

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Friday, November 23, 2001/Agrahayana 2, 1923 (Saka)

[English]

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 81.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has issued a circular to delete some portions of the history textbooks...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise the matter after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): They are changing the history...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may raise the matter in the Zero Hour please.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Sir, please allow me to raise the issue during Zero-Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: You are only creating disturbance in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Alright you will be allowed to raise the issue during Zero Hour.

Effect on Trade with USA due to Terrorist Attack

*81. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether India's export to USA and other countries has been affected adversely after the terrorist attack on USA on September, 11, 2001;

(b) if so, the extent to which India's export to USA in particular and to other countries in general has declined after terrorist attack, indicating the actual value of export made since then;

(c) the industries whose export has been adversely affected and overall impact on Indian trade balance;

(d) whether there would be any shortfall in achieving the export target set for 2001-2002 due to uncertainties of US - Afghanistan war;

(e) if so, whether the Government have formulated any new strategy to maintain the country's trade balance, to boost the export and also to help the affected exporters and industries keeping in view the existing US-Afghan war situation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. India's exports to many destinations including USA has been affected due to the September events.

The value of India's export of merchandise goods during September, 2001 at USA \$ 3516.77 million is lower by 8.61% compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Trade deficit for September, 2001 is at US \$-669.10 million as compared to-399.66 in September, 2000.

While the impact has been felt on most of the sectors, sectors like Gems & Jewellery and Textiles have been adversely affected particularly in the US market.

(e) and (f) Several measures to boost exports have been taken in order to provide competitive edge to Indian goods in the global market. Some of the recent measures taken to promote exports include reduction in the export credit rate for both pre-shipment and post-shipment, special financial package to manufacturer exporters with a export contract of Rs. 100 crores or above for a period of one year from October 2000, extension of normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days for exports made to Latin American countries for a period of one year and upward revision of duty drawback rates on a number of product groups. Export performance is constantly being monitored and measures are being taken to reducing the trade deficit.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon'ble Minister is incomplete and unsatisfactory...*(Interruptions)* Though it is not unbecoming yet it is definitely vague Since he is more active in Bihar's politics, therefore, he is not in a position to devote time here. America has capital and modern technology whereas we have human resources. Even before the incident of 11 September, we could not create a favourable trade balance with America. Our efforts in this direction have never been satisfactory or praiseworthy. I do not know why the present Government conducted nuclear test in Pokhran whereas the plan was finalised in Nagpur itself. The Government should not made it public. It resulted in imposing of sanctions against us. There was hardly a respite from sanctions and in the meantime, 11th September incident took place. Had we made best of efforts immediately after 11th September we would have gained a strong foothold America. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to why we failed to make efforts in this regard.

It is reported that Chinese goods have captured 50 percent American market whereas our goods are just one percent in American market. We can export lots of items to America but our Government are not making efforts. Why it is so? I would like to know whether the Government would take steps in this regard? It has not been clearly mentioned in the reply. We have abundant technology and resources to make great strides in

American Market. At that juncture we could have gained a lot from America but the Government surrendered before America and did not seek benefits. Pakistan and China are securing great advantages from America whereas we have failed to secure anything. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he would admit the failure of the Government in this regard.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in fact the question raised by the Hon'ble Member relates to decline in export after incident of 11th September. But, I feel before asking the question, the hon'ble Member deviated from the main question and diverted the discussion.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I submitted that India was already in the grip of economic recession and nuclear tests have further deepened the crisis, still the Government are not making efforts to come out of it. That's what I want to know.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Hon'ble Minister towards the fact that India's share in world trade is just 0.67 percent and the Government have resolved to raise it to one percent by the year 2005. But, as far trade comparison with China is concerned, I would like to tell that at present, it is not appropriate to compare India with China, but given our present potential and Government's commitment and policies, I feel that within the next decade is going to achieve top slot in world trade and we would be exporting maximum goods. The hon'ble Member's main question related to decline in India's export after terrorist attack on USA on 11 September and if he wants to ask further supplementary questions in this regard, I am ready to reply.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether the hon'ble Member eats Amla or not, I advise him to have it. Enough Amla is produced in my constituency Pratapgrah. I would send Amla to the hon'ble Minister and to the Hon. Speaker and I promise, one day I would arrange it for the entire House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, not even a single Amla is exported to America. This very year, one day I would distribute Amla in the House and through you, I would like to request the Government to make efforts to export Amla to America and Western countries so that consumption of Amla would increase in those countries whereby the

farmers would get benefits and they would go in for increasing its production. I would like to request our young and energetic hon. Minister, whose photos appear in newspapers in the five-star back drop and who is my close friend too, to make special efforts to export more and more Amla to America and to popularise its use in America. I am sure American Army would definitely buy Amla since it is a very good medicinal fruit and there is no other medicinal fruit which can match its qualities.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member's proposal is very good but I would like to urge him to use more Amla to enable him to ask more pertinent questions in future.

[English]

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently, Trade Policy has been announced in India anticipating another good year of growth. However, recent terrorist attacks in USA and the world recession have raised many questions relating to exports to USA and other developing countries. We are equally worried about the damages and losses that we may suffer. My specific question in this respect is this. How far exports of agricultural products are affected? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether any new measures have been taken in this respect so that our country moves ahead with a new perspective by safeguarding the interests of the farmers as well.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good supplementary.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister cannot roll up his sleeves and answer! That is a breach of parliamentary propriety!

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I had my sleeves rolled up for the last two years. It is unfortunate that the hon. Member sighted it today!...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, he has become a Minister only now...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think, it only shows that he is getting ready to reply, not for anything else!...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, the hon. Member has raised a question about agricultural exports. I would like to inform the status prevailing today as far as exports are concerned and the overall exports of the country. At the moment, India, of course, is in a state of negative export growth. During this year, for the month of

September, we are negative by 8 per cent and the overall export growth, April-September, 2001-2002 is negative by 2 per cent at this point of time. We had very substantive exports in the earlier years. In 2000-01, we had an export growth rate of 21 per cent which was very high, but certainly this time, due to the prevailing situation all around, especially after the terrorist attacks in USA, the exports have come down.

I would like to invite the kind attention of the hon. Member to the positive growths which have taken place in certain fields between April and September in the financial year 2001-02, which includes certain agricultural products also. There has been a growth of 2.6 per cent in coffee, 13.5 per cent in fruits and vegetables, similarly 0.5 per cent in leather products, 42.7 per cent in electronic goods and 69.5 per cent in petroleum products as per quick estimates of April-September, 2001-2002.

Sir, there are sectors where we have a negative rate of growth also. Of course, there is a growth of - 14 per cent in R M G of all textiles, - 6.3 per cent in man-made yarns, fabrics and made ups, - 12.5 per cent in cotton yarn, fabrics and made ups, - 4.50 per cent in engineering goods, - 15% basic in chemicals, - 12.3% in gems and jewelleryes and - 12.9% in marine products. We have a growth of - 22.5 per cent in rice and - 5.6 per cent in tea. So, these are the sectors where we have seen a negative rate of growth as per quick estimates. But I can assure the hon. Member that the Government is taking steps and several steps have already been taken to see that exports of all these items are boosted. There is a medium term strategy to boost exports in which we have several schemes like examination of import baskets from European Union, USA and other major trading partners, country-specific export commodities, giving new incentive schemes, replacing the old ones wherever they are, reducing transaction cost, new export growth schemes and so on and so forth.

Coming to the recent measures which we have taken, as far as boosting of exports is concerned, there is a reduction in export credit rate for pre-shipment and post-shipment goods. At the same time, we have a special financial package for exporters bagging a contract of more than Rs. 100 crore which covers items like pharmaceuticals, agro-chemicals, transport equipment etc. In addition to that, the Exim Bank has also been allowed to extend buyer's credit upto Rs. 200 crore without reference to RBI which was only Rs. 50 crore earlier. So, the Government of India is taking steps to see that exports are boosted which also includes agricultural products.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important question but the reply given by the hon'ble Minister has been prepared by his offices and not by him. Therefore my submission is that Half-an-Hour Discussion may be allowed on this issue so that everything becomes clear.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, on behalf of all the Members sitting this side, would like to wish all the best to the young Minister and we hope that in future he would not reply to questions by rolling up his sleeves.

Sir, the question is very specific and very important. It is limited to foreign trade between India and USA and the question has to be replied on the basis of the policies made by the Government of India to meet the particular situation which has arisen after 11th of September. Now, if the Government of India to meet the particular situation which has arisen after 11th of September. Now, if the Government of India is not ahead of time, if the Government of India is not anticipating the situation and if the Government of India is not making policies to meet that particular situation, it becomes very difficult for the country to meet the situation and to see that the targets are achieved. Unfortunately, what has been stated in parts (e) and (f) of the reply appears to be the general principles by which the Government of India is expected to give a boost to exports and foreign trade without taking into consideration the situation which has arisen after 11th of September. That is why, we would be happy to know from the Government what steps it has taken to meet the situation. If the Government of India has not applied its mind to this particular situation, we would request the Government of India to make a particular policy so as to meet this situation. The Minister has also said that there is a downfall in our exports after 11th of September. So, we would like to know as to what are the specific steps that the Government of India is intending to take to see that foreign trade between India and USA does not slip down, but meets the targets which are fixed so that there is no fall in foreign exchange earning by the Government of India and this favourable trend to India increases. We would like to know about it specifically. If there is nothing, we would request that that kind of policy should be made.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, we appreciate the suggestions given by the hon. Member. At the same time, I would like to state Government of India is fully aware of the situation. So far, it has not been possible

to completely identify or quantify the losses made in the last 45 days after the attacks on 11th September. There are strategies. There is a proposal to declare a medium-term strategy for exports. However, due to the changed situation and where facts have to be verified and the output of this trade activity has to be identified, it would be proper if we are able to make complete assessment and reformulate strategies as suggested by him.

I would like to assure the House that Government is fully prepared for this situation and would take all necessary steps to boost exports from India.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I think, the slow-down is not after 11th September only. Basically, the features he has given in the reply show a comparison between September and April-September. What is the comparison between August and August or July and July? Is it the impact of general recession and economic slowdown that this export has been affected?

At the same time, I would like to know this. After the 11th September, has the Government tried to convince USA to withdraw the restrictions that have been imposed on some of the industries of India? Is the Government trying to get it relaxed for the textile industry?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very valid question. There was recession before 11th September. It was there much before it also. As he may be aware, the US economy and the total global economy were in a state of recession. The US Government had announced rate-cuts six times in a year before 11th September so that investment could be boosted, global economy could be restored, and consumption and production could be increased. However, he has raised a question about the comparative terms as far as pre-11th September attacks are concerned. We will furnish the full details to the hon. Members.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pakistan in comparison to India exports more cotton textiles to America. But, the Afghanistan war has adversely affected export of cotton textiles from Pakistan. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government would endeavour to take advantage of adverse condition of Pakistan and also whether there are possibilities of increasing export of cotton textiles to America and if so, the steps being taken by the Government to translate above into action?

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, as far as the textiles sector is concerned, I think, the best answer could have given by the Minister of Textiles. However, I would like to make an attempt to state it. Till the last financial year, the total export of textiles was around US \$ 10.8 billion. Certainly, there is a downfall this year. In the last five months April-August, it was just US \$ 3.9 billion. The Government is fully in grip of the prevailing situation as far as the export of textiles is concerned. We are definitely going to look into that.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, after the attack of 11th September, what is the impact that this attack will have on the professional manpower and software exports which we do to US? What is the extent of damage and the impact that the manpower export and the software export will have due to this particular attack?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: As far as manpower export is concerned, we are already in an advantageous position as compared to most of the countries. Due to the incident of 11th September, there have been a lot of restrictions that have come up because of security concerns and terrorist concerns. But certainly we are aware of that situation.

The second question was about software. Sir, You will appreciate that we have the largest export of software to the US and now we expect a lot of back-home activities because of the insecure situation prevailing in the US. So, it would certainly give more hope and situation back-home here to have back-home services as far as software services are concerned.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that let there be Half-an-Hour Discussion on this issue. Since the hon'ble Minister is a new entrant, he too would be benefited by the discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: I will see.

[English]

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, this is an important subject. We would like to have half-an-hour discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Parste, please take your seat.

[Translation]

Sick Units of NTC

*82. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several units of NTC have become non-viable and declared sick;

(b) if so, the details of these units in each State and number out of them proposed to shut down or be included in the revival package and those proposed to be privatised;

(c) whether eight subsidiaries of NTC were included in the revival package of an Empowered Group of Ministers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the final report of BIFR in this regard;

(f) whether NTC has drawn any VRS for the employees of sick NTC units;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which the VRS is proposed to be launched?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) 8 subsidiaries of NTC are declared sick as per the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act and are before BIFR.

(b) to (e) The Rehabilitation Schemes for each of the 8 subsidiaries are yet to be finalised by BIFR. The units proposed to be closed or privatised would be decided when the Rehabilitation Schemes are finalised by BIFR.

(f) to (h) Employees in the sick units are given VRS in accordance with the guidelines of Department of Public Enterprises, made more attractive by considering HRA in addition to Basic Pay and DA for the purpose of calculation.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: I would like to know the period specified for the process under consideration and whether the Government propose to formulate any rule in long term interest of workers?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire NTC package is under consideration of BIFR. The Government have request BIFR to expedite decision on it. I hope BIFR would give its decision by December end. Within two years of the decision, we would implement the package. As far as rights of workers are concerned, the Government have made every effort to protect the rights of workers. The present VRS package has been modified for extending its benefits to the workers.

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there is any provision for ensuring compliance of BIFR's decision?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are provisions to ensure proper implementation of all the laws and the Government ensure it.

[*English*]

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, would the hon. Minister be pleased to give details regarding the safeguards to protect the workers in the sick units of NTC and the steps so far taken in respect of giving due compensation to the workers who are thrown out of employment? I would also like to know from hon. Minister: the number of cases that are pending with the BIFR.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, eight subsidiaries of NTC, because of sickness are before the BIFR. So far as compensation to the workers of NTC is concerned, the Government has taken full care to protect the rights of our workers; and not only the salary but VRS also is given to them.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, there are six NTC mills in Kerala. All these mills are being controlled from Bangalore. In Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, we do not have any NTC mill. I have written to the hon. Minister saying that these six mills in Kerala are working properly and that they are not incurring any losses. But the entire expenditure of the Bangalore office, which is a very big office I am told, is being met from these. I would urge upon the hon. Minister to shift the office of the NTC to Kerala wherein there are seven mills including Mazhi.

Why should there be an office in Bangalore? In the present very difficult situation of the NTC, would the Government be prepared to reorganise the NTC, have a close look at the functioning of the NTC and shift the Bangalore office to Kerala where six profit-making or at least breaking even mills are functioning?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, from the beginning, this system is in practice.

SHRI A.C. JOS: This is what I am saying. You can change it now. From the beginning it is working there but in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu there are no NTC mills. Six mills in Kerala are being looked after from Bangalore...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete his answer.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: So far as reorganisation of mills in Kerala is concerned, as I have already told, our entire package for the NTC and its eight subsidiaries, including those in Kerala, is pending before the BIFR....(*Interruptions*) On this package, the BIFR has to take a decision and only then the Government can act on that...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.C. JOS: My question is different. These mills have not gone to the BIFR....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: There is no scope for that.

MR. SPEAKER: He has not complete his answer. You are yourself disturbing the hon. Minister.

Are you taking any step to shift the office from Bangalore?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: At this stage, it is not possible for the Government to take a decision on reorganisation.

[*Translation*]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the expenditure likely to be made on the revival package and the role of the Union Government in it? At the same time, I would also like to know the sources of funds for the revival package and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard and by when this package would be implemented?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have sent the full package of NTC to BIFR for clearance. Its project cost is Rs. 2993 crore.

A provision of Rs. 1291 crore for modernisation, Rs. 1030 crore for VRS, Rs. 200 crore for statutory dues and Rs. 239 crore for paying to credits has been made in it. The total of this package is Rs. 2993 crore. As soon as this package is cleared, we will implement it immediately. The Government have also made lots of sacrifices for this package. The interests of Rs. 1866 crore which is due to the Government will be waived. Besides, the loan of Rs. 2774 crore will be converted into equity. Apart from this, the Government will give wage support of Rs. 625 crore for two years. Rs. 181 crore have been kept for VRS for the NTC mills of Gujarat.

[*English*]

The budgetary support for payment of statutory dues in the mills proposed for closure in Rs. 90 crore.

[*Translation*]

The Government of India have sacrificed Rs. 5647 crore in total. After the package is approved, arrangement will be made to provide Rs. 500 crore on bank guarantee to implement it and Rs. 250 crore have been sanctioned for issuing bonds. A sum of Rs. 3153 crore and Rs. 355 crore will be received from the sale of non viable mills and excess land respectively. In this way a sum of Rs. 3508 crore, will be received with which the requirements of modernisation and VRS will be met.

[*English*]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, spinning mills were flourishing about ten years ago. Now, most of the spinning mills have been closed and some of the sick spinning mills are filing their cases before the BIFR.

Sir, it is well known that Coimbatore is the Manchester of South India. We were manufacturing textiles in Tamil Nadu and all the spinning mills were flourishing.

Now, because of the WTO, these spinning mills have been closed down. Will the Government revise the Clause in the WTO agreement and facilitate the opening up of the spinning mills all over India especially in Tamil Nadu? There are lakhs of employees who are employed in these spinning mills and their livelihood would also be protected. Will the hon. Minister take steps to revise the Clauses in the WTO agreement and encourage the local spinning mills and the flourishing of the existing spinning mills which have been closed down? I just want to know whether the Government will revive these spinning mills.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, it is because of some unavoidable international circumstances. The hon. Member has rightly said that some of the spinning mills were

definitely closed down. But for revising these closed mills, the Government is taking concrete steps...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Please inform the House what are the steps you are taking...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I have already told that because of some unavoidable circumstances, the demand from abroad is not too much, and the demand of our cotton yarn is also coming down. So, in view of that, some mills are facing some difficulties. It is a temporary phase and not a permanent phase. We are hopeful that as early as possible, we will come out from this difficult situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 84, Shri G.J. Javiya, not here. Q. NO. 85.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, please allow me...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I have gone to the other question.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for sick units of NTC the Government of India will...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Akhilesh ji, it is not proper. What are you doing? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(*Interruptions*) *

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing daily in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh. this is too much.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, this is too much. Please take your seat. I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You should sit down, you are disturbing the House daily like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: First sit down. What are you people doing?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, I am appealing to you please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You do not follow any rule. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing in the House? Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will take action against you, Shri Akhilesh Singh.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I have sought permission from you. I have since given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing daily. What do you think of the House?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is too much. If you want to behave like this, then there is no other alternative with me but to take action against you. What are you doing? You are a responsible Member of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: First you have to follow the procedure. Then only you can ask for time and other things.

[Translation]

Patent of Indian Plants by MNCs

*85. YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

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

(a) whether some developed countries and multinationals have got patent of various Indian herbs and medicinal plants;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government to save the Indian claim on those herbs and medicinal plants which are being patented by the foreign countries?

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

Statement

(a) Herbs and medicinal plants, existing in nature, would not meet the criteria of patentability, namely, novelty, inventiveness and industrial applicability. However, patents have reported been granted on compositions based on properties of certain herbs/medicinal plants.

