asking you to procure substandard foodgrains. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: How do you know it? The people who have knowledge about it know it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: We are farmers, if we do not know how can you know it. How can you say we do not know. We cultivate, we do not talk like this sitting over here. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: When I was not in this Ministry, I too was not aware of the strict AFQ norms. You take it for certain that whatever new place we go to we would procurement there. We tried to make large scale procurement in Bihar. For the new areas I could have told whether procurements were being made or not. As a matter of fact, at times AFQ norms are complied with honestly and sometimes quite miserly, meaning thereby that there are some such cases where they do not do it under pressing circumstances. I shall certainly look into the matter raised by you. ...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): You have referred to the issue of procurement. ...(*Interruptions*) State agencies in Uttar Pradesh are not making procurement. Wheat growers are in distress. The farmers in Uttar Pradesh are forced to sell their wheat at the rate of Rs. 450 or Rs. 475 per quintal. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that you should also have some control over the State agencies with regard to procurement. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: This is a very sensitive matter and is related to everyone. I have heard the questions you have raised. Those questions need to be replied to in detail. Shri Akhileshji has raised question about Uttar Pradesh. There is decentralised procurement system in the State. He has informed that there was a time when Uttar Pradesh was next only to Punjab and Haryana in respect of procurement of foodgrains. Perhaps Shri Sumanji also gave notice on this subject in the morning. The states where there is decentralised procurement system we have assigned this task to the concerned State Governments. When a new system is introduced it takes some years to streamline it. I have heard the points raised by the hon'ble Member. If you want I can give a detailed reply to this point which may be to my satisfaction as well as yours. ...(*Interruptions*)

18.00 hrs.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Twelfth Session of Thirteenth Lok Sabha which commenced on 17 February, 2003 with the Address by the hon. President to the Members of both the Houses assembled together in the Central Hall, is coming to a close now.

During the Session, as many as 37 sittings, spread over 239 hours, were held. The House took a break from 14 March, 2003 to 6 April, 2003 to enable the Departmentally-related Standing Committees to consider the Demands for Grants of Union Ministries and Departments and submit their Reports to the House. The Standing Committees of Lok Sabha submitted 56 Reports during the Session.

During the Budget Session, the House transacted many important items of financial, legislative and other business. After a debate lasting for more than 13 hours, the House passed the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address on 3 March, 2003.

[Mr. Speaker]

The General Budget and the Railway Budget of the Union were passed with full co-operation of the entire House. The House even sat late to facilitate general discussions on the Budgets. The Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of External Affairs were voted by the House after separate discussions, each lasting for over six hours. All the outstanding Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 2003-2004 were voted by the House on 25 April, 2003. Later, on 30 April, 2003, after a thorough discussion which lasted for over 12 hours, spread over four days, in which as many as 47 Members participated, the House passed the Finance Bill, 2003.

The House passed as many as 25 other Bills during the Session. Some of the important Bills among them were, the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999, the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999, the Electricity Bill, 2001, the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000, the Constitution (Ninety-fifth Amendment) Bill, 2003 and the Constitution (Ninety-sixth Amendment) Bill, 2003.

As you are aware, the Constitution (Eighty-fifth Amendment) Bill, 1999 seeking to reserve 33 per cent of seats in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for women, was listed for consideration and passing on 6 May, 2003. As there was lack of unanimity among Parties on certain provisions of the Bill, it was felt that it may not be possible to consider the Bill in an orderly manner in the House. The consideration of the Bill, was therefore, deferred. As hon. Members are aware, I propose to hold a meeting of hon. Leaders of Parties on 16 June, 2003 with view to evolving a consensus on consideration of the Bill.

The House had long and fruitful debates on six important matters of urgent public importance under Rule 193. Further, 13 matters were raised by way of Calling Attention in response to which the concerned Ministers made statements. Besides, as many as 19 statements were made by Ministers on various other important subjects. These statements included one that was made today on the successful launch of Second Test Flight of Satellite Launch Vehicle D-2 from Shriharikota on 8 May, 2003. All of us feel proud on this historic achievement of our scientists.

As regards Private Members' Business, as many as 19 Private Members' Bill were introduced. Three Bills

came up for consideration, out of which two were withdrawn by the movers after intense debate, with the leave of the House; and the debate on the third Bill remained inconclusive.

As regards Private Members' Resolutions, three of these were considered by the House. The Resolution moved by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, 'urging the Government to bring forward a suitable legislation to ban slaughter of cow and its progeny throughout the country' was adopted. Out of the remaining two, one Resolution was withdrawn by the mover, with the consent of the House and the other one remained partly discussed.

The House also unanimously adopted a Resolution placed before it by the Chair deploring the military action by the coalition forces led by the USA against Iraq and urging the UNO to protect the sovereignty of Iraq and to ensure its reconstruction under the UN supervision.

During the Session, 702 Starred Questions were listed, out of which 131 Questions were answered orally. Replies to the remaining 571 Starred Questions and 6936 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table. Three Half-an-Hour discussions were also taken up by the House.

Hon. Members raised over 373 Matters under Rule 377. besides, as many as 255 matters of Urgent Public Importance were raised during the 'Zero Hour'.

I am grateful to the hon. Leaders and Members for the felicitations offered by them, which is for the first time in the history of Lok Sabha, on my completion of one year in office.

I take this opportunity to thank all the hon. Members for the kind cooperation extended to me. I would like to thank the hon. Deputy-Speaker and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairman for assisting me in conducting the proceedings of the House. I would like to specially thank the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leaders of various Parties, Chief Whips and Whips for the cooperation extended to me. I would also like to thank the Parliamentary Affairs Minister for the cooperation that she extended to me.

I would also like to express my thanks to the media for covering the proceedings of the House.

18.05 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG—*Played*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: How hon. Members may stand up as 'Vande Mataram' would be played.

(*The National Song was played.*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

18.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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