(b) and (c) No such information is maintained as 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.

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 patents can be challenged under the patent laws of the country concerned. Thus, a patent granted in the United States of America on the use of turmeric for wound healing was challenged and the said patent was cancelled. A patent is normally challenged by the person(s) whose interests are affected/jeopardised.

In order to protect bio-resources, the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999, contains provisions for mandatory disclosure of source and geographical origin of the biological material used in the invention while applying for patents in India. Provisions have also been incorporated to include the non-disclosure or wrongful disclosure of the same as grounds for opposition and for revocation of the patent, if granted. Provisions in this regard are contained in clauses 8, 17 and 28 of the said Bill.

In order to protect traditional knowledge from being patented, provisions have been incorporated in the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999, to include anticipation of invention by available local knowledge, including oral knowledge, as one of the grounds for opposition as also for revocation of patent. Provisions in this regard are contained in clauses 17 and 28 of the said Bill.

Apart from this, Government has also undertaken the development of a digital database of traditional knowledge in the field of medicinal plants to prevent patenting of products based on such knowledge.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the number of traditional Indian herbs, besides neem, turmeric and basmati rice, which have been patented by the developed companies?

DR. RAMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to inform that.

[English]

Knowledge already in public domain cannot be a subject of patent anywhere in the world.

[Translation]

The herbs and plants which are naturally available cannot be patented, because eligibility norms of patent do not fulfill the norms of diminution, invention and industrial utility. The hon'ble Member has expressed his concern in this regard. Neem, turmeric and Basmati rice plant cannot be patented. The medicinal value of plant is patented. Wherever it was tried action has been taken against that. We have made an endeavour to project the wound healing properties of turmeric. They have opposed the increase in the price of turmeric and this challenge has also been dismissed by us.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the number of herbs, besides these, which have been patented by multinational companies of developed countries. Do the Government of India have any information in this regard.

DR. RAMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, different countries of the world have their own patent laws, under which they patent the items on their own terms and condition. They do have their own limitations, within which patent is done. Full information about all medicines of the world cannot be available. I would like to say that we have challenged the information which is available about turmeric and information available about other things, and we have won these cases also. Therefore, I want to give you an information for the future, that we have made all preparations for the available information. For instance, Patent (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 was brought for giving protection to resources. It has been provided therein that the possibilities of new inventions will be treated as opposition to patent and canceling it and disclosing of source will be mandatory. This case has been presented successfully.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government of India are aware that in the name of the patent America and other developed countries have prepared germ plasm of more than six lakh plants, the species of which are available in India.

On the basis of germ plasm plant varieties and herbs like neem, Karela, and Tulsi etc. have been patented.

Whether the gene bank of germ plasm has been prepared in developed countries like America? To what extent the protection of plant varieties and Farmers right Act will help in protecting plant varieties in the country?

DR. RAMAN: I would like to inform the hon'ble Member about the steps that have been taken by the Government in this regard. We have prepared a traditional knowledge digital Library to protect our plants and herbs. There is a team of 40 experts. The experts concerned with Ayurveda and patent experts of the other things are included in it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please use the mike properly.

DR. RAMAN: Sir, the team of an experts have identified ten formulations out of more than 30 thousand formulations which are based on our 14 ancient Ayurvedic scriptures. After identifying them the traditional knowledge digital library has been prepared at the cost of Rs. 1.38 crore. It will be brought into the knowledge of the world that so and so medicines are being used in India for last thousands of years and so these cannot be patented any-where in the world. There are more than 35 thousand formulations and we have selected more than ten thousand formulations. We have initiated this process. This work will be complete as soon as possible. I would like to assure the hon'ble Members that once this work is completed, no country can challenge our traditional knowledge and the immense herbal knowledge of Ayurveda.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the issue of Indian traditional knowledge, medical plant was raised by the Government of India in the Ministerial Conference of WTO held in Doha? I would also like to know the response of other countries in this regard? In your reply to the question regarding the provision of the bill you have said that.

[English]

Provision is limited only within India. Outside India, commercial acquisition has been started after patenting the Indian traditional knowledge.

[Translation]

What steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to check such things?

DR. RAMAN: Efforts are being made to convince all the countries of the world and to arrive at consensus regarding at the international level.

[English]

Mandatory disclosure of sources of geographical origin of biological material used in the invention while applying for patent.

[Translation]

Mandatory disclosure of sources of geographical origin of the thing for which patent is being sought will be required. The papers have been submitted to WTO in this regard. There is.

[English]

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in-which Inter-governmental Committee has been set up.

[Translation]

Special importance is being given to two subject in it-information about the traditional knowledge and the world resources. As far the question of presenting our view point in Doha is concerned, we have strongly presented our views in this regard. We have raised the issue of providing protection to the geographical indication regarding the TRIPS agreement and demanded that as special protection has been provided to wine and spirit, similarly Alphanso Mango, Darjeeling tea and other herbs should also be given protection through geographical indication. There is also consensus that in.

[English]

Council for TRIPS bio-diversity traditional knowledge and

[Translation]

the traditional knowledge should be made the issue of common protection and due importance should be given to it. This issue was raised by Maran Saheb through his statement given in fourth ministerial level conference in Doha. The committee for Council for TRIPS to whom the matter is to be referred will consider this subject. Efforts are being made to protect the traditional knowledge of the country...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Chennithala to ask the supplementary now. Let there be no confrontation.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, what is the response? I think it is included in the Doha Declaration. The hon. Minister may kindly clarify.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister is incomplete...(Interruptions)

DR. RAMAN: Sir, the Ministerial Declaration at Doha acknowledged the necessity of examining the issue relating to protection of traditional knowledge and folklores.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, what the hon. Minister has stated is not correct. The Doha Accorded has not included those things. I want the hon. Minister to correct himself. We will discuss the merits of the Doha Accord separately, in the House. But I do not want the hon. Minister to mislead the House unwittingly that this has been included in the Doha Accord. It is not a fact.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: What the hon. Minister has said that it is...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Who are you to reply? Let the hon. Minister reply....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somaiya, the hon. Minister is there. Why are you unnecessarily interfering?

[*Translation*]

DR. RAMAN: As far as the apprehension of the hon'ble Member regarding the consentience is concerned, my submission is that the issue of our traditional knowledge has been discussed in the Committee for the Council for TRIPS and this discussion will continue in future. This matter has been taken seriously and on the basis of the statement given by the hon'ble Minister in Doha, I am making this submission as this matter had been referred to his statement.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, we wish to place the whole thing on record. The hon. Minister himself has misled the House. It is not part of the Doha Accord at all.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, the trend in the economy is not at all encouraging. The Government admitted that there is a recession in the economy. In the name of controlling the deficit, the Government is taking measures which result in downturn in the demand in various sectors of our economy. Recently the Ministry of Tourism appealed to the Ministry of Finance to restore the LTC facility.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chennithala, we are on Q. No. 85.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, I am on Q.No. 83. I am sorry...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, Shri Yashwant Sinha is lucky enough to get the Member absent from the House...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): If you are prepared to make a departure from the rules, I am prepared to answer the question.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, it is a very serious thing.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chennithala, please ask supplementary on Q. No. 85.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, thank you very much. Recently, the Ministry of Tourism appealed to the Ministry of Finance to restore the LTC facility of Government employees because it was adversely affecting the Ministry of tourism. I want to know from the hon. Minister...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chennithala, you are again asking on Question number 83.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the steps being taken to meet the demands in various sectors of the economy.

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking a supplementary on Q. No. 83. We are on Q. No. 85. There is no supplementary. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh to ask the supplementary now.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has said in his reply that such information cannot be protected as permission for patent is granted according to different patent laws of the concerned things under sovereign prerogative. It is well known to the world that there is abundance of natural medicinal plants and herbs. We and our ancestors have been using these herbs for thousand of years. Now the multinational companies and the western people are getting it patented. Our Government say that they do not have any information about it and they get the information only when some news regarding it is published in newspapers. What is their responsibility?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I think three Lady Members are confusing Shri Ramesh Chennithala?

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Recently the turmeric have been patented and when the Government filed petition, it was rejected. Amla, turmeric, harar, bahera, brahmi herb and Sugandha are being patented. Whether efforts have been made by the Government to get information regarding this? Whether any special cell will be set up by the Government to protect the medicinal plants and herbs of the country from being patented by other countries?

DR. RAMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government will make sincere efforts to protect medicinal plants and herbs. Steps are being taken in this regard as per the concern of the hon'ble Member.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the law of this country be applicable there? Please make arrangement for this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please address the chair. You can avoid these cross talks.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, all provisions have been made by the Government in patent second Amendment Bill to protect the traditional oral and general knowledge of the country.

Assistance to Aged Persons

*86. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started effecting a cut in the monetary assistance being provided to the aged persons;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the funds allocated for the said assistance to the aged persons during each of the last three years;

(c) the total amount spent on them during the above period;

(d) whether the number of the aged persons are increasing annually;

(e) if so, the extent of increase in their number during 2001-2002 as compared to the last year; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government for the welfare of the aged persons?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (f) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Monetary assistance at Rs. 75 per month to old and destitute persons above 65 years of age is being provided by the Ministry of Rural Development under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS). This is in addition to the Old age pensions being disbursed by the respective State Government/Union Territories.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment provides non Monetary assistance in the form of establishment and maintenance of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units and non-Institutional Service Centres set up by the Non Governmental Organisations and/or Panchayati Raj institutions through the planned and non planned schemes respectively.

(c) The total amount spent on the above mentioned two schemes by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Plan and Non-Plan) during the last three years namely 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 is as under:-

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Scheme	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
An Integrated Programme for Older Persons for maintenance of old age homes and for Construction of old age homes/multi-service centres for older persons	930.13	1327.36	1316.81*

*There was a marginal reduction in the budget due to an overall, across the board, cut in non-plan budget.

The reduction was therefore not deliberate.

(d) and (e) The Census is held decennially. The figures for the present number of persons aged 60 years and above as per the Census of India held in 2001 are awaited. However, the total population of persons aged

60 years and above as per decennial Census held in 1991 and as projected by the Technical Group on Population

Projections constituted by the Planning Commission in 1996 are given as under, which indicate the trend:-

No. of persons aged 60 years and above as per the Census of India 1991

No. of persons aged 60 years and above as projected by the Technical Group on Population Projections constituted by the Planning Commission in 1996

5,66,81,640 i.e. 5.67 crores

70,571,000 i.e. 7.06 crores

(f) In addition, the following welfare steps are also being taken by the Government for the older persons:-

- (i) The Government has recently approved a scheme called "ANNAPURNA Scheme" under which 10 Kgs of food grains would be provided every month to such destitute elderly, who are not in receipt of old age pension scheme of Ministry of Rural Development.
- (ii) On the request of this Ministry, Chief Justice of India advised Chief Justices of all High Courts in the Country to ensure expeditious disposal of Court Cases of Older Persons.
- (iii) Union Health Ministry has issued instructions to all the State Government/UT Administrations for provision to separate queues for older persons in hospital at all stages.
- (iv) At the initiative and with the financial assistance of this Ministry, three Telephone helplines for older persons have been working in Delhi, Ahmedabad & Bhuj through an NGO called Age Well Foundation.
- (v) The Department of Telecommunications has already announced the Government decision to give telephone connections to senior citizens aged 65 years and above on priority.
- (vi) Aadhar has been set up as a functional Secretariat of National Council for Older Persons (NCOP). The major activities of Aadhar include receiving representations, complaints and grievances of older persons and taking follow up action.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir the reply is very clear. The Government has formulated various schemes for the welfare of aged persons. Funds were allocated for this purpose under the integrated plan. The hon'ble Member has enquired about 2000-2001. During that period a provision of Rs. 12.49 crore was made. Earlier a sum of Rs. 10.91 crore was provided during 1999-2000 and it was Rs. 7.75 crore during 1998-99. Changes have taken place through the efforts of NGOs and Panchayat institutions also.

Therefore, it is not proper to say that the Government is not concerned about the aged persons.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the hon'ble Minister satisfied with the grants and assistance that is given to aged persons through NGOs do they get full assistance through NGO? If not, what action is being taken against the NGOs?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, inquiry is conducted against NGOs which do not work properly. Last year 70 such NGOs were black-listed. It has been our endeavour that funds granted for the purpose should be utilized properly. There is a provision to conduct inquiries also on receipt of any such complaints.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the news reports a sum of Rs. 15 crores was allocated during 1999 out of which only a sum of Rs. 10.8 crore was utilized. Why the Government's approach is lack a daisical in this regard....(Interruptions)

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is implementing National old age pension scheme for protecting the aged persons. Through you, I would like to submit to the Government that each such person is provided Rs. 75 per month. The hon'ble Minister of Finance is present here, considering the country's economic condition and inflation rate, do the Government propose to double this amount i.e. make it Rs. 150 per month or not?

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: He did not reply to my original question and the reply is evasive also. In 1999-2000 a sum of Rs. 15 crores was earmarked for providing assistance to aged persons but it was reduced to Rs. 9 crores in 2000-2001. Has the number of aged persons declined during 2000-2001 or there are some other reasons?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Sir, actually the Government has fixed Rs. 75 per month per person under the old age pension scheme. However, the State Governments also contribute some funds towards this scheme and some states are providing Rs. 300 per month as old age pension to every individual. Thus the Central Government grants Rs. 75 per month to an individual under the scheme though State Governments are free to make their own contributions in it.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: I talked about raising this amount as Rs. 75 is nothing. A conference of Chief Ministers of all the States be called and a decision taken to enhance this to Rs. 300 per month.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, is the Government proposing to enhance the amount from Rs. 75 a month?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, it all depends on the resources. As soon as we will get resources, it will definitely be done.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like to appeal to you first before I put my Supplementary to the hon. Minister.

This Parliament finds hardly any time to discuss the plight and the issues relating to the old and the destitute. We discuss all subjects in Parliament but we find no time to discuss the pitiable conditions of thousands of millions of the old and destitute. Therefore, I would like to address, through you, to the hon. Minister and to you personally, to find and allocate some time, say, one day exclusively, to discuss the plight of the old and destitute throughout the country.

My Supplementary, therefore, to the hon. Minister is this. Will the Government consider decisively before launching the Tenth Plan of this country, that in every block headquarters, there will be an Old and Destitute Home with, at least, the minimum medical support stationed thereby combining the resources of the states and the Union, and a mandatory pension and support operated through the block panchyats and municipalities during the Tenth Plan? Will the Government scrap all the NGOs from the pension distribution system because the NGOs are not distributing it? They are playing fraud.

So, as a matter of policy, will the Government, before the Tenth Plan is launched, come forward to help the plight of the old and destitute?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the suggestion given by hon'ble member is very good. We are working in this directions, it is not that Government is not taking any steps in this regard.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I want to know whether the hon. Minister will consider it before the Tenth Plan is finalised. This issue is above party-politics. It is a national issue.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I said that I welcome your suggestion and it would be our endeavour to do something in this regard in the 10th Five Year Plan. I was telling you that the Government is taking action in this regard.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am asking, Sir, whether the Government would consider it in the Tenth Plan...*(Interruptions)* I seek your protection. It is an issue of top-priority in our country.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: As I have told that we will pay attention towards it in the 10th Five Year Plan, which in is the offing.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has received a proposal from the State of West Bengal for setting up an Old Age Home Day Care Centre at Manipur Leprosy Rehabilitation Centre in the State of West Bengal. As far as I know, three years back, the proposal was sent to the Union Government in this regard. I would like to know as to what action the Government of India has taken.

Will the Government of India consider this proposal for setting up of such a Centre?

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Sir, it is a particular question and I will inform the hon'ble member in this regard.

[*English*]

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister has said that some of the NGOs which were supposed to distribute pension, and did not distribute it, have been blacklisted by the Government. That is a different thing. Here, I want to know about the old people who have been deprived of this scheme. Have they been getting all this money?

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the persons who are responsible for this lapse and who have deprived old people from this benefit, have been excluded from this scheme. The Government will certainly pay attention to aged persons.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Government that under the old age pension scheme, 65 years of age has been fixed for a beneficiary. At present the retirement age for the Government servants is 60 years. I would like to know whether the Government propose to fix the age of a beneficiary at 60 years under the old age pension scheme.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Though it is a policy matter yet the Government will definitely consider it at appropriate time.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Recession in Indian Economy

*83. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recession in the economy is far worse during the current year as compared to previous years;

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

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the overall economic scenario after obtaining views from advisory council on Trade and Industry;

(d) if so, the detailed assessment of Indian economy;

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to remove the recession in the economy;

(f) whether RBI has also taken several measures in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) As per the latest available Quarterly Estimate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the first quarter (April-June) of 2001-2002 the overall growth in the real GDP estimated at 4.4 per cent was lower than 6.1 per cent in the same quarter of 2000-01, but was higher than the growth of 3.8 posted in the preceding quarter (January-March) of 2000-01.

(c) to (g) The trends in the economy are closely monitored and under constant review and appropriate measures taken in the light of emerging situation as and when necessary. The views and suggestions from various organisations including the Advisory Council on Trade and Industry provide inputs in formulating policies keeping in view the government's broad policy objectives and overall macro-economic situation. Despite a moderate overall GDP growth in the first quarter of the current financial year and an uncertain external environment, the fundamentals of the economy as reflected in low inflation, high foreign exchange reserves, large foodgrains stocks, are still strong. With a view to promoting growth, the broad strategy has been enunciated in the Budget speech for 2001-02. The Budget for 2001-2002 has also provided enhanced central plan outlays for key infrastructure sectors and increased emphasis has been placed on accelerating capital investment expenditure. Reserve Bank of India on the basis of review of macro-economic and monetary developments took certain monetary measures keeping in view need for adequate liquidity to meet credit growth and support revival of investment demand consistent with price stability. These measures included further reduction in the bank rate from 7 per cent to 6.5 per cent, rationalisation in the Cash Reserve Ratio for the banking system and reduction in the maximum interest rate chargeable on export credit by 1.0 percentage point for a period of six months with effect from September 26, 2001. These specific measures to stimulate demand in the backdrop of Budget strategy are expected to have a favourable impact on growth.

Special Incentives to Industries following Eco-Friendly Measures

*84. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give special incentives to the industries which are adopting recycling and eco-friendly conservation practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) Incentives have been given to the industries adopting recycling and eco-friendly conservation practices which include:-

- (i) A provision of incentive in the form of rebate has been made under the Water Cess Act for the industries which have adopted satisfactory pollution control measures.
- (ii) The industries consuming Water less than the prescribed rate of consumption, are required to pay cess at lower rates.
- (iii) Financial assistance is given for setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in clusters of small and medium scale industries.
- (iv) 100% custom and excise duty exemption is given for capital goods using non ozone depleting substances technology.
- (v) Concessional custom duty @ 5% is charged for the import of CNG/LPG/Propane Kit/parts, which are required for conversion of motor spirit or diesel driven vehicles into CNG/Propane/LPG driven vehicles to reduce pollution.
- (vi) Exemption from payment of excise duty upto first clearance of 3500 MT per annum is given to the paper and paper board manufacturers using 75% or more non-conventional raw material such as bagasse, wheat straw, rice straw and waste paper.

Purchase of Rubber by Tyre Manufacturers

*87. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that tyre manufacturing companies are not purchasing rubber from the rubber growers at the minimum price fixed by the Government;

(b) if so, whether rubber growers are facing a lot of difficulties as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken or propose to take any effective steps in this direction;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Kerala Government has also submitted any request to the Union Government in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government have asked the STC to procure rubber from rubber growers at the fixed floor prices; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) No Sir. Initially after the Minimum Price for Natural Rubber was notified on 12.9.2001, it was reported that tyre manufacturing companies had some misapprehensions about the minimum price fixed for trading in RSS-4 and 5 and where was some disruption in the transactions of these two grades. However, after discussions with tyre manufacturing companies, traders and dealers, misapprehensions have been resolved and the market has settled and normal trading of Natural Rubber is taking place now.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Government of Kerala has also brought to the notice of the Govt. of India that in spite of minimum price for Natural Rubber having been notified, tyre manufacturers have abstained from the market. The State of Government have requested that Government of India should ensure that rubber cultivators are able to dispose their rubber at the notified price.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Decline in Export of Tea

*88. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether tea export has suffered a set back during the first eight months of the current year as compared to the corresponding period of last year;

(b) if so, the reasons for decline in tea export;

(c) the total drop in tea export as compared to the figures of last two years;

(d) the total monetary loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the export of tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes sir. There has been a decline in export of tea in quantity and value terms during the first eight months viz. January-August 2001 compared to the corresponding period last year. The details of export of tea are given below:-

Period	2001		2000		(In (+) or Dec (-) in 2001 over 2000)		
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value			
		Rs.		(US \$)		(Rs.)	(US \$)
Jan-Aug.	116.70	1056.00	225.46	128.12	1171.24	265.04	(-) 11.42

(b) The main accounting for decline in export of tea include increase in import duty on tea by various countries like Russian Federation, ban on import of tea into Iran, stiff competition from other exporting countries such as Sri Lanka, Kenya, Indonesia, China and Vietnam and setback in countries like UK, Poland, Canada, UAE, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Japan and Australia.

(c) and (d) The export of tea (in quantity terms) had declined in 1999, but increased in 2000. However, there has been a continuous decline in export of tea in value terms. The details of export for the last three years including loss are given below:

Year	Quantity (in Mn. kgs)	Value (in Rs. Crores)	Value (in US \$ Mn)	% Loss	
				Rs.	US \$
1998	201.34	2309.44	559.74		
1999	191.72	1965.87	456.59	-14.87	-18.42
2000	206.82	1898.61	422.46	-3.42	-7.47

(e) The Government/Tea Board has taken various steps to promote Indian Teas in the overseas markets which include registration of Tea Board logo and speciality Tea Logo in major tea importing countries improving quality of Indian tea, remove bottlenecks in exports to individual markets, participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad; lending promotional support to Indian

exporters in marketing Indian brands, field sampling at speciality stores and in principle markets; media campaign to increase consumer awareness of speciality Indian teas and to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol and exchange of tea delegations etc. Tea Board has also engaged a consultant for preparation of a medium term export strategy on tea for the next five years.

[Translation]

Ban on Import of Yarn

*89. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the types and value of yarn imported during the last Three years along with the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government propose to impose ban on the import of yarn;

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

(d) the steps taken to protect the interests of domestic textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The types and value of yarn imported during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Items	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Silk Yarn	3701.85	3860.53	7123.60
Wollen yarn including yarn of animal hair	1028.86	786.74	1121.46
Cotton Yarn	2059.95	1387.07	3110.51
Cotton sewing thread	39.08	38.18	187.30
Flax Yarn	896.60	1337.67	736.23
Jute Yarn and other vegetable textile yarn	88.03	157.74	238.84
Man-made filament yarn	35473.37	64239.58	69092.39
100% non-cotton yarn	2944.92	2853.29	3370.28
100% non-cotton sewing thread	183.50	145.50	153.21

Source: DGCI&S

Market forces subject to export import policy in force govern imports from time to time. In any case, total import of yarn (in quantity terms) is less than 3% of total domestic production.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Imposition of ban, per se, is not WTO compatible.

(d) Government is keeping watch on the imports and would strive to ensure that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic industry. In case any unfair trade practice comes to notice action, if necessary, under anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures under the WTO agreement could be taken.

[English]

Impact of Afghan War on Indian Economy

*90. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the effect of the Afghanistan War on the Indian economy;

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

(c) whether the Government have prepared any long-term and short-term plans to combat any adverse effect on our economy in case the war is prolonged;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The longer term economic impact of the war in Afghanistan on the Indian economy will depend upon the duration and intensity of the war and its impact on global demand and trade. There has been some effect of the war on Indian exports, stock markets, tourism, heightened risk aversion of foreign investors and the foreign exchange market. However, in its mid-term review of the monetary and credit policy for the year 2001-02, announced in October 2001, the Reserve Bank of India has projected 5-6 per cent growth for the Indian economy for the year 2001-02.

(c) to (e) External impacts are always kept in view while formulating policies. In the latest Union Budget, several measures were announced for boosting industry, infrastructure and the capital markets. The RBI has recently reduced the bank rate (from 7% to 6.5%) and the Cash Reserve Ratio. All these measures are expected to improve growth and economic activity.

Direct and Indirect Tax Collection

*91. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the actual direct and indirect tax collection was well below the set target during the first six months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the actual shortfall in tax collection, tax-wise details with reasons therefor;

(c) whether the existing policy to collect tax is ineffective and needs radical changes; and

(d) if so, the details of the changes proposed to be made to bring in an effective tax regime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Targets for tax collection are fixed for the whole financial year. Tax collection during the first six months of the current financial year has provisionally amounted to Rs. 77422 crores, as compared to a collection of Rs. 82539 crores in the corresponding period of previous year.

(b) The details are as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

	Collection during April-Sept, 2000	Collection during April-Sept, 2001	%age change over 2000-2001
Central Excise	30951.51	31365.79	1.34
Customs duty	23331.75	19581.43	-16.07
Other Indirect Taxes	1715.15	1924.57	12.21
Corporation Tax	13450.33	11487.96	-14.59
Income tax	12938.91	12885.00	-0.42
Other direct taxes.	151.53	177.25	16.97
Total	82539.18	77422.00	-6.20

Excise duty collections have been affected by the lower growth in certain sectors of the economy and increase in the exemption limit of Small Scale Industries. The sluggish growth in imports and abolition of 10% surcharge on imports have affected the customs revenue. Direct tax collections is lower due to increased amount of refunds.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Trade Deficit

*92. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether India's exports witnessed a negative growth during the first five months of current financial year;

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

(c) whether as a result of negative export growth India's trade deficit rose by a huge 25 percent during the above period;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the Government have chalked out any new strategy to minimise its trade deficit in the next few months of the current financial year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) As per the provisional data furnished by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta, the value of merchandise goods exports have registered a growth rate of -2.30% during April-August, 2001-02 as compared to the corresponding period of previous year, mainly due to the global economic slow down.

(c) to (f) India's trade deficit during April-August 2001-02 which is placed at US \$ 4.60 billion is higher by 25.1% as compared to US \$ 3.68 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year. Several measures have been taken to boost exports and to minimize trade deficit. Some of the recent measures taken to promote exports include reduction in the export credit rate for both pre-shipment and post-shipment, special financial package to manufacturer exporters with a export contract of Rs. 100 crores or above for a period of one year from October 2001, extension of normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days for exports made to Latin American countries for a period of one year and upward revision of duty drawback rates on a number of product groups. Export performance is constantly being monitored and measures are being taken to reduce the trade deficit.

External Funds to States

*93. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have a proposal to revise the terms and conditions for transfer of external funds to States;

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter;

(c) whether this will be more expensive for States and will have very adverse effect on their economy; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to reconsider the matter and to save the States from additional burden?

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

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Long-Term Grain Policy

*94. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the high level committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen formed to formulate long-term grain policy has submitted its final report;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations accepted by the Government;

(c) the steps taken to implement these recommendations;

(d) whether the Government propose to float tenders for procurement of foodgrains from farmers by doing away with the present scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the approximate annual expenditure incurred by the Government on procurement, handling and transportation of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) No concrete proposal in this regard is under consideration.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The expenditure likely to be incurred on procurement, handling and transportation of foodgrains during the current financial year would be Rs. 27,000 crores approximately.

Reduce In Levy on Imports from Pakistan

*95. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to reduce levy on imports from Pakistan;

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

(c) the extent to which the Indo-Pak trade is likely to improve as a result thereof; and

(d) the reciprocal concessions, if any on imports from India, granted by Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The list of 50 tariff lines, which were identified for this purpose through a process

of Inter-Ministerial consultations, is enclosed Statement. Requisite Customs notification is yet to be issued. It is expected that operationalisation of the proposed concessions will lead to increase in trade between the two countries which would have its own dynamics and impact positively on our bilateral relations.

(d) No, Sir.

Statement

List of 50 Tariff Lines

S.No.	HS Code	Commodity Description
1	2	3
1.	071230	Mushrooms and Truffles, Dried
2.	080211	Almonds fresh or dried in shell
3.	080212	Shelled almonds - fresh or dried.
4.	080250	Pistachios fresh or dried
5.	080420	Figs fresh or dried
6.	080520	Mandarins (including Tangerines & Satsumas); Clementines, Wilkings & similar Citrus hybrids - fresh/dried
7.	081100	Frozen fruit and nuts
8.	081200	Fruit preserved
9.	081310	Apricots, dried
10.	081340	Other fruits dried
11.	251010	Unground natural calcium phosphates, Natural Aluminium, Calcium Phosphates & Phosphatic Chalk
12.	283650	Calcium Carbonate
13.	300110	Glands and other organs, dried, whether or not powdered
14.	300120	Extracts of Glands or other organs or of their secretions
15.	300640	Dental cements and other dental fillings; Bone reconstruction cements
16.	300660	Chemical contraceptive preparations based on hormones or spermicides
17.	330410	Lip make-up preparations
18.	330420	Eye make-up preparations

1	2	3
19.	330430	Manicure or pedicure preparations
20.	330491	Powders, whether or not compressed
21.	330499	Other beauty/make-up/skin care preparations
22.	330510	Shampoos
23.	330520	Preparations for permanent waving or straightening
24.	330530	Hair Lacquers
25.	330590	Other
26.	330620	Yarn used to clean between the teeth (Dental floss)
27.	330690	Other
28.	330710	Pre-shave shaving or after-shave preparations
29.	350300	Gelatin
30.	410210	Raw skins of sheep or lambs with wool on
31.	410410	Whole leather of Bovine skin of a unit surface area not exceeding 28 square feet (2.6 Sq. M)
32.	410619	Other goat/kid skin leather - tanned/retanned, not further prepared
33.	440399	Other wood in rough
34.	490110	Printed books etc. in single sheet W/N folded
35.	490199	Other printed books etc. of Heading No. 4901
36.	490210	Newspapers, journals etc. appearing atleast four times a week
37.	690410	Building bricks
38.	741022	Foil of copper alloys, backed
39.	901849	Other instruments & appliances, used in dental science
40.	901890	Other instruments & appliances, used in medical science
41.	902119	Other orthopaedic/fracture appliances

1	2	3
42.	902129	Other Dental (fittings)
43.	903300	parts & accessories for machines, appliances, instruments/apparatus of Chapter 90, n.e.s. (not elsewhere specified)
44.	940210	Dentist chairs
45.	940330	Wooden furniture of a kind used in offices
46.	940340	Wooden furniture of a kind used in the kitchen
47.	940350	Wooden furniture of a kind used in bedroom
48.	940360	Other wooden furniture
49.	940380	Furniture of other materials, including cane, osier, bamboo or similar materials
50.	940390	Parts

Ballout Plan for State Finance Corporations

*96. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bailout plan worth over Rs. 3,600 crore for the ailing State Finance Corporations has been finalized by the Government after consulting respective States;

(b) if so, the details of the package worked out; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The Committee under the Chairmanship & Managing Director, Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) in its report dated 30th January, 2001 has made recommendations for operational, financial and organizational restructuring of State Financial Corporations. The Committee has, inter-alia, recommended recapitalisation, amounting to Rs. 3,600 crore which can be shared by Central Government, Reserve Bank of India, Industrial Development Bank of India, Small Industries Development Bank of India and State Governments which should be linked to reforms on the operations of SFCs.

The process of consultation with the State Governments and other concerned agencies on implementation of various recommendations is yet to be completed.

FDI in Insurance Sector

*97. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI BHADUR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foreign companies given licences to operate in the insurance sectors;

(b) the manner in which the Government monitor the workings of such companies to safeguard the interests of the customers;

(c) whether the Government propose to raise the percentage of foreign direct investment in the insurance sector in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) its likely overall impact on the country's insurance sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The list of foreign companies given licences by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The monitoring of the working of the insurance companies is done by the IRDA under the IRDA Act, 1999.

(c) There is no proposal at present with the Government in this regard.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

Insurance Companies granted Registration by IRDA

1. Max New Your Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
2. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
3. Tata AIG Life Insurance Company Ltd.
4. HDFC Standard Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
5. Birla Sunlife Insurance Co. Ltd.

6. Om Kotak Mahindra Life Ins. Co. Ltd.
7. SBI Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
8. Reliance General Insurance Co. Ltd.
9. Royal Sundaram Alliance Insurance Co. Ltd.
10. IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance Co. Ltd.
11. Tata AIG General Insurance Co. Ltd.
12. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd.
13. ING Vysya Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
14. Metlife India Insurance Co. Pvt. Ltd.
15. ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co. Ltd.
16. Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

ATMs in Banks

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that ATMs installed at various nationalised banks in the country are not providing correct services to the customers;

(b) if so, whether the ATMs are not even delivering the amount sought by customers;

(c) whether any complaints have been received by the Government banks in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further action taken to ensure the proper functioning of ATMs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India have reported that the Bank has not received any complaint with regard to Banking services through Automated Teller Machines (ATMs).

VRS in Public Sector Undertakings

*99. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the VRS introduced in the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) if so, the response of the employees of PSUs to the VRS;

(c) whether the Government now propose to bring about some changes in the VRS;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reactions for making the amendments in VRS; and

(f) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The response of the employees of PSUs to the VRS has been very good 45,625 PSU employees opted for VRS during 2000-2001 and 3,69,277 to date since the scheme was initially introduced in October, 1988.

(c) to (f) The Government has announced some modifications to the existing VRS through OM No. 2(32)/97-DPE(WC)/GL-LVI dated 6th November, 2001. These modifications were necessitated on humanitarian considerations to give a reasonable ex-gratia to employees of PSUs where pay scales were not revised after 1.1.1987 or 1.1.1992 and also to offer a reasonable ex-gratia package to younger employees through the option of Gujarat pattern. The salient features are:

(a) Ex-gratia payment in respect of employees on pay scales at 1.1.1987 and 1.1.1992 levels, computed on their existing pay scales in accordance with the extent scheme, shall be increased by 100% and 50% respectively.

(b) The option of the Gujarat or the DHI pattern shall be available to the employees of marginally profit/loss making, as well as sick and unviable units.

Training to Unemployed Handicapped Youths

*100. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed handicapped youths in the country;

(b) whether there is any schemes for imparting training to unemployed handicapped youths for setting up small-scale industries in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of the schemes; and

(d) the number of unemployed handicapped youths, who have been benefited from this scheme till date?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) As per information compiled upto June, 2000, the total number of persons with disabilities enrolled in the Live Register of Employment Exchanges is 4.66 lakhs.

The Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) aims at providing income generating assets through a mix of government subsidy and bank credit. The Scheme targets the most vulnerable rural poor and 3% among the Swarojgaris assisted must be disabled persons. Credit and subsidy disbursed to persons with disabilities in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 under the scheme amounts to Rs.30.22 crores covering 15,435 beneficiaries. The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) extends soft loans to persons with disabilities for self-employment ventures. The Corporation has so far disbursed Rs. 24.95 crores in loans covering 5509 beneficiaries. For evaluating the residual capacity of the disabled persons, imparting them vocational training and guidance and providing them the job or assisting them in self-employment or setting up scale units according to their capacity, 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRSc) are functioning in the country. 1,31,900 persons with disabilities have been rehabilitated by these centres till June 2001. Under the scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities, 141 non-governmental organizations have been assisted by the Central Government to the tune of Rs. 11.26 crores during 2000-2001 for running vocational training centre covering 8040 beneficiaries.

Creation of Buffer Stock of Sugar

921. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories has urged the Union Government to create a buffer stock for sugar in view of the huge stocks with the industry; and

(b) if so, 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Recovery of Losses by FCI

922. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

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

(a) whether arbitrary methods are being used by FCI to recover losses from employees that occurs naturally during storage and transit of foodgrains;

(b) whether FCI employees Union has threatened to intensify agitation for unnecessary penalizing its employees; and

(c) if so, reaction of Union Government on their genuine demand and remedial steps taken in this regard?

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

(c) Question does not arise.

Settlement Commission and Director General of Income Tax

923. SHRI ANIL BASU:
SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the very objective of setting up the Settlement Commission and Director-General of Income-Tax (Exemptions) has been defeated as they have not been able to achieve the desired results;

(b) if so, the Government's reactions thereon alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to reactivate both the institutions?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Assistance to NGO's for the Old Aged Homes in Tamil Nadu

924. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any NGO's have been assisted to run the old age homes in the current financial year in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance given to each organizations;

(c) whether the amount so sanctioned by the Government has been fully consumed by these organizations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Twenty Non-Governmental Organizations have been given financial assistance to run Old Age Homes in the current year 2001-02 (upto 30.10.2001) in the State of Tamilnadu. The details of the financial assistance given to each organization is given in Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Further assistance is dependent on the submission of Utilization Certificates of the amounts released earlier.

Statement

Non-Governmental Organisation-wise details of financial assistance provided in Tamilnadu by Union Government to NGOs to run Old Age Homes for the year 2001-02

Rs. in lakhs

	Addresses	No. of Old Age Home	2001-02
1	2	3	4
TAMIL NADU			
(1) Chennai District			
1.	Indian Instt. for Sustainable Dev.	30, 5th Main Road, Vijay Nagar, Velachery, Chennai, Tamilnadu-600042	1.3
2.	Kalaiselvi Karunalaya Social Welfare Society	124, Purasawalkam High Road, Kellys, Chennai-600010, Tamilnadu ph.-6427092/6257779	2.76
(2) Kancheepuram District			
1.	Duraisamy Generous Social Ed. Society	Vilvarayanallur, Pakk. Post Madurantakam Taluk, Chengalpattu, M.G.R. Distt., Tamilnadu	2.88
(3) Nagapattinam District			
1.	Avvai Village Welfare Society	Kilvelur, Nagapattinam Dist. Tamilnadu	1.38
2.	Bharati Women Dev. Centre	28, Kannagi Vilas Building, Thiruvarur Road, Thiruthuraipoondi, Thiruvarur, Tamilnadu	2.68
3.	Nehru Social Ed. Centre	Ayakkaranpulam-ii-614707, Vedaranyam-TK, Nagapattinam, Tamilnadu	1.38
4.	Society for Rural Dev.	Kamaraj Street, Neelapadi, Athipuliar post, Nagai quaid-e-Milleth Dt-611105, Tamilnadu	1.8

1	2	3	4
(4) Pudukkottai District			
1.	Grama Suryaraj	666, 6th Cross Shanmuga Nagar, Uyyakondan Thirumalai, Tiruchy, Tamilnadu	1 3.98
2.	Vethathiri Maharishi Social Welfare Trust	H.O. No. 77, Pudukkottai, Tamilnadu	1 2.21
3.	Oazoane	32-A, Agraharam, Aranthangi- 614616, Pudukotai Dist., Tamilnadu	1 2.68
4.	Development Education for Rural Mass	2885/2, West Main Street, Pudukotai dist., Tamilnadu	1 1.54
(5) Sivagangai District			
1.	Singampatty Grama Munetra Sangam	10-C, Ahilandapuram, kattaboman St., Sivaganga, Tamilnadu	1 1.53
(6) Thanjavur District			
1.	Sri Victoria Educational Society	Puddukottai Road, Mathakottai Village, Enathukanpati Post, Thanjavur-5, Thanjavur Dist., Tamilnadu	1 1.38
(7) Thiruvarur District			
1.	Bharathamatha Family Welfare Foundation	5 A, Keezhaveethi, Thiruturaipoondi, Tirivarur Dist., Tamilnadu	1 3.16
2.	National Mother & Child Welfare Orgn.	27, South Main street Thiruthuraipundi-614713, Tiruvarur, Tamilnadu	1 2.75
(8) Theni District			
1.	Yuvak Vikas Kendra	Shasthan Nilayam, P.T.R. colony, Uthamapalayam, Theni Dist., Tamilnadu-625533	1 2.76
(9) Trichy District			
1.	Jaya Balwadi Educational Society	Aravakarichi Patti Village, Asur Post-trichy-620015, Trichy, Tamilnadu	2 3.02
2.	Krishna's Home	Thrivellari-621009, Thiruchirappalli Dt., Tamilnadu	1 1.38
3.	Periyar Kudil	Padalur-621109, Perambalur Dist., Tamilnadu	1 0.9
4.	Vivivelti Rural Development Society	325, Indhira Nagar, Manappoarai, Trichy, Tamilnadu	1 1.75
Total No. of NGOs-20			21 43.22

[*Translation*]**Loans to Farmers**

925. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of branches of public sector banks in each State, bank-wise;

(b) the total deposit in these banks during the last two years, bank-wise and State-wise;

(c) the amount of loan sanctioned by these banks in each State during each of the last three years;

(d) the percentage of amount distributed to the farmers as loans compared to the national data during the aforesaid period, State-wise; and

(e) the amount of loans refunded by the farmers during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Bank-

wise number of branches of public sector banks in each State as on June 30, 2001 is given in the Statement-I.

(b) The outstanding aggregate deposits for public sector banks, bank-wise and State-wise as on the last Friday of June 2000 and 2001 are given in the Statement-II and III respectively.

(c) State-wise aggregate gross banks credit of public sector banks for the last three years is given in the Statement-IV.

(d) State-wise percentage of agricultural credit to gross bank credit for March 1999 and 2000 (the latest available) is given in the Statement-V.

(e) The Reserve Bank of India have reported that the amount of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of public sector banks in priority sector including agriculture and its percentage to total NPA for the last three years is given below:

	NPAs in Priority Sector (Rs. crores)	Percentage of Total
March 1999	22,606	43.7
March 2000	23,715	44.5
March 2001	24,156	45.4

Statement-I**State-wise and Bank-wise Branches of Public Sector Banks as on June 30, 2001**

Name of State	State Bank of India	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	State Bank of Hyderabad	State Bank of Indore	State Bank of Mysore	State Bank of Patiala	State Bank of Saurashtra
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh	818	4	524	1	16	4	3
Arunachal Pradesh	42	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	200	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bihar	554	6	0	0	0	1	0
Chhattisgarh	225	0	0	23	0	0	1
Delhi	194	25	10	8	10	38	7
Goa	50	0	0	0	3	1	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gujarat	448	8	6	9	3	4	352
Haryana	166	9	5	3	0	128	1
Himachal Pradesh	144	0	0	0	0	74	0
Jammu & Kashmir	119	0	0	0	0	3	0
Jharkhand	373	4	0	0	0	0	0
Karnataka	294	3	111	1	499	4	2
Kerala	224	1	6	0	10	0	2
Madhya Pradesh	464	6	3	319	2	5	2
Maharashtra	800	20	166	20	17	11	18
Manipur	16	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	85	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	24	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	43	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	468	2	5	0	1	0	0
Punjab	241	7	2	0	0	348	0
Rajasthan	166	657	2	7	1	12	3
Sikkim	26	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	574	5	16	3	30	4	5
Tripura	33	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	1111	21	5	8	1	46	3
Uttaranchal	265	1	0	0	0	8	0
West Bengal	737	14	6	4	4	2	3
Andaman & Nicobar	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh	22	1	1	0	0	21	0
Dadra Nagar Haveli	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman & Diu	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	12	0	1	0	1	0	0
All India	8960	795	869	406	598	714	406

Name of State	State Bank of Travancore	Allahabad Bank	Andhra Bank	Bank of Baroda	Bank of India	Bank of Maharashtra	Canara Bank
1	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Andhra Pradesh	6	20	783	71	74	26	169
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	0	60	1	13	8	0	16
Bihar	0	143	1	80	140	1	75
Chhattisgarh	0	24	2	21	10	15	9
Delhi	5	41	15	68	50	15	79
Goa	0	1	2	27	28	9	22
Gujarat	3	23	6	668	217	33	39
Haryana	1	29	2	27	21	8	52
Himachal Pradesh	0	3	0	5	8	0	11
Jammu & Kashmir	0	3	0	3	4	0	6
Jharkhand	0	82	2	27	250	1	38
Karnataka	12	14	19	37	59	41	521
Kerala	554	5	8	43	70	5	235
Madhya Pradesh	2	143	5	66	238	107	40
Maharashtra	10	77	27	283	586	891	193
Manipur	0	2	0	3	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	1	0	2	2	0	2
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	4	0	4	0	0	0
Orissa	1	55	77	36	113	2	39
Punjab	0	38	4	47	66	7	99
Rajasthan	1	31	3	315	42	7	22
Sikkim	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Tamil Nadu	64	23	31	100	112	18	454

1	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Tripura	0	1	0	2	1	0	1
Uttar Pradesh	3	589	10	508	208	9	179
Uttaranchal	0	12	0	50	5	1	22
West Bengal	4	456	14	100	195	12	71
Andaman & Nicobar	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Chandigarh	0	3	2	4	6	1	12
Dadra Nagar Havelli	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
All India	667	1885	1015	2614	2516	1210	2412

Name of State	Central Bank of India	Corporation Bank	Dena Bank	Indian Bank	Indian Overseas Bank	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Punjab National Bank
1	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Andhra Pradesh	100	68	17	196	115	19	51
Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	101	0	2	19	14	2	44
Bihar	318	2	7	22	9	4	397
Chhattisgarh	75	2	70	4	1	8	47
Delhi	66	38	24	25	29	67	146
Goa	22	31	16	6	12	1	5
Gujarat	217	33	511	37	54	28	81
Haryana	76	12	10	18	15	110	326
Himachal Pradesh	26	1	0	2	4	11	212
Jammu & Kashmir	11	1	2	0	2	7	64
Jharkhand	55	2	5	5	11	6	51

1	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Karnataka	54	205	24	60	61	5	41
Kerala	73	52	11	81	114	6	19
Madhya Pradesh	356	7	32	9	8	36	166
Maharashtra	471	64	251	71	68	51	137
Manipur	3	0	0	0	1	0	2
Meghalaya	4	0	0	2	1	0	6
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Orissa	51	5	3	46	74	7	51
Punjab	89	9	10	30	41	204	486
Rajasthan	95	6	15	8	12	83	290
Sikkim	10	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tamil Nadu	157	71	20	668	648	17	83
Tripura	3	0	0	1	1	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	394	18	42	29	66	192	771
Uttaranchal	21	1	1	2	14	32	126
West Bengal	238	13	27	54	66	45	214
Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Chandigarh	8	2	1	5	2	8	22
Dadra Nagar Haveli	0	0	6	0	0	0	0
Daman & Diu	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	1	2	0	20	7	1	1
All India	3099	645	1108	1422	1451	951	3841

Name of State	Punjab & Sind Bank	Syndicate Bank	Union Bank of India	United Bank of India	UCO Bank	Vijaya Bank	Total of Public Sector Banks
1	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Andhra Pradesh	4	301	126	12	36	75	3639
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	2	2	2	49
Assam	4	5	44	180	99	7	820
Bihar	5	17	47	65	161	5	2060
Chhattisgarh	5	3	21	2	22	1	591
Delhi	58	88	53	24	37	24	1244
Goa	1	17	13	2	5	5	279
Gujarat	7	47	172	12	73	29	3120
Haryana	42	48	43	4	26	10	1192
Himachal Pradesh	11	1	10	1	118	1	643
Jammu & Kashmir	12	2	4	1	12	2	258
Jharkhand	5	10	39	44	37	4	1051
Karnataka	5	487	91	7	24	399	3080
Kerala	3	117	124	2	19	68	1852
Madhya Pradesh	25	20	151	4	95	5	2316
Maharashtra	22	139	312	28	108	63	4904
Manipur	2	0	0	16	2	2	49
Meghalaya	0	1	3	12	4	2	127
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	1	1	26
Nagaland	1	0	0	2	1	3	61
Orissa	2	29	47	95	155	7	1371
Punjab	345	13	67	4	86	8	2251
Rajasthan	20	12	50	6	133	11	2010
Sikkim	0	0	4	0	2	1	47

1	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Tamil Nadu	7	108	131	11	62	45	3467
Tripura	1	0	2	41	5	1	93
Uttar Pradesh	101	215	430	40	105	33	5137
Uttaranchal	23	3	28	1	14	2	632
West Bengal	15	51	86	692	287	18	3428
Andaman & Nicobar	0	5	0	1	1	1	31
Chandigarh	18	1	6	1	3	2	152
Dadra Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Daman & Diu	0	0	1	0	1	0	14
Lakshadweep	0	9	0	0	0	0	9
Pondicherry	0	2	1	1	6	1	66
All India	774	1751	2106	1313	1742	838	46078

Statement-II

Bank-wise Outstanding aggregate deposits of Public Sector Banks as on last Friday of June 2000 & 2001

(Rupees Crores)

Bank	Deposits 2000	Deposits 2001
1	2	3
Allahabad Bank	16,798	19,243
Andhra Bank	14,355	16,968
Bank of Baroda	42,658	46,908
Bank of India	37,913	41,595
Bank of Maharashtra	13,129	17,787
Canara Bank	45,718	59,279
Central Bank of India	33,711	39,042
Corporation Bank	14,295	16,986

1	2	3
Dena Bank	12,959	14,396
Indian Bank	18,078	20,961
Indian Overseas Bank	23,255	26,610
Oriental Bank of Commerce	22,455	24,183
Punjab and Sind Bank	9,996	11,271
Punjab National Bank	47,419	56,016
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	9,092	10,384
State Bank of Hyderabad	12,026	14,540
State Bank of India	145,943	171,577
State Bank of Indore	4,819	6,806
State Bank of Mysore	6,578	7,631
State Bank of Patiala	9,561	11,657

1	2	3
State Bank of Saurashtra	5,608	6,859
State Bank of Travancore	9,938	11,311
Syndicate Bank	19,135	22,388
UCO Bank	15,910	19,110
Union Bank of India	30,287	35,383
United Bank of India	15,840	17,020
Vijaya Bank	11,196	12,290
Total	648,672	758,202

Statement-III

State-wise Outstanding Aggregate deposits of Public Sector Banks as on last Friday of June 2000 & 2001

(Rupees Crore)

State/Union Territory	Deposits 2000	Deposits 2001
1	2	3
Andaman & Nicobar	329	355
Andhra Pradesh	36,780	42,999
Arunachal Pradesh	480	562
Assam	7,474	8,627
Bihar	32,464	22,720
Chandigarh	5,160	6,251
Chhattisgarh	*	6,760
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	162	192
Daman & Diu	364	414
Delhi	70,423	81,136
Goa	5,788	6,557
Gujarat	43,392	51,350

1	2	3
Haryana	15,701	18,135
Himachal Pradesh	6,036	6,918
Jammu & Kashmir	3,372	3,747
Jharkhand	*	14,421
Karnataka	33,653	39,775
Kerala	26,482	30,207
Lakshadweep	46	56
Madhya Pradesh	27,330	25,745
Maharashtra	100,674	120,111
Manipur	364	410
Meghalaya	1,313	1,530
Mizoram	288	336
Nagaland	623	724
Orissa	10,831	12,608
Pondicherry	1,190	1,392
Punjab	37,071	42,749
Rajasthan	19,463	22,656
Sikkim	579	678
Tamil Nadu	40,113	46,706
Tripura	960	1,202
Uttar Pradesh	71,786	74,814
Uttaranchal	*	9,053
West Bengal	47,984	56,304
All India	648,672	758,202

Note: "*" means 'not applicable' as these 3 States were formed in Nov. 2000

Statement-IV

*State-wise outstanding gross bank credit of Public Sector Banks as
on last Friday of June 2000 & 2001*

(Rupees Crore)

State/Union Territory	Credit 1999	Credit 2000	Credit 2001
1	2	3	4
Andaman & Nicobar	44	57	68
Andhra Pradesh	21,531	24,743	27,633
Arunachal Pradesh	50	63	74
Assam	1,991	2,477	2,829
Bihar	6,660	7,582	4,794
Chandigarh	4,741	2,869	9,503
Chhattisgarh	*	*	2,681
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	28	29	33
Daman & Diu	50	49	44
Delhi	44,891	58,864	71,082
Goa	1,095	1,344	1,483
Gujarat	16,798	20,637	22,356
Haryana	5,239	6,192	6,938
Himachal Pradesh	1,082	1,356	1,545
Jammu & Kashmir	573	706	766
Jharkhand	*	*	3,955
Karnataka	18,122	20,873	23,603
Kerala	8,570	10,768	12,581
Lakshadweep	4	5	5
Madhya Pradesh	11,459	13,476	12,268
Maharashtra	69,041	89,314	101,553
Manipur	164	160	147

1	2	3	4
Meghalaya	139	180	246
Mizoram	50	61	80
Nagaland	108	111	114
Orissa	3,662	4,289	5,144
Pondicherry	334	401	416
Punjab	11,897	14,441	17,088
Rajasthan	7,506	9,029	10,734
Sikkim	57	78	99
Tamil Nadu	28,626	33,518	36,897
Tripura	207	217	231
Uttar Pradesh	16,591	20,394	21,421
Uttaranchal	*	*	2,218
West Bengal	17,960	21,377	23,036
All India	299,270	365,662	423,669

Note: "*" means 'not applicable' as these 3 States were formed in Nov. 2000

Statement-V

State-wise percentage of agricultural credit of gross bank credit of Public Sector Banks for March 1999 and 2000 (in percent)

State/U.T.	March 1999	March 2000
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	21.68	20.46
2. Arunachal Pradesh	24.00	23.81
3. Assam	14.62	10.74
4. Bihar	18.39	16.87
5. Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00
6. Delhi	1.34	2.79

	1	2	3
7. Goa		6.03	4.76
8. Gujarat		12.92	11.45
9. Haryana		25.00	25.55
10. Himachal Pradesh		14.51	12.24
11. Jammu & Kashmir		8.03	7.37
12. Jharkhand		0.00	0.00
13. Karnataka		21.85	18.46
14. Kerala		16.10	14.54
15. Madhya Pradesh		22.39	21.03
16. Maharashtra		6.07	8.27

	1	2	3
17. Manipur		11.59	18.13
18. Meghalaya		12.23	10.56
19. Mizoram		10.00	9.84
20. Nagaland		20.37	12.62
21. Orissa		19.93	18.26
22. Punjab		22.98	21.84
23. Rajasthan		22.57	22.59
24. Sikkim		14.04	8.97
25. Tamil Nadu		14.59	13.10
26. Tripura		25.12	23.50
27. Uttar Pradesh		20.72	19.68
28. Uttaranchal		0.00	0.00
29. West Bengal		10.07	10.29
30. Arjaman & Nicobar		9.09	5.26
31. Chandigarh		4.66	13.59
32. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		3.57	3.45
33. Daman & Diu		2.00	2.04
34. Lakshadweep		25.00	20.00
35. Pondicherry		14.97	12.72
All India		12.57	12.39

Industries in West Bengal

926. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries set up in West Bengal since 1991 till date;

(b) the number of industrial units closed down during the said period along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to set up more industries in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Between August 1991 and October 2001, 239 industrial units in the non-SSI Sector have been set up in West Bengal in terms of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda implemented and Industrial Licences issues.

(b) 41 Industrial Units have reported "closure" during the period 1991-2000. The main reasons for closure are financial stringency, shortage of power, general slowdown of demand and labour indiscipline.

(c) Under the liberalized industrial policy, setting up of industries depends upon the commercial judgement of the entrepreneur, and also is based upon initiatives taken by State Governments by way of providing basic infrastructure facilities and other incentives. The Central Government supplements the efforts of State Governments through schemes such as Growth Centre Scheme, Integrated Infrastructure Development Centre Scheme and other incentives.

Distribution of Foodgrains through PDS

927. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat, rice, sugar and other foodgrains in metric tonnes being distributed through Public Distribution System in the country;

(b) the production of foodgrains in the country in metric tonne; and

(c) the quantum of foodgrains exported to the foreign countries by India during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Government of India is allocating 13,90,004 MT of rice and 9,87,187 MT of wheat per month to State/UTs for distribution to families living below the poverty line (BPL), above the poverty line (APL) and Antyodaya families under Public Distribution System (PDS). A quantity of 216130 MTs of levy sugar per month and 99950 MTs of levy sugar as annual festival quota is allotted to States/UTs for distribution under PDS.

(b) The production of foodgrains in India during 2000-2001 was 195.07 million Metric tonnes as per advance estimates.

(c) Government of India has exported 34.50 lakh MTs of wheat and 2.51 lakh MTs of rice from Central Pool during the current year till 31.10.2001. India's export of foodgrains including pulses, rice, wheat and other cereals was to the tune of 16,26,967 MTs from April to August 2001.

[English]

Border Trade

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

(a) whether border trade in North-East has been gaining momentum year after year with Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan and China;

(b) if so, the volume of border trade to and fro across border of North-Eastern States during the past three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(c) the infrastructure provided for regulation of this border trade;

(d) whether it is highly inadequate to regulate and handle this trade; and

(e) if so, upto what extent and the details of the plan, if any, to augment this infrastructure?

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

(b) The volume of border trade to and fro across border of North Eastern States as per the report available with DGCI&S is enclosed at Statement.

(c) to (e) The infrastructure requirements for smooth operation of the border-trade are taken up by Department of Commerce in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs and State Governments. There are two schemes of Department of Commerce namely Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme and Export Development Fund under which funds are allocated to various State Governments for removing infrastructure bottlenecks.

Statement

India's Export to Countries through North Eastern Land Customs

(Value in Rs.)

Description	Mar 2001	April 2000- Mar 2001
Bangladesh	16,93,46,065	147,72,91,421
Bhutan	6,35,932	1,87,03,639
China		1,28,86,296
Germany		31,212
Myanmar		3,63,51,952
Nepal		1,96,50,469
Singapore		74,294
Grand Total	16,99,81,997	156,51,89,283

India's Exports through North Eastern Customs Station

(Value in Rs.)

Description	Mar 2001	April 2000- Mar 2001
Mahendraganj	1,47,84,929	11,60,31,761
Dalu	25,49,190	26,74,821
Baghmara		5,35,800
Sheobazar	6,71,309	1,61,25,767
Bhollaganj	49,37,709	5,29,30,900
Dawki	4,04,29,898	55,24,70,100
Barborah	2,82,68,637	27,04,46,724
Karimganj Steamer Ghat	2,97,028	2,89,70,046
Sutarakhandi	3,11,06,088	20,96,64,909
Agartala	5,75,284	62,71,859
Sirmantapur		8,30,360
Chasdapara	4,57,25,993	25,15,90,251
Darranga	6,35,932	2,02,94,033
Moreh		3,63,51,952
Grand Total	16,99,81,997	156,51,89,283

Amendment in Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act, 1988

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

(a) whether the Government propose to enact amendment in the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 to give it more power;

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

(c) whether since passing of Act, rules have not been notified so far;

(d) if so, the reasons for not notifying the rules; and

(e) the steps undertaken by the Government to make Act operational at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Government is considering in consultation with the Ministry of Law changes in the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 make it implementable. No decision has yet been taken on the nature of amendments in law in this regard.

(c) to (e) Yes sir. These rules could not be notified as the Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act, 1988 since its inception, ran into implementation difficulties. The Ministry of Law pointed out serious legal infirmities in the enactment causing difficulties in the framing of the Rules. Consultations are being held between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Law to make the Act operational at the earliest.

[Translation]

Facilities for Setting up of Industries

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

(a) the facilities being provided by the Union Government to State Governments for setting up the new industries in various parts of the States;

(b) whether these facilities are sufficient for encouraging the industrialists; and

(c) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Industrial Development including setting up of new industries in various States is primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments concerned. For supplementing their efforts the Central Government provides incentives under various schemes operated by it, such as Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme-North Eastern Region (NER), Central Interest Subsidy Scheme-NER, Central Comprehensive Insurance Scheme-NER, Transport Subsidy Scheme to promote industries in remote, hilly and backward areas of the country, Growth Centre Scheme to promote industrialization in backward areas; Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme for development of small scale industries in industrially backward areas and the scheme of income tax benefits for setting up of industrial parks/industrial model towns.

[English]

Under Utilisation of Noida Mint

931. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government Mint at Noida, which became operational in 1988, has failed to establish blanking line resulting in its underutilisation;

(b) if so, whether import of readymade coin blanks not only resulted in foreign exchange loss but also in claiming liquidated charges;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The India Government Mint (IGM) at Noida was set up in 1988 with the objective to have only coining facilities in the first phase. After setting up of IGM, Noida, the Cabinet approved modernisation plan for the other three IGMs at Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad, which envisaged that these three IGMs will also meet the requirement of coin blanks of IGM, Noida. Accordingly, the IGM, Noida was not provided with any blanking line. Further, since IGM, Noida does not have blanking facilities, the question of its underutilisation does not arise.

(b) to (d) There has been a steep increase in the demand for coins during the recent years causing a wide gap between the demand for coin blanks and the capacity of the IGMs and other domestic manufacturers to supply. This has led the Government to resort to import of coin blanks to bridge the gap between demand and supply.

This, however, cannot be construed as a loss of foreign exchange since the foreign exchange is used for the import of coin blanks to enable the Government to discharge its sovereign function. Further, the clause of 'liquidated damages' is incorporated in the contracts to bind the foreign suppliers to strictly adhere to the specified time frame.

[Translation]

Impact of Import of Fruits and Fruit Growers

932. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic fruit growers particularly of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir are being adversely affected due to permission of import of apple and other fruits under Open General Licence;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey/study of this adversity;

(c) if so, the steps proposed by the Government to save the domestic fruit growers from the adverse impact of import of fruits under OGL; and

(d) the facilities being provided to fruit growers for the purpose of promoting export of apple and other fruits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Representations have been received from some fruit growers including the Government of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir regarding the likely adverse impact of imports on domestic fruit producers. Import restrictions on all the items including fresh fruits are being removed since 1991 in line with the economic liberalization policy and also in accordance with the country's commitment to Multi-lateral trading regime.

However, the Government is absolutely determined to ensure through appropriate use of tariff and other mechanisms that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to domestic producers. Towards that end, import duty on apple has already been increased from 35% to 50%. In addition, all primary agricultural products including fruits have also been made subject to a sanitary import permit to be issued by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

(d) The Government has been implemented several assistance schemes and taken various steps to boost production and export of horticultural products including

apples and other fruits. These include:-

- (i) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, a strengthening of quality control including installation of latest ISO 9000/HACCP equipments at export units;
- (ii) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fruits.
- (iii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;
- (iv) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables;
- (v) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to, trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control packaging, transport, etc.
- (vi) Research efforts towards adoption of technologies for increasing the shelf life of fruits and vegetables such as Compressed/Modified Atmosphere containers for sea transport, establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities, etc. Kinnaur apple from Himachal Pradesh has been identified as one of the potential varieties for exports. Himachal Pradesh marketing Corporation (HPMC) had undertaken trial shipment of Kinnaur apples through refer container to United Kingdom.
- (vii) Provision of assistance for using international standard packaging material specified through the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP). Under this scheme assistance is given to exporters for use of packaging material specified and adopted by IIP/Agricultural Product Export Development Authority (APEDA).

[English]

Registration of Manufacturers by NCCF

933. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the branches of NCCF were advised to register only the manufacturers for supply of goods to Government departments and organisations financed or controlled by the Government;

(b) whether the branches of NCCF are still not purchasing many of the goods from other than manufacturers in the guise of unbranded and low priced items;

(c) whether the branches of NCCF have not yet reviewed the arrangement of supply of goods and the goods are still being supplied directly by the dealers/manufacturers to the Government departments;

(d) if so, the measures taken to ensure that branches of NCCF do not allow any supplies direct to the Government office, purchase all items irrespective of brand and value from the manufactures/their authorized distributors or by inviting open tenders for the supply of those items and to review the arrangement of supply of goods through authorized dealers of the branded manufacturers items; and

(e) the other measures taken to streamline the working of NCCF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The NCCF is an autonomous cooperative society having its own Board of Directors to take decisions regarding its business and other administrative matters. According to the information furnished by the NCCF, they have modified their sourcing policy in respect of branded manufactured goods with effect from 1.7.2001. According to the revised procedure, the branches of the NCCF have been advised to register the manufacturers of the branded items and where the manufacturers decline, their nominated distributors/dealers are to be registered. In respect of the un-branded and low value items, the branches of the NCCF can register general suppliers, after ensuring the competitiveness of prices. In small places, where there are no manufactures or their nominated distributors, the branches of the NCCF are sourcing their requirement from the local suppliers.

(d) According to NCCF, for the small quantity of the items indented by the indenting Government Departments/Agencies, it is not possible to source the unbranded or low value goods directly from the manufacturers/nominated distributors. In such cases also, the competitiveness of the prices are maintained.

(e) The NCCF has strengthened its internal control system by registering the manufacturers and/or the suppliers nominated by the manufacturers as the main

source of supply of the branded/manufactured items. The Monitoring Cells at the Branches undertaken the liaison with the Government Departments to know the level of satisfaction with regard to the quality, competitiveness of rates as also the services provided by the NCCF. Complaints received, if any, are immediately looked into and necessary corrective steps taken.

[*Translation*]

Loans to Students for Higher Studies

934. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some nationalized banks have provided loans to engineering, medical and other students for higher studies;

(b) if so, the bank-wise loans provided to these students during each of the last three years, especially in tribal areas of Maharashtra;

(c) the banks which have not provided loans in tribal/rural areas of other States including Gujarat;

(d) the details of students especially those belonging to Scheduled Tribes/Scheduled Castes/Backward Classes who applied for loans but were denied loans and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the directions proposed to be issued to the nationalised banks for disbursement of such loans to the students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (e) Educational loans are being provided by all Public Sector Banks (PSBs) for all the courses including Engineering/Medical courses to the students pursuing higher studies in India & abroad. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a comprehensive educational loan scheme vide its circular dated 28th April 2001 which has been implemented by all PSBs and is in operation. Banks are extending education loan under the scheme.

(b) to (d) The Management Information system of RBI does not generate the information as asked in part (b) to (d) of the Question. However, as reported by the RBI, the State-wise details of educational loans outstanding in the books of PSBs upto the end of March 1998, 1999 & 2000 are indicated in the Statement.

Statement

The State-wise details of Educational Loans Outstanding in the Books of Public Sector Banks upto the end of March 1998,

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State/U.Ts	As at the end of March 1998		As at the end of March 1999		As at the end of March 2000	
	No. of A/c	Amt. O/s	No. of A/c	Amt. O/s	No. of A/c	Amt. O/s
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana	524	228	504	296	634	564
Himachal Pradesh	155	46	151	76	161	104
Jammu & Kashmir	43	17	31	20	44	29
Punjab	436	224	561	439	794	731
Rajasthan	413	141	1036	247	586	775
Chandigarh	139	123	128	173	180	220
Delhi	1718	1420	1730	1221	1265	2688
Assam	142	61	135	69	148	89
Manipur	—	—	5	2	—	—
Meghalaya	13	3	15	6	14	4
Nagaland	2	1	4	5	2	2
Tripura	14	3	13	2	8	2
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	7	56	—	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	2	1	1	1	2	1
Bihar	666	307	729	469	806	571
Orissa	8811	582	1260	691	1137	612
West Bengal	965	488	1067	737	1104	760
Andaman & Nicobar	10	2	13	3	11	3
Madhya Pradesh	616	339	890	502	1142	891
Uttar Pradesh	1214	665	1744	1171	2646	3614

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gujarat	1570	720	1846	1011	2099	1424
Maharashtra	11438	4301	71281	10311	11124	7183
Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	2	1
Goa	181	117	172	133	238	208
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh	11820	6638	13250	8083	13586	10504
Karnataka	18987	8070	17746	9821	16936	10480
Kerala	5654	2200	7145	2758	7348	3798
Tamilnadu	16017	6102	15067	6604	17559	8932
Pondicherry	244	89	374	70	282	101
Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-
All India	81794	32888	136905	44977	79858	54291

**Financial Assistance to Women
for Making Jute Goods**

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

(a) whether Bihar, West Bengal and other State Governments have urged the Union Government to give financial assistance for imparting training to unemployed women for making jute goods; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Cargo Shipments

936. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cargo shipments were hit by massive flight cancellations and much more stringent security checks during the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, whether the heightened uncertainty further slowed down freight movement and depressed the exports of high-value products like gems and jewellery, textiles and apparels and carpets among others;

(c) if so, whether exports between April and August, 2001 was much lower, as a result; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The exports from India was Rs. 8013107.23 lacs during April-August 2001 and Rs. 7816888.10 lacs during the same period in 2000, registering an increased of 2.5%.

(d) Central Government evolves plans and policies on a continuous basis to provide quality and adequate infrastructure support to country's exports including air transportation. AAI have extended the business hours for import and export from 0800 hrs to 2200 hrs on all working days and from 1000 hrs till 1700 hrs on Sundays and holidays, synchronized with effect from 24-9-2001 to boost exports.

[Translation]

Pending Proposals for Setting up of Sugar Mills

937. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals from Maharashtra pending for setting up sugar mills alongwith the details thereof;

(b) the number of mills that are in the primary stage of being set up i.e. where only production is to begin; and

(c) the time by when these pending proposals would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The sugar industry has been delicensed with effect from 11.09.1998. The entrepreneurs are now free to set up new sugar factories as per the techno-economic feasibility of their projects. However, in order to avoid unhealthy competition among sugar factories to procure sugarcane, a minimum distance of 15 Kms. would be required to be observed between an existing sugar mill and a new mill. As such, the question of approval of pending proposals does not arise.

Godowns in Jammu and Kashmir

938. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) the number of covered and uncovered FCI godowns in Jammu and Kashmir and Bihar alongwith location-wise details and capacity thereof;

(b) the quantity and value of foodgrains kept in uncovered godowns in Jammu and Kashmir and Bihar during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) At present the total number of godowns available with FCI in Jammu

and Kashmir and Bihar are as under:

(As on 1.10.2001)

State	Covered	CAP	Total capacity (in lakh tonnes)
Jammu and Kashmir	20	-	1.18
Bihar	40	3	5.30

Location-wise details for Jammu & Kashmir and Bihar are given in Statement-I & II respectively.

(b) *Jammu and Kashmir:*

In Jammu & Kashmir, no foodgrains have been kept in open godowns by FCI during the last three years.

Bihar:

The quantity and value of foodgrains kept in (open) (CAP) godowns in Bihar during the last three years are as under:

Year (As on 31/3)	Quantity in MT	Rate in Rs. per Tonne (Acq. Cost)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
1998-99			
1999-2000	1760	7009.40	123.37
2000-2001	25480	7036.10	1792.80
2001-2002 (as on 1.10.2001)	17410	7378.60	1284.61

(c) The stocks of foodgrains with FCI are preserved on scientific lines to prevent damage. The following steps are also taken to preserve foodgrains:-

- (i) Foodgrains are stored in rodent and damp proof godowns.
- (ii) Pest control measures are undertaken regularly.
- (iii) Qualified and technically trained staff is deployed for periodical inspection and proper upkeep of foodgrains.
- (iv) To avoid damage in transit, the foodgrains are moved in covered wagons, as far as possible. When moved in open wagons, the same are covered with tarpauline etc.

- (v) They are subjected to prophylactic and curative treatments also. polythene covers (LDPE) which are water proof. These are tied with nylon ropes to prevent damage by ballooning of covers during high velocity winds.
- (vi) In CAP storage, the stocks are stored in wooden crates and covered with low density black

Statement-I

The covered storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India in J & K State as on 30.9.2001

(Fig. in '000 tonnes)

J & K State

Name of the FCI Distt.	Name of the Revenue Distt.	Name of the Centre	Covered Storage Capacity		
			Owned	Hired	Total
Jammu	Jammu	Chatha	13.84	-	13.84
		Jammu	21.60	-	21.60
-do-	Khatua	Khatua	5.00	-	5.00
-do-	Doda	Khillani (Doda)	2.50	-	2.50
-do-	Nagrota	Nagrota	-	5.00 SG	5.00
-do-	Rajouri	Rajouri	2.50	-	2.50
-do-	Poonch	Poonch	2.50	-	2.50
Srinagar	Anantnag	Ananthnag (Mirzapur)	10.00	1.60 Pvt.	11.60
-do-	Srinagar	Srinagar *(8.50 Pvt.+1.80 SG)	11.00	10.30*	21.30
-do-		Sampora	-	2.90 Pvt.	2.90
-do-	Baramulla	Baramulla	5.00	2.00 Pvt.	7.00
-do-		Lethapura *(10.00 SG +4.40 Pvt.)	-	14.40*	14.40
-do-	Leh	Leh	2.50	-	2.50
-do-	Kargil	Kargil	2.50	3.00 Pvt.	5.50
Total Capacity of J & K State:			78.94	39.20	118.14

SG: State Government

Pvt.: Private.

Statement-II

The Covered Storage Capacity (Owned and Hired) Available with Food Corporation of India in Bihar State as on 30.9.2001

Bihar State

(Fig. in '000 tonnes)

Name of the FCI Distt.	Name of the Revenue Distt.	Name of the Centre	Covered Storage Capacity		
			Owned	Hired	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	-	12.29 Pvt.	12.29
-do-	Jammui	Jammui	-	2.80 Pvt.	2.80
		Hunger (3.20 SG+3.00 CWC)	*	6.20*	6.20
-do-	Lakhi Sarai	lakhi Sarai	-	2.00 CWC	2.00
Chapra	Chapra (Saran)	Chapra	-	5.00 Pvt	5.00
-do-	Vaishali	Hazipur	-	5.00 Pvt	5.00
Darbhanga	Darbhanga	Darbhanga	5.74	3.00 LCWC	8.74
-do-	Madhubani	Jainagar	9.67	-	9.67
Gaya	Gaya	Gaya (FSD)	64.72	-	64.72
		-do- (Bins/Silo)	32.00	-	32.00
-do-	Nabdha	Warsalinganj	-	2.00 SG	2.00
-do-	Rohtas	Sasaram	-	8.00 KSWC	8.00
Muzaffarpur	Chanpatia	Chanpatia	6.28	-	6.28
-do-	Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur	7.60	-	7.60
		Natainpur Annant	36.67	-	36.67
-do-	Champaran	Chakia	-	2.50 Pvt	2.50
-do-	Sitamarhi	Paunoura	-	5.00 Pvt	5.00
Patna	Buxar	Buxer	25.00	-	25.00
-do-	Bhojpur	Arrah	-	5.00 KSWC	5.00
-do-	Patna	Dighaghat	29.00	-	29.00
		Mokameh	57.63	5.00 CWC	62.63
		Phulwari Sahrif	56.97	-	56.97
-do-	Nalanda	Bihar Sharif	-	6.00 SWC	6.00
Purnea	Purnea	Belouri (Purnea)	8.98	-	8.98

1	2	3	4	5	6
Purnea	Katihar	Katihar	10.84	6.70 CWC	17.54
-do-	Kishanganj	Kishanganj	-		
		(11.00 CWC + 3.23 SG)	*	14.23*	14.23
Samastipur	Begusarai	Begusarai	-	5.00 Pvt	5.00
		Begu Sarai Road	-	2.50 Pvt	2.50
		Tilrath	-	5.00 Pvt	5.00
-do-	Samstipur	Samstipur	-	17.90 *	17.90
		(15.50 CWC + 2.40 SG)	*		
Saharsa	Saharsa	Saharsa	14.64	-	14.64
-do-	Suppal	Raghopur	-	5.00 Pvt	5.00
-do-	Madhopura	Madhopura	-	5.00 Pvt	5.00
		Forbesganj	-	5.00 Pvt	5.00
Total (Covered) Storage Capacity of Bihar State:			365.74	136.12	501.86

SG - State Government
Pvt. - Private

The CAP (open) Storage Capacity (owned and Hired) Available with Food Corporation of India in Bihar State as on 30.9.2001.

(Fig. in '000 tons)
Bihar State

Name of the FCI Distt.	Name of the Revenue Distt.	Name of the Centre	CAP Storage Capacity		
			Owned	Hired	Total
Gaya	Gaya	Gaya	7.36	-	7.36
Patna	Patna	Phulwari Sharif	6.63	-	6.63
		Mokameh	14.10	-	14.10
		Total			28.09
		Grand total of storage capacity in Bihar			529.95

*[English]***Funds to Gujarat**

939. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided the 2 percent of amount collected from the income tax payers, which was to the tune of Rs. 1300 crore to help the earthquake victims of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the same; and

(d) the time by which full amount is likely to be given to State Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The 2 percent surcharge imposed on Corporation tax and income tax in the aftermath of Gujarat earthquake is available to Government of Gujarat through releases of National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and non-

plan grant for earthquake relief. An amount of Rs. 1467.37 crore has been released to the State under NCCF. A further amount of Rs. 250 crores have been provided to Government of Gujarat as first of the three instalments of non-plan grant for earthquake relief proposed to be released to the State Government during 2001-02.

Funds to Voluntary Organisations of AP

940. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the details of Voluntary organizations receiving assistance from Central Fund in Andhra Pradesh under Old Age Scheme; and

(b) the details of the grants released to each Voluntary Organisation during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The details of the grants released to each Voluntary Organisation in Andhra Pradesh during current financial year 2001-2002 (upto 31.10.2001) is given in Statement enclosed.

Statement

Non-Governmental Organisation-wise details of financial assistance extended by the Union Government to NGOs in Andhra Pradesh to run Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units and Non-Institutional Service Centres under the scheme of Integrated programme for Older Persons for the current year 2001-02 (Upto 31-10-2001)

Abbreviations:-

OAHs—Old Age Homes

DCCs—Day Care Centres

MMUs—Mobile Medicare Units

NISs—Non-Institutional Services

(Rs. in lakhs)

	OAHs	DCCs	MMUs	NISs	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6
I. Andhra Pradesh					
(1) Anantpur District					
1.	Rupa Education Society	1	0	0	1.27
2.	Nav Bharat Social Economic Dev. Society	1	0	0	3.96

	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Sri Rakesh Educational & Welfare Society		0	1	0	0	2.29
4. Sri Venkateswara Convent Ed. Service Society		1	0	0	0	1.34
5. Society for Welfare & Awakening in Rural Environmental		0	2	0	0	1.96
6. Chaitanya Ed. & Rural Dev. Society		1	0	0	0	2.07
7. Depressed Peoples Dev. Society		1	0	0	0	1.22
8. Dr. Ambedkar Dalitha Varga Abh. Sangham		1	0	0	0	1.38
9. Jagjeevan Balheenavarga Abh. Sangham		0	0	1	0	0.98
10. Srinivasa Ed. & Rural Dev. Society		1	0	0	0	1.24
11. Sri Padamwathi Mahila Mandali		1	0	0	0	1.38
12. Khadisilk Gramodyoga Samiti		1	0	0	0	1.18
(2) Chittoor District						
1. Jyothi Youth Association		0	1	0	0	0.99
2. Mother India Community Dev. Association		2	1	1	0	5.29
3. Peda Prajala Seva Samithi		2	0	0	0	7.96
4. Peoples Action for Social Service		2	0	1	0	3.94
5. Peoples Orgn. for Welfare & Ed. Ratification		0	1	0	0	0.99
6. Rashtriya Seva Samithi		2	9	0	0	11.16
7. Sewa Bharathi		0	2	0	0	1.79
8. Sri Venkateswara Mahila Mandali		1	1	1	0	2.5
9. Telugu Bharathi Mahila Mandali		1	0	0	0	1.38
(3) East Godavari District						
1. Association for the Care of Aged		1	0	0	0	2.02
2. Help the Women		1	1	0	0	0.97
3. Pushkarmatha Convent Educational Committee		0	1	0	0	0.98
4. Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Orphanage & Boarding Home		1	0	0	0	1.38
5. Sarda Education Society		1	0	0	0	1.38
6. Suneeta Mahila Mandali		0	0	1	0	1.25
(4) Guntur District						
1. Indira Memorial Weaker Section Dev. Society		1	0	0	0	1.3
2. Kothapeta Mahila Mandali		1	0	0	0	1.38

	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Narasaraopet Taluk STs/Youth Club		1	0	0	0	1.38
4. SERD, SCs/STs and Christians Welfare Society		1	0	0	0	1.23
5. Soniya Gandhi Harijana Grijana Balheena Vargamula Mahila Mandali		0	1	0	0	2.36
6. Sree Sarda Mahila Vignana Samithi		0	1	0	0	0.9
7. Udaysree Mahila Samajam		1	0	0	0	1.3
8. Vellamma Weaker Sections Association		0	1	0	0	1.95
9. Kandrika Mahila Mandali		1	0	0	0	1.38
(5) Hindupur District						
1. Sree Venkesteswara Convent Ed. Society		1	0	0	0	1.34
(6) Hyderabad District						
1. Annapurna Manav Samksama Samithi		0	1	0	0	0.92
2. Anuraag Human Services		1	0	0	0	1.38
3. Mahila Dakshata Samithi		0	1	1	0	1.84
4. Old Age Welfare Centre		1	0	1	0	2.67
5. Ruban Integrated Dev. Society		1	0	0	0	2.34
6. Sai Seva Sangha		1	0	0	0	2.22
7. Social Integration for Rural Improvement		1	0	0	0	1.25
(7) Karimnagar District						
1. Santosh Educational Society		1	0	0	0	2.17
(8) Khamman District						
1. Jaya Sree Mahila Sangham		0	1	0	0	0.98
(9) Krishna District						
1. A.P. Girijana Sevak Sangha		1	1	0	0	2.36
2. Anam Vayavrudha Seva Sadanam		1	0	0	0	1.27
3. Integrated Dev. Agency		1	0	1	0	2.83
4. Mother Theresa Mahila Mandali		0	1	0	0	0.98
5. Vasavya Mahila Mandali		0	1	0	0	0.9
6. Bapuji Integrated Rural Dev. Society		1	0	0	0	1.38
(10) Kurnool District						
1. Nav Bharat Educational Society		1	0	0	0	1.38
(11) Mahaboobnagar District						
1. Bethel Educational Society		1	0	0	0	1.24
2. Social Action for Social Development		1	1	1	0	3.66

	1	2	3	4	5	6
(12) Nalgonda District						
1. Society of Emmanuel Evangelism for Rural Dev.	1	0	0	0	0	1.34
2. Mahalaxmi Mahila Mandali	1	0	0	0	0	2.62
(13) Nellore District						
1. Arya Dayananda Mahila Mandali	1	0	0	0	0	1.38
2. Asthana-A-Christia Mahila Mandali	1	0	0	0	0	1.38
3. Bharathi Mahila Voluntary Service Orgn.	1	0	0	0	0	1.38
4. Help the Need	0	1	0	0	0	0.98
5. Indiramma Mahila Mandali	0	0	0	1	0	0.53
6. Nehru Bharathi Educational Institution	1	0	0	0	0	1.27
7. Polymer's Educational Society	1	1	1	0	0	2.36
8. Sri Vighneswara Mahila Mandali	0	1	1	1	0	1.73
9. Harijan Christian Social Welfare Society	1	0	0	0	0	1.38
10. Laxmi Mahila Mandali	0	1	1	0	0	0.93
(14) Prakasam District						
1. 3 Men Academies	1	1	1	0	0	1.38
2. Adarsha Mahila Mandali	1	0	0	0	0	1.38
3. Indira Priyadarsini Mahila Mandali	0	1	1	0	0	1.98
4. Laxmi Mahila Mandali	1	0	0	0	0	1.38
5. Mahila Mandali	1	0	0	0	0	1.38
6. Prakasam Zilla Balaheena Vargala Colony Varala Seva Sangam	1	1	1	0	0	2.36
7. Priyadarsini Mahila Mandali	0	1	1	0	0	0.92
8. Sabari Girijana Mahila Mandali	0	1	1	0	0	0.92
9. Samatha Mahila Vedika	1	1	1	0	0	2.36
10. Vasavi Educational Society	1	0	0	0	0	1.38
11. Vutukuri Venkata Sabbamma Welfare Society	0	1	1	0	0	0.98
(15) R.R. District						
1. Venketeswaran Social Service Assocn.	0	1	1	0	0	0.98
(16) Secunderabad Distt.						
1. Rurban Integrated Dev. Society	1	0	0	0	0	2.34

1	2	3	4	5	6
(17) Vishakapatnam District					
1. Priyadarsini Service Organisation	1	0	0	0	2.58
2. Sri Venkateswara Yuvajana Sangham	1	0	0	0	2.68
(18) Warangal District					
1. Kasturibai Mahila Mandali	1	0	0	0	4.14
(19) West Godavari District					
1. St. Mary Rehabilitation Centre for Orphans, Widows and Lapers	1	0	0	0	1.38

Supply of Kerosene under PDS

941. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to limit the supply of kerosene through public distribution system to below the poverty line population;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the savings in subsidy likely to be made on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Kerosene Oil allocated to the States/UTs by the Government of India for distribution under the PDS is meant for cooking and illumination. It is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned to distribute it among needy people in a judicious manner.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Chain Community of W.B. in S.C. List

942. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any requests from the West Bengal Government regarding inclusion of 'Chain' community of West Bengal in the Scheduled Caste list;

(b) if so, the reason for not incorporating this caste in the SC list so far; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be included in the SC list?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Action to complete necessary formalities is being taken in this regard.

[English]

Norms for Buy Back of Shares

943. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a move to buy up market sentiments, the Government have relaxed the norms allowing companies to buy back their shares;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of guidelines issued in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have allowed to buyback 10 per cent shares in every six months instead present ceiling of two years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and to what extent this decision of the Government is likely to boost the stock market and financial health of the individual company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) An Ordinance was promulgated on 23rd October 2001 for modification of Section 77A of the Companies Act, 1956 which relates to buy-back of securities by companies. The details are available on the website of the Department of Company Affairs (www.nic.in/dca).

With this amendment, buy-back of shares upto 10% of the total paid up capital and free reserves of a company can be permitted by a resolution of the Board of Directors, provided that no offer of buy-back shall be made within a period of three hundred and sixty five days reckoned from the date of the preceding offer of buy-back, if any.

Further, where a company completes a buyback of its shares, it shall not make fresh issue of the same kind of shares within a period of six months from the date of completion of the buy-back as against the existing stipulation of 24 months.

Supply of Concessional Wheat by FCI to Flour Makers

944. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the atta manufacturers are supplied wheat at a concessional rate by the FCI and if so, at what rate;

(b) whether atta manufactures out of the wheat procured at concessional rate is being marketed at a heavy margin of profit;

(c) if so, whether the Government have imposed any condition on the atta manufacturers for supplying the atta at a reasonable margin of profit to the consumers and how the observance of this condition is ensured; and

(d) if not, the steps the Government propose to take to make available this important consumable item of daily use at the reasonable price to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. FCI releases wheat at subsidized rates under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) of wheat which is open to all consumers, traders, State Governments, Union territories, Chakkies, Co-operatives, Super Bazars, Civil Supply Corporations including Roller Flour Mills (RFMs) subject to a minimum quantity of 10 M.Ts.

The disposal of wheat under the Open Market Sales Scheme is undertaken to dispose off surplus stocks of wheat available with FCI, as well as to moderate open market prices. The open market sale price is fixed by the High Level Committee (HLC) of the FCI after taking into account the trend of the market prices in each zone as well as the zonal economic cost of wheat. No conditions have been imposed on the buyers as to the rate at which the resultant atta is to be sold in the market.

From July, 2001 onwards, the open sale rates of wheat under the scheme for different Zones of the country are as under:

Zone	Rate per qtl.
North	Rs. 650/-
South	Rs. 720/-
West	Rs. 695/-
East/North East	Rs. 705/-

A discount of Rs. 40/- per quintal has been given to the stocks of wheat procured in 2001-2002 Kharif Marketing Season in Punjab, Haryana and U.P. (some Distts.) The buyers are free to purchase any amount of wheat from FCI. This ensures adequate availability of wheat in the open market, which moderates the price of Atta in the market.

Government of India has recently approved a scheme for distribution of atta under PDS as proposed by Government of West Bengal. Under this scheme, the ration shops will sell atta at a fixed price of Rs. 7.90 per Kg. to the card holders in the State.

[Translation]

Funds to Himachal Pradesh

945. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount sought from the Union Government by the Himachal Pradesh Government for its various schemes and the amount actually allocated to the State during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): The amount of Central Assistance for various schemes under State Plan is allocated by the Planning Commission in consultation with the concerned State Governments. Amount of Central Assistance allocated for Annual Plans 1999-2000 and 2000-01 of Himachal Pradesh are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

	1999-2000	2000-01
(i) Normal Central Assistance	538.18	538.18
(ii) Additional Central Assistance	107.97	47.00
(iii) Additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects	48.14	46.77
(iv) Additional Central Assistance for Basic Minimum Services	109.14	—
(v) Additional Central Assistance for Slum Development Schemes	1.10	1.10
(vi) Special Plan Assistance for Border Areas Development Programmes	4.00	4.00
(vii) Special Plan Assistance for Tribal Sub Plan	5.15	—
(viii) Central Plan Assistance for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme	35.00	44.00
(ix) Additional Central Assistance for Pradhan Mantri Gramoday Yojana	—	70.61
(x) Additional Central Assistance for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana	—	60.00
(xi) Additional Central Assistance for Roads and Bridges	—	6.23
(xii) Special Plan Assistance	69.00	150.00

*[English]***Smuggling at North-Eastern States**

946. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there has been increase in the smuggling activities in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons arrested during the current year in connection with smuggling activities; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check such activities in the North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) There are no reports to suggest that there has been

any increase in smuggling activities in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim in the recent past. Details of seizures effected and persons arrested under Customs Act. '62 by the jurisdictional customs authorities within the above mentioned areas during the current year (upto October, 2001) in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim are as follows:

Year	No. of cases booked	Value of goods seized (in Rs. lakhs)	No. of persons arrested
2001-2002 (upto Oct., 2001)	3985	929.11	42

(d) All the field formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods in the country including Sikkim and other North-Eastern States.

[*Translation*]**Foodgrains Lying in Open and Godowns**

947. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of the grains stored in godowns and kept in open in Maharashtra before procurement season of current year;

(b) the details regarding total procurement of grains made in Maharashtra including the price thereof during last three years;

(c) the total foodgrains damaged in the State so far including the value thereof;

(d) whether any responsibility was fixed in this regard;

(e) whether any report has been received from the State Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The quantity and value of grains stored in godowns and kept in open in Maharashtra before procurement season of current year is as under:-

	Quantity in MTs	Value in Rs./ Lakh
In Godown	1493625	144722.82
In CAP	206668	18600.12
Total	1700293	163322.94

(b) The details of procurement of grains made in Maharashtra including price thereof during last three years is as follows:

(Figures in MTs)

Year	Rice	Price/Quintal	Coarse-grains	Price/Quintal	Paddy	Price/Quintal
1998-99	5015	729.20	-	-	-	-
1999-2000	53687	805.10	86	415.00	123	490.00
2000-2001	13202	833.70	190000	445.00	31885	510.00

(c) A quantity of 1484 MTs. of foodgrains damaged while in storage since April, 2001. The value of damaged stocks is Rs. 133.85 lakh.

(d) No, Sir. The damage has been reported to be natural and not due to human error.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise

[*English*]**Recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission**

948. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission has been set up to give the recommendations for reducing the existing wasteful expenditure in her Ministry and Departments;

(b) if so, by when and its composition;

(c) the details of recommendations made by this Commission so far;

(d) the recommendations which are yet to be implemented alongwith reasons for not implementing them till date; and

(e) by when these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Posts Reserved for Disabled/Physically Handicapped Persons

949. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved for disabled/physically handicapped persons in his Ministry and other departments under his Ministry, during the last three years, year-wise, post-wise and category-wise;

(b) the number of posts for disabled/physically handicapped persons lying vacant as on 31st October, 2001, post-wise, and category-wise;

(c) the number of disabled/physically handicapped persons given employment on such posts during the above period, year-wise, post-wise and category-wise; and

(d) the time by which vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

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

Concession under Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme

950. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in term of the Exim Policy certain bulk drugs when exported under Duty Entitlement Pass Book schemes are subject to value caps and value caps are not applicable when formulations based on such bulk drugs are exported;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that the custom authorities insist on applying value caps on such formulations, thus denying the exporters of such formulations DEPB benefits;

(c) if so, the reasons for the custom authorities for interfering with the functioning of licensing authorities which in-turn had adverse impact on exports; and

(d) the steps being initiated by the Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Certain bulk drugs exported under DEPB Scheme are subject to value caps and DEPB Credit rates on drug formulations are expressed as certain percentage of the rates applicable for the bulk drugs. The Department of Revenue was of the view that the DEPB rate on drug formulations would comprise of both the rate given in the DEPB schedule as percentage of FOB value and the value cap, wherever applicable. The issue has been resolved by issuance of Public Notice No. 50 (RE-01)/1997-2002 dated 13.11.2001 by DGFT and Circular No. 67/2001-Cus. dated 20.11.2001 by Department of Revenue respectively.

Sugar Stock in Godowns of Karnataka

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

(a) whether large quantities of sugar worth more than Rs. 1800 crore are laying in the food godowns of Karnataka;

(b) whether the Union Government have sought the assistance of Government of Karnataka for early disbursement of the stocks through PDS; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The Government is aware of the high level of sugar stocks held by sugar factories in the country including the sugar factories in the State of Karnataka.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Co-Sharing of ATMs by Foreign Banks

952. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India based branch of BNP Paribas Bank of France is contemplating to utilise the teller machines (ATM) of private sector UTI bank of the country on co-sharing basis;

(b) if so, whether the Government approval has been obtained in this regard; and

(c) the names of other foreign banks, which are running teller machines with Indian banks on co-sharing basis alongwith details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as per the present policy, banks are required to obtain licence from it before operating ATMs and no permission is required for co-sharing ATMs with other banks. Therefore, the information regarding co-sharing ATMs with other banks is not generated by RBI.

[English]

IDBI Proposal for Universal Banking

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

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has submitted a proposal to the Reserve Bank of India for universal banking; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) IDBI has informed RBI that details of its transformation into a universal Bank are being evaluated and they will approach RBI once the analysis is complete.

[Translation]

SC/ST/OBC Employees Ratio In Bank of Maharashtra

954. SHRI TARA CHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that following the implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Public Sector Banks especially in Bank of Maharashtra there is an imbalance in the number of

employees belonging to SC/ST/OBC and general Categories;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the number of employees of the reserved categories are according to the ratio mentioned in the roster maintained in regard to the reservation policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) following the implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), the representation of employees belonging to SC/ST/OBC and general categories in Bank of Maharashtra has marginally changed.

(b) The pre-VRS and post VRS representation of SC/ST/OBC is given below:

Pre-VRS position of the staff as on 31.12.2000

Cadre	Total	SCs	% age	STs	%age	OBCs	%age
Officers	3913	573	14.6	223	5.7	22	.56
Clerks	8450	1087	12.8	407	4.8	44	.52
Sub-staff	3531	1095	31.0	307	8.6	64	1.9

Pre-VRS position of the staff as on 31.03.2001

Cadre	Total	SCs	% age	STs	%age	OBCs	%age
Officers	3375	557	16.5	216	6.4	18	0.5
Clerks	7769	1073	13.8	438	5.6	47	0.6
Sub-staff	3207	1089	33.9	292	9.1	100	3.1

(c) Government reviews/monitors the position periodically through various reports submitted by the banks and where shortfall exists, the concerned bank is advised to take remedial steps.

Drug Smugglers

955. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi and other parts of the country are fast becoming safe heavens of the international drug smuggles as reported in 'Dainik Jagran' dated the October 26, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to check such activities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which steps are likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The proximity to the International border and good air-linkage with other countries make Delhi and other major metropolitan cities like Mumbai and Chennai vulnerable to drug trafficking, which is a clandestine activity.

(d) to (e) Government of India has already taken a number of significant steps to prevent and put effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and steps up enforcement efforts, training to officers, fencing of Indo-Pak border provided with flood lighting, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act, quarterly coordination meetings by NCB, holding of quarterly cross-border meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies as a part of the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers, holding of operational level meetings with Myanmar officials and providing two sniffer dogs and also training dog handlers of Myanmar.

[English]

Inclusion of Tribals in ST List

956. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the tribals from the main land of the country and settled in Andaman and Nicobar Islands have not been included in the Scheduled Tribe list and they are not receiving the benefits due to them;

(b) if so, the names of such tribes and action taken to include them under Scheduled Tribe list;

(c) the names of aboriginal of Andaman and Nicobar Island and whether they have been enumerated in the last census of 2001;

(d) if so, the number of each of the aboriginal and the names of the aboriginals which have not yet been brought into the life and culture of the mainstream; and

(e) the programmes both under Government and NGO level have been chalked out to bring these aboriginals to mainstream?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) As per provision under Article 342 of the Constitution, list of Scheduled Tribes have been notified for Andaman & Nicobar Islands. This list however does not include communities like Oraon, Munda, Kharia, Dhanaka, etc., which are listed as Scheduled Tribe in other States of the mainland, as the Union Territory Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands has not recommended any such proposal.

Andamanese, Jarawa, Onge, Sentinelese, Shom Pen communities have been identified as primitive tribal groups

for their special development. These communities have been enumerated during 2001 census. However, the Registrar General of India has not yet released 2001 census data. Various Programmes/Schemes are being implemented by the Union Territory Administration and NGOs under the sectors of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, education, health, cottage and small scale industries under the strategy of tribal sub plan to bring the Scheduled Tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands to the level of other sections.

Free Medical Facilities to SCs/STs

957. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive scheme is being implemented in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh to provide free medical facilities to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of families benefited under the scheme in each State particularly in AP since its introduction;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce such a scheme for the welfare of SCs and STs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Second Generation Reforms

958. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the major second generation reforms that have been recommended by the Planning Commission;

(b) the Government's response to these recommendations; and

(c) the reforms that Government propose to undertake in the next one year and the strategy outlined therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Planning Commission has not made any recommendations concerning second generation reforms.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Economic reforms is a continuous process whose objective is to accelerate growth of the economy and improving efficiency and competition in different sectors of the economy. Government's approach in this regard has been spelt out in the Budget Speech for the year 2001-02.

[*Translation*]

Income Tax Rebate to Corporate Houses

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating on various options including to give income tax rebate to corporate houses which contribute to party funds through cheque in order to make fund receiving process by political parties more transparent; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Committee on State Funding of Elections headed by the late Shri Indrajit Gupta in its report submitted on 14.1.1999 had made certain recommendations on the State Funding of Elections. The question whether there should be any ban on donations by companies and corporate bodies was left open by the aforesaid Committee to the collective wisdom of the Government and Parliament. In pursuance of these recommendations the Government sought the views of the political parties and others concerned as regards providing income-tax exemption and making of donations by cheque and various issues stand referred to the Group of Ministers. So far no final view has been taken in the matter. The issue, relating to giving of income-tax rebate to various corporate houses is also under consideration of the Group of Ministers.

[*English*]

Backlog of Reserved Vacancies

960. SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether "backlog/carried forward vacancies" reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs are required to be treated as 'separate and distinct group' as provided under Article 16(4) of the Constitution to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in an year;

(b) if so, indicate the backlog/carried forward vacancies ascertained in respect of SCs, STs and OBCs in Group A, B, C and D categories of services as on 29th August, 1997 in the Ministry of Commerce when Special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;

(c) the year-wise such carried forward vacancies filled during the last three years and those which remain unfilled; and

(d) the fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last three years as per "post based roster"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) In terms of guidelines issued by Department of Personnel and Training *vide* their O.M.No. 36012/5/97-Estt(Res) Vol. II, dated 20.7.2000 ceiling of 50% on filling up of reserved vacancies would apply only on the reserved vacancies which arise in the current year and he backlog/carried forward reserved vacancies for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes of earlier years would be treated as a separate distinct group and would not be subject to any ceiling. Further, Department of Personnel & Training have clarified that the provisions of the said O.M.dated 20.7.2000 do not apply to the vacancies reserved for Other Backward Classes.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Corruption Cases against Bank Officials

961. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases have been registered by CBI against a few top officials of the nationalised banks in Mumbai during current year for criminal conspiracy and corruption in pledging "Kisan Vikas Patras" and other Government securities;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount involved therein and the bank-wise names of the officials involved in the cases; and

(c) the action taken against them in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c)

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

[*Translation*]

Decline In Textiles Export

962. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of the textile goods from April to August during the current year has been less as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year;

(b) if so, the quantum of export made by the textile industry during the aforesaid period alongwith value thereof;

(c) whether the Government have ascertained the reasons for decline in exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to overcome those causes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) During the period April-August 2001, textile exports amounted to US \$ 4353.8 million as against the exports of US\$ 5263.5 million during the same period of 2000, recording a negative growth of 17.3%.

(c) and (d) The recent declining trend in the textile exports is mainly due to slowdown in the economies of some of our major important trading partners like US and increased competition from our neighbouring countries like China, Bangladesh etc.

In order to mitigate the adverse effects of the prevailing conditions, Government have taken a number of measures, which include:-

- (1) Large additional quantities have been opened for most of the categories under the FCFS/RGE systems of the Quota Policies with a view to providing quotas to the garment and textile exporters on a continuous basis.
- (2) In order to reduce transaction costs and time of the exporters, EMD/BG amounts have reduced for certain categories and the date for utilising quotas have been extended. Further, the L/C condition under the FCFS system has also been waived for all such categories which have quantities left over for the rest of the year.

(3) DEPB rates for certain textile products have been rationalised.

Besides, a "Textile Package" was announced in the Budget 2001-02 to strengthen domestic textile industry for meeting the growing global competition. Some of the important provisions of the "Textile Package" are:-

- (i) Excise duty structure on textile items has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition.
- (ii) Custom duty has been reduced from 15% to 5% on 159 specified textiles and garment machineries. In addition, 12 important items of machineries including shuttleless looms have also been exempted from countervailing duty. A programme has been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.
- (iii) Assistance under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) providing for a reimbursement of 5% out of interest is available to textile industry for modernisation and upgradation. In addition, rate of depreciation allowance for machinery under TUFS has been raised to 50%.
- (iv) A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the Budget 2001-02 for establishment of Apparel Parks for export of garments. Besides a provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made for the Scheme for improvement of critical infrastructure facilities at major textile production centres.

Decline in Export of Carpets

963. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of carpets from the country have declined during 1999 and 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for sharp decline in the export of carpets; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the export of carpets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The steps taken to increase the export of carpets, include: organisation of buyer-seller's meet; overseas publicity; organisation of workshops/seminars on design development; participation in various international fairs; sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad and organisation of Indian Carpet Expo by Carpet Export Promotion Council annually in New Delhi.

NABARD Funded Projects

964. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI
CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD has provided funds for various projects in States particularly in Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the State-wise funds provided by NABARD for implementation of various schemes and projects during the last three years;

(c) the criteria for selection of these projects;

(d) whether despite increase in funds the loan provided by NABARD under RIDF are decreasing;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by NABARD to provide more funds to States under RIDF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise details of funds sanctioned by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for implementation of various projects during the last three years are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) NABARD has reported that projects are prioritized by the State Government for availing sanction of loan from Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), maintained by NABARD. Eligible activities are conveyed to the State Government pertaining to which projects are identified, formulated and submitted to NABARD for consideration and sanction of loan.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) NABARD has been in constant touch with the State Governments and impressing upon them to expedite the pace of project execution and utilize the sanction accorded to them. In addition, High Power Committee has been constituted in each state so as to monitor and review the project implementation and expedite the process of project execution. Chairman, NABARD has also held discussions with the Chief Ministers and Senior officials of the State Governments with a view to expediting the pace of project execution. Further to enhance the utilization of RIDF by states, NABARD has been conducting workshops and seminar to apprise the Government officials about RIDF and its utilization thereof.

Export of Chemicals

965. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM:

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

(a) the total quantity of chemicals and medicines exported during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) whether the Government contemplated to increase the export of chemicals and medicines;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether due to uncertainty in the global economy, post September 11, 2001 attack, the chemicals exports likely to stagnate;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The total quantity and value of drugs, pharmaceuticals & Fine Chemicals and Inorganic/Organic/Agro Chemicals are given as under:-

	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Qty in '000 kgs	Value (In Rs. Cr)	Qty in '000 kgs	Value (In Rs. Cr)	Qty in '000 kgs	Value (In Rs. Cr)
Drugs, Pharmaceuticals & Fine Chemicals	95492	5353	75870	6153	82097	7048
Inorganic/Organic/Agro Chemicals	425126	2222	249868	2290	469306	3249

(Source: Chemexcil).

(c) and (d) Government is extending Market Development Assistance to exporters through Export Promotion Councils for competing in foreign markets.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. Due to recess in the overall market scenario around the globe after the post September 11, 2001 attack, there is likely that the chemicals exports may stagnate for some time.

**Effect of Economic Depression
on Textile Industry**

966. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:
RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that textile industry has been adversely affected on account of economic depression;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether special package is being formulated by the Government to tackle the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) During the last six months of the current financial year (April-September, 2001) total fabric production has increased by 2.6% as compared to the same period during the previous year, though there has been marginal decline in the production of cotton yarn and cotton fabrics during this period. The details are given below:

Production of textile items during the last six months

Sr. No.	Item	Unit	April-September		% variation
			2001-02 (P)	2000-01	
1.	Total Spun yarn	Mn. Kg.	1587	1587	Nil
	(i) Cotton yarn	Mn. Kg.	1124	1149	(-) 2.2
	(ii) Other spun yarn (blended & 100% non-cotton yarn)	Mn. Kg.	463	438	5.7
2	Man-made filament yarn	Mn. Kg.	474	456	3.9
3	Total fabrics	Mn. Sq. mtr.	20847	20316	2.6
	(i) Cotton fabrics	Mn. Sq. mtr.	9838	9979	(-) 1.4
	(ii) Other fabrics including blended, 100% non cotton, Khadi wool & Silk	Mn. Sq. mtr.	11009	10337	6.5

(c) and (d) Government of India has taken a number of steps to improve competitiveness of the textile industry. These include:

- (i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1/4/1999 to facilitate the modernization and upgradation of this sector.
- (ii) Technology Mission for Cotton has been launched for initiating focused steps for boosting production, productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products.

(iii) The National Textile Policy-2000 (NTxP-2000) has been announced to provide the policy direction for orderly and sustained development and growth of the textile industry in a harmonious way and to give a thrust to textile exports.

(iv) A "textile Package" was announced in the Budget 2001-02 to strengthen domestic textile industry for meeting the growing global competition. This include:

(a) The import of a large number of garment machinery has been allowed under concessional custom duty of 5%.

- (b) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttle-less looms has been brought to 5%.
- (c) Foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route has been allowed with certain exceptions.
- (d) A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the B.E. 2001-02 for creating clusters of excellence, i.e. apparel parks for production and export of garments. Besides, a provision of Rs. 15 crores has also been made in B.E. 2001-02 for the scheme for improvement of infrastructure facilities at major textile production centers.
- (e) Weaving, processing and garment machinery have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%.

Production and Procurement of Paddy

967. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

- (a) the production of paddy estimated in the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the targets for procurement of paddy fixed under minimum support price schemes, State-wise;
- (c) the details of paddy procured so far under minimum support price scheme, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government would direct the procurement agencies to procure entire paddy production on the minimum support price to save the farmers from exploitation in view of large gap in the price fixed under the minimum support price and the market price of paddy;
- (e) if so, the time by which such direction would be issued;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether Food Corporation of India is not capable to provide adequate storage capacity in States like Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam;

(h) the steps taken to build new FCI godown in all the States before the paddy crop coming in market; and

(i) the amount spent on their construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The estimates of paddy are not compiled. However, generally rice production is taken to be 2/3rd of paddy production. The estimated production of rice for 2001-2002 is 76.42 million tones. The advance estimates of rice production are made on All India Basis. Hence, State-wise production of rice can not be known unless the crop year is over.

(b) As the procurement operations are voluntary in nature and the farmers have the choice to sell their produce to State Government, Food Corporation of India (FCI), or in the open market, as is advantageous to them, no targets are fixed for procurement of paddy.

(c) the details of State-wise procurement of paddy, as on 20.11.2001, are as follows:-

(Fig. in Tonnes)

S. No.	State/UT	Quantity of paddy procured
1.	Andhra Pradesh	911
2.	Haryana	15,68,054
3.	Himachal Pradesh	38
4.	Madhya Pradesh	2971
5.	Maharashtra	10,128
6.	Punjab	94,19,606
7.	Rajasthan	15,658
8.	Uttar Pradesh	57,990
Total		110,75,356

(d) The Food Corporation of India and the State Agencies purchase entire paddy stocks offered to them for sale at the Minimum Support Price by the producers conforming to FAQ specifications. However, producers have the option to sell their produce in the open market, as is advantageous to them.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of above.

(g) The storage capacity (covered & CAP) and stocks available with the FCI in the States of Orissa, Andhra

Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam as on 01.10.2001 are as under:-

(Fig. in lakh tonnes)

State	Covered	CAP	Total
Orissa			
Capacity	5.78	0.38	6.16
Stock held	5.48	0.11	5.59
Utilisation	95%	29%	91%
Andhra Pradesh			
Capacity	31.09	4.66	35.75
Stocks held	29.53	3.36	32.89
Utilisation	95%	72%	92%
West Bengal			
Capacity	10.55	-	10.55
Stocks held	7.84	-	7.84
Utilisation	74%		74%
Assam			
Capacity	2.99	-	2.99
Stock held	1.56		1.56
Utilisation	52%		52%

Further, the Field Officers of FCI have been delegated full powers for hiring additional storage capacity as and when considered necessary.

(h) and (i) The Government has decided that there is no need to make new allocation for construction of godowns by FCI except for completion of on-going programmes. The new projects would be promoted in the non-government sector under the new storage policy of the Government.

FCI has formulated a tentative proposal for the 10th Plan for construction of godowns by FCI with a physical target of 6.78 lakh tonnes and an estimated outlay of Rs. 206 crores.

[English]

Anti-Dumping Duties on Steel by USA

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

(a) whether US Government has imposed stiff anti-dumping duties on export of certain steel items from India for the next five years;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any initiative with US Government to save the domestic steel industry;

(c) whether the Government have challenged these provisions of US Government at the Dispute Settlement Body of the WTO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

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

(b) to (d) the Government has been supporting the cause of Indian exporters. On US Department of Commerce imposing anti-dumping duty of 72.49% on cut-to-length carbon steel plate imports from India, the Indian Government approached the Dispute Settlement Body of the WTO against the imposition of anti-dumping duty by USA. A panel has been constituted to examine the issues in this dispute and first submission by Government of India has been submitted before the Panel on 19th November, 2001.

National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission

969. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the main decisions arrived at the meeting of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Presidents of State Commissions and Secretaries, Consumer Affairs of States held in October, 1999;

(b) whether the all States have implemented the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The main resolutions adopted in the meeting of the President, National Commission with the Presidents of State Commissions and Secretaries in-charge of Consumer Affairs in the States and UTs held in October, 1999 are as follows:

- (i) The National Commission will exercise administrative control and closely monitor the functioning of the State Commissions.
- (ii) The State Commissions will make all efforts to ensure that the District Forums function more effectively.
- (iii) State Governments to fill up the vacancies in State Commission and District Forums.
- (iv) The Consumer Fora would try to ensure that, as far as possible, the cases shall not be adjourned ordinarily.
- (v) State Governments will release and utilize the funds provided by the Central Government under One-Time Grant scheme to strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Forums.
- (vi) Central Government may provided additional grants for strengthening the infrastructure of the newly created District Forums.
- (vii) The Presidents of the State Commissions may be declared as Heads of the Department and Presidents of the District Forums may be declared as Heads of Office.
- (viii) The Presidents and Members of the State Commissions and District Forums may function on a whole time basis and their salaries and allowances be increased.
- (ix) National Commission/State Commissions will draw up uniform procedure for processing of the complaints from the date of receipt till their final disposal.
- (x) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S.P. Bagla, Member, National Commission shall be constituted for assessing the staff requirements of National Commission, State Commissions and District Forums.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Withdrawal of Concessions Given to NRIs

970. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw the concessions given to NRI's in the matter of investment and treat them as common Indians in future;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

Decline in Employment Opportunity in Textile Industry

971. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textiles industry is the second conventional after agriculture which provides maximum opportunities of employment in the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons earning livelihood directly or indirectly through the aforesaid industry since the beginning of the nineties;

(c) the number of persons working in the aforesaid industry at the end of the nineties; and

(d) the reasons for decline in employment opportunities in the aforesaid industry during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Precise information regarding, the number of persons earning livelihood directly or indirectly through the textile industry is not maintained. However, as per Central Statistics Organization's (CSO) Annual Survey of Industries 1992-93 and 1998-99 for units covered under Factories Act 15.31 lakh persons were employed in the textile industry in 1992-93, which increased to 16.51 lakh during 1998-99.

Assistance to NGO's of M.P.

972. SHRI NANDKUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the work-wise and economic assistance-wise details of the NGOs of Madhya Pradesh given assistance during the year 2000-2001;

(b) the names of the NGOs whose proposals are pending with the Ministry; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The work-wise and economic assistance-wise details of

the NGOs of Madhya Pradesh given assistance during the year 2000-2001 are given in statement.

(b) No proposal is pending with this Ministry.

(c) There is no specified time for sanction of project. The time taken for disposal of proposals depends upon the receipt of complete documents, recommendations of designated authorities and established need for the project in the area where it is proposed to be set up.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the District	Name of the Organization with address	Name of the Project	Amount released in 2000-01 (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities				
1.	Bhilai	Lions Charitable Trust, 62, Motilal Nehru Nagar, Bhilai, Madhya Pradesh	Special School for HH	0.19
2.	Bhopal	Medicare and Research Foundation, 172, Zone-II, (Near Sargam Talkies), Maharana Pratap Nagar, Bhopal-462011, Madhya Pradesh	Rehabilitation Centre for LCP	2.38
3.	Bhopal	Digdarshika Institute of Rehabilitation Reserach, Red Cross Bhavan Campus, Shivaji Nagar, Bhopal-462016. Madhya Pradesh	Special School for MR	3.46
4.	Gwalior	Ramakrishna Ashrama, Ramakrishnapuri, Gwalior-474011, Madhya Pradesh	Special School for MH	1.95
5.	Indore	M.P. Drishtiheen Kalyan Sangh, 33, B/D, Indore-452006, Madhya Pradesh	Low Vision Centre	0.76
6.	Indore	M.P. Drishtiheen Kalyan Sangh, 33, B/D, Indore-452006, Madhya Pradesh	Placement Service	0.60
7.	Indore	Mahesh Drashtiheen Kalyan Sangh, 'Atmalochan Parisar', Scheme No. 54, Behind Satya Sai Vidya Vihar, AB Road, Indore-452010, Madhya Pradesh	Low Vision Centre	6.04
8.	Indore	Mahesh Drashtiheen Kalyan Sangh, 'Atmalochan Parisar', Scheme No. 54, Behind Satya Sai Vidya Vihar, AB Road, Indore-452010, Madhya Pradesh	Stenography Training Centre	1.78
9.	Indore	Mahesh Drashtiheen Kalyan Sangh, 'Atmalochan Parisar', Scheme No. 54, Behind Satya Sai Vidya Vihar, AB Road, Indore-452010, Madhya Pradesh	Teachers' Training Centre	4.62
10.	Indore	Welfare Association for the Disabled, 8, Ram Baugh, Indore 452004, Madhya Pradesh	Computer Training Centre	0.61

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Indore	Welfare Association for the Disabled, 8, Ram Baugh, Indore 452004, Madhya Pradesh	Office Management	0.44
12.	Indore	Welfare Association for the Disabled, 8, Ram Baugh, Indore 452004, Madhya Pradesh	Placement and Employment Service	1.15
13.	Indore	Welfare Association for the Disabled, 8, Ram Baugh, Indore 452004, Madhya Pradesh	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre	4.05
14.	Jabalpur	Viklang Evam Drishtibaditarth Kalyan Sangh, HIG 8, JDA Colony, Wajna Math, Post Tilwara Ghat, Jabalpur Madhya Pradesh	Speccial School for the Blind Girls	5.02
15.	Mandla	Seema Silayee Kadhayee Prashikshan Kendra, Rani Durgawati Ward, Mandla, Madhya Pradesh	Adarsh Mandhudhi School	0.46
16.	Ujjain	Prem Sagar Special School, Khilchipur, Agar Road, Ujjain-456006, Madhya Pradesh	Special School for MR	5.80
<i>Assisance to Disabled persons for Purchase/Fitting of AIDS/Appliances</i>				
17.	Barwannai	Asha Gram Trust, P.O. Barwani, Barwanai	Scheme of Assistance to disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/appliances	12.50
18.	Katni	Indian Red Cross Society, District Branch Katni, Katni	Scheme of Assistance to disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/appliances	2.00
19.	Rewa	Lt. Shree Jaganath Shiksha Prasar Avam Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Van Sagar Colony, Rewa	Scheme of Assistance to disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/appliances	2.00
20.	Mandsaur	Indian Red Cross Society, District Branch Neemuch, Civil Hospital Campus, Neemuch, Mandsaur	Scheme of Assistance to disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/appliances	16.80
21.	Indore	Welfare Association for the Disabled, 8, Ram Baug, Pin-452004 Indore	Scheme of Assistance to disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/appliances	3.00
22.	Indore	M.P. Welfare Association for the Blind, 33,D/D, Kila Maidan, Indore	Scheme of Assistance to disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/appliances	3.00
23.	Mandsaur	Indian Red Cross Society, District Branch, Red Cross Chauraha, Mhow-Neemuch Road, Mandsaur	Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/appliances	6.50

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Shahdol	Indian Red Cross Society, Distt. Branch Shahdol, Office of District Collector, Shahdol	Scheme of Assistance to disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/appliances	15.00
25.	Bilaspur	District Rehabilitation Centre, Svp Hospital Campus, Opposite Nurses Hostel, Bilaspur	Scheme of Assistance to disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/appliances	8.00
26.	Indore	Kritrim Aung Kendra, Scheme No. 56, Sector-2, A.B. Road, Pin-452010, Indore	Scheme of Assistance to disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/appliances	7.50
<i>Prevention of Alchohalism & substance (Drugs) Abuse</i>				
27.	Bhopal	Akhil Bharat Rachnatmak Samaj, E-4, 1855, Mahavir Nagar, near 10th Bus Stop, Bhopal	Counselling Centre	1.71
28.	Bhopal	Gandhi Bhawan Trust, Navjeevani, Shymala Hills, Bhopal	De-addiction Centre	9.56
29.	Bhopal	Rashtriya Vidnyan Manch Bhopal, Bhopal	De-addiction Centre	6.91
30.	Bhopal	Shanki Niketan Mahila Kalyan Samiti, Hig.-1/8, Shivani Complex, No. 6 Bus Stop	De-addiction Centre	3.14
31.	Bhopal	Shiv Kalyan Avam Shikshan Samiti, Lig-26, Harshwardhan Nagar, Near Allahabad Bank, Bhopal	De-Addiction Centre	6.91
32.	Gwalior	Guru Teg Bahadur Shiksha Samiit, Gwalior, Distt. Branch, Gwalior	Counselling Centre	2.66
33.	Gwalior	Assam Jyoti Sanskritic Shiksha Parishad, Gwalior	De-Addiction Centre	2.37
34.	Indore	Indian Red Cross Society, Distt. Branch Premkuman Hospital, 9, Biyabani, Indore	De-addiction Centre	2.82
35.	Neemuch	Indian Red Cross Society, Neemuch, Distt. Branch. Neemuch	De-Addiction Centre	6.32
36.	Ujjain	Association for Social Health in India, Nagar Nigam, Upkaryalaya, Maksi Road, Freeganj, Ujjain	De-Addiction Centre	6.52
<i>Integrated Programme for Street Children</i>				
37.	Bhopal Distt.	AARAMBH, Education and Community Development Society, Corporate Office: 53-C, Indrapuri (BHEL), Bhopal-462021 Reg. Office: 184, Bharat Nagar (BHEL), Bhopal-4602021.	Child Line Project	3.00
38.	Bhopal Distt.	The Bhopal School of Social Sciences, Habibganj, Bhopal-462024.	Child Line Project	1.13

1	2	3	4	5
Integrated Programme for Older Person				
39.	Khargone	Asha Gram Trust Barwani, P.O. Barwani West Nimar, Khargone	OAH's—Old Age Homes	2.15
40.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh Bal Avam Vrid Kalan Parishad, Mana Camp Distt. Raipur, Raipur	OAH's—Old Age Homes	3.98
41.	Indore	Kalyan Mitra Samithi, Indore, 91 Heera Nagar, Indore	OAH's—Old Age Homes	1.14
42.	Satna	Pranod Van Anand Dham, Chitrakot, Janki Kund District Satna, Satna	OAH's—Old Age Homes	2.25
43.	Ujjain	Ujjaini Senior Citizens Forum, Ujjain, Ujjain	OAH's—Old Age Homes	1.60
Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes				
44.	Balaghat	Avanti Shiksha, Samiti New Ram Nagar, Adhartal Teh Jabalpur	Craft Centre	1.68
45.	Bhind	Ashok Shiksha Prasar Samiti, Lhar, Distt. Bhind, Madhya Pradesh	Typing Centre	1.12
46.	Bhind	Sharda Mahila Mandal, Barokhari, Mihona, Distt. Bhind, Madhya Pradesh	Typing Centre	1.12
47.	Bhopal	Sri Sri Maa Anandmai Upvan Shiksha Samiti, Sri Sri Maa Anandmai Shram Bairagar, Bhopal, M.P.	Non-Residential School	3.67
48.	Jabalpur	Athihasik Mahila Shiksha Samiti, Gram Medhi, Udna, Patan Distt: Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	Non-Residential School and Craft Centre	3.80
49.	Jabalpur	Athihasik Mahila Shiksha Samiti, Gram Medhi, Udna, Patan Distt: Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	Non Residential School and Craft Centre	4.38
50.	Jabalpur	Avanti Shiksha Samiti, New Ram Nagar Adhartal Teh Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	Craft Centre	1.68
51.	Jabalpur	Gayatri Shakti Shiksha Kalyan Samiti, 1314 Mishra Market Ranjhi Basti	Type & Shorthand	5.07
52.	Jabalpur	Navchetna Shiksha Samiti, 275, Shakti Nagar, Gupteshwar, Jabalpur-482050, Madhya Pradesh	Type and Shorthand Centre	3.16
53.	Jabalpur	Navchetna Shiksha Samiti, 275, Shakti Nagar, Gupteshwar, Jabalpur-482050, Madhya Pradesh	Craft Centre	4.10
54.	Jabalpur	New Vikas Shiksha Samiti, 102 Ranjhi Bazar Vehicle Tiraha Balapur	Craft Centre	1.68
55.	Jabalpur	Runk Unmoolan Sansthan, Graam Panchayat Manegaon H.No. 58 Chapanagar	Computer and Craft Centres	2.73
56.	Jabalpur	Runk Unmoolan Sansthan, Graam Panchayat Manegaon H.No. 58 Chapanagar, Madhya Pradesh	Craft Centres	2.40
57.	Jabalpur	Saidhantik Shiksha Samiti, H.No. 111 Manegaon Champanagar Wasteland	Computer and Type and Shorthand Centres	2.17

1	2	3	4	5
58.	Jabalpur	Shashi Mahila Jagriti Samiti, H.No. 19, Navneet Enclave, Ranjhi Bazar, Main Road, Distt: Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh-482005	Typing & Shorthand and Craft Centre	2.95
59.	Jabalpur	Shashi Mahila Jagriti Samiti, H.No. 19, Navneet Enclave, Ranjhi Bazar, Main Road, Jabalpur	Craft Centres and Type and Shorthand Centre	2.95
60.	Jabalpur	Shivshakti Mahila Adimjati Janjati Kalyan Samiti, H.No. 1440 PO: Shankarsha Natgar Rampur Chhapar, Madhya Pradesh	Craft and Shorthand Centre	3.04
61.	Jabalpur	Shivshakti Mahila Adimjati Janjati Kalyan Samiti, H.No. 1440 PO: Shankarsha Natgar Rampur Chhapar, Madhya Pradesh	Craft and Shorthand Centre	3.04
62.	Jabalpur	Ved Mahila Mandali, H.No. 920, Gurudwara Maidan, Ranjhi Basti	Type & Shorthand and Computer Centres	1.94
63.	Mandala	Ankur Sanskar Evam Shiksha Uthan Samiti, Shahpura Nivas Road Teh Nivas	Type & Shorthand Centre	1.28
64.	Mandala	Ankur Sanskar Evam Shiksha Uthan Samiti, Shahpura Nivas Road Teh Nivas	Type & Shorthand Centre	1.01
65.	Narsinghpur	Gyanvardhan Avam Samaj Utthan Shiksha Samiti, Bargi Colony II, Tehsil-Gotegaon, Distt-Narsinghpur, Madhya Pradesh	Craft Centre	5.19
66.	Sibani	New Vikas Shiksha Samiti, 102 Ranjhi Bazar Vehicle Tiraha Balapur, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	Craft Centre	1.68

Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organization Working for the Other Backward Classes:

67.	Bhind	Gramin Vikash Mahila Mandal, Housin	Craft Centre	6.65
68.	Rajgarh	Gopal Mahila Mandal, Near Radha Krishna Mandir, Mohalla Pura	Type & Shorthand	1.14
69.	Morena	Shri Shanti Niketan Shiksha Prasara Samiti, Panchan Singh Road, Ganesh Pura,	Computer Centre	3.71
70.	Bhind	Yadav Mahila Mandal, Daboh, Yadav Gali, Tehsil Lahar,	Type & Shorthand	1.14
71.	Morena	Shri Gopal Shikshan and Samaj Seva Samiti, Panchan Singh Road, Ganesh Pura,	Craft Centre	6.65
72.	Jabalpur	Ujjawal Mahila Mandal, 1098/2, Infront of Old-Age Home, Shastri Nagar, Nagpur Road,	Type & Shorthand	1.14
73.	Bhind	Vivekanand Samaj Kalyan Sansthan, Housing Board Colony, Birend Vatika, Lahar Road,	Computer Zone	3.71

Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Section based on Economic Criteria:

74.	Bhind	Ashok Mahila Mandal, Bhind	Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Section	3.19
75.	Gwalior	Gram Bharati Sansthan, Gwalior	Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Section	6.82
76.	Indore	Kothari Institute, Indore	Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Section	11.57
77.	Devas	Lovely Samaj Sewa Avam Shiksha Prasara Samiti, Distt. Devas	Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Section	1.67

Consumption and Production of Sugar

973. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

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

(a) whether there is surplus production of sugar in the country;

(b) if so, the details regarding production and consumption of sugar during the last three years, State-wise alongwith production in current year.

(c) the number of sugar mills in the cooperative sector and public sector in the country alongwith the quantum of production of sugar by them;

(d) the quantum of sugar in metric tonnes exported to the foreign countries during the previous year and in the current year, so far;

(e) whether sugar has also been imported from other countries; and

(f) if so, the total amount of foreign exchange spent as a result thereof?

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

(b) Statement-I showing statewise production of sugar during the last three seasons and the current season, 2001-2002 is enclosed. While the Statewise levy sugar quota is fixed and it has to be consumed in the State only, the freesale quota released in respect of the factories situated in one State can be consumed in the other States also as there is no restriction on movement of free sale sugar. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate Statewise consumption of freesale sugar. Statement-II (A & B) showing monthly levy sugar quota for distribution through the Public Distribution System for the last three sugar seasons and the current season is enclosed.

(c) As on 1-10-2001 there were 508 installed sugar mills in the country comprising 283 of the Cooperative Sector, 67 of the Public Sector and the balance in the Private Sector. The Cooperative Sector and the Public Sector mills produced 116.03 (Provisional) lakh tonnes of sugar during the season 2000-2001.

(d) During the last season 2000-2001 (October-September) about 12.50 lakh tonnes sugar has been exported, as per the trade circles. The information in regard to the current crushing season is not yet available.

(e) As per DGCI & S, Kolkata 30612 tonnes of sugar has been imported during the last financial year 2000-2001 (April-March).

(f) The details of foreign exchange spent on the import of sugar are not available as the same has been imported by the various private parties under the Open General Licence as per their commercial prudence.

Statement-I**State-wise Production of Sugar**

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

State	Sugar Season 1998-99	Sugar Season 1999-2000	Sugar Season 2000-2001 (P)	Sugar Season 2001-2002 (P) (As on 07-10-2001)
1	2	3	4	5
Punjab	3.11	4.20	4.82	—
Haryana	4.03	4.77	5.83	—
Rajasthan	0.23	0.14	0.06	—
Uttar Pradesh	37.30	45.56	46.72	—

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	0.82	1.03	0.97	—
Gujarat	10.25	11.41	10.65	—
Maharashtra	52.76	65.03	67.19	—
Bihar	2.57	3.68	2.65	—
Assam	0.04	0.04	0.03	—
Orissa	0.73	0.53	0.33	—
West Bengal	0.05	0.03	—	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	11.13	11.82	10.30	—
Karnataka	13.65	15.71	16.13	0.15
Tamil Nadu	17.15	17.20	17.91	0.09
Pondicherry	0.44	0.49	0.39	—
Kerala	0.06	0.14	0.07	—
Goa	0.20	0.15	0.16	—
All India	154.52	181.93	184.21	0.24

(P) - Provisional

Statement-II (A)*Monthly Levy Sugar and Annual Festival Quota for the years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001*

S. No.	State/UTs	Monthly levy sugar quota for the period 1.1.98 till 31.12.99	Revised monthly levy sugar quota for the period January & February, 2000	Monthly levy sugar quota for the period March to June, 2000	Monthly levy sugar quota for the period July, 2000 to 31.1.2001	Festival quota
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28267	28267	31712	30430	7614
2.	Andman & Nicobar	282	282	377	377	74
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	366	602	809	809	94
4.	Assam	9524	15687	18114	17136	2896
5.	Bihar	36707	36707	41707	40545	10078
6.	Chandigarh	391	391	525	158	112

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	60	60	78	78	14
8.	Delhi	11973	11973	17054	12899	2316
9.	Goa	508	508	671	541	150
10.	Daman & Diu	43	43	59	59	12
11.	Gujarat	17557	17557	20212	18035	4878
12.	Haryana	6996	6996	8307	7530	1924
13.	Himachal Pradesh	2197	3619	4582	4330	608
14.	J & K	3567	5404	6796	6796	868
15.	Karnataka	19117	19117	21860	20473	5350
16.	Kerala	12368	12368	13592	12858	3600
17.	Lakshadweep	81	81	112	112	22
18.	Madhya Pradesh	28127	28127	33294	32017	7536
19.	Maharashtra	33550	33550	38301	33741	9014
20.	Manipur	782	1288	1709	1709	208
21.	Meghalaya	752	1239	1651	1651	200
22.	Mizoram	293	483	645	645	78
23.	Nagaland	542	847	1140	1140	128
24.	Orissa	13456	13456	15102	14741	3730
25.	Pondicherry	472	472	627	627	88
26.	Punjab	8619	8619	9896	8621	2392
27.	Rajasthan	18704	18704	22372	21036	5092
28.	Sikkim	174	287	379	379	50
29.	Tamil Nadu	23741	23741	26033	23822	6790
30.	Tripura	1173	1932	2566	2566	302
31.	Uttar Pradesh	59122	59122	70722	69026	15936
32.	West Bengal	28934	28934	33138	30326	7796
	Total	368445	380463	444142	415213	99950

Statement-II (B)**Monthly Levy Sugar Quota for the States/UTs.
(w.e.f. 1-2-2001)**

S. No.	State/UTs	Monthly Levy quota (MTs)	Annual Festival quota* (MTs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9690	7614
2.	Bihar	20516	7527
3.	Jharkhand	6948	2551
4.	Chandigarh	62	112
5.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	48	14
6.	Delhi	2610	2316
7.	Goa	120	150
8.	Gujarat	5841	4878
9.	Haryana	2485	1924
10.	Karnataka	8636	5350
11.	Kerala	4103	5523
12.	Madhya Pradesh	12441	5523
13.	Chhattisgarh	4512	2013
14.	Maharashtra	16792	9014
15.	Orissa	8707	3730
16.	Punjab	1385	2392
17.	Rajasthan	7342	5092
18.	Tamil Nadu	10820	6790
19.	Uttar Pradesh	33013	15154
20.	West Bengal	14087	7796
21.	Daman & Diu	11	12
22.	Pondicherry	243	88
23.	Assam	18337	2896

1	2	3	4
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	834	94
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	389	74
26.	Himachal Pradesh	4698	608
27.	J & K	6962	868
28.	Lakshadweep	115	22
29.	Manipur	1763	208
30.	Meghalaya	1704	200
31.	Mizoram	666	78
32.	Nagaland	1179	128
33.	Sikkim	391	50
34.	Tripura	2647	302
35.	Uttaranchal	6033	782
Total		216130	99950

* Note: As a policy decision Government have doubled the Festival Quota for the Calendar Year, 2001 to meet the requirement of sugar for various festivals.

[English]

Special Additional Duty

974. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR:
SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-debiting of Special Additional Duty (SAD), Duty Entitlement Pass Book and grant of exemption from SAD rather than taking its incidence into account for fixation of credit rate caused an irrecoverable loss of revenue of Rs. 666 Crore during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

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

Absorption of Employees of GIC in IRDA

975. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA:
SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether General Insurance Employees Pension Scheme-1995 provide for voluntary retirement from service for being absorbed permanently in an autonomous body or a public sector undertaking to which an employee is on deputation at the time of seeking voluntary retirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of employees of GIC and its subsidiary companies who have been granted voluntary retirement in the last two years for their permanent absorption in Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA);

(d) whether complaints have been received by the Government and IRDA against alleged irregularities in voluntary retirement and subsequent absorption of employees of GIC and its subsidiary companies in IRDA; and

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

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

Lifting of Ban on Indian Companies

976. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:

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

(a) whether America has recently lifted ban on Indian companies from exporting material to the nuclear weapon programme;

(b) if so, the details of Indian companies benefited by this U.S. decision;

(c) whether there are number of Indian companies/institutions still in the US prohibitory list;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government to get these companies/institutions removed from this list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) USA has lifted number of unilateral restrictions imposed on Indian companies by a final rule published in Federal Register Notification dated 1.10.2001. The entities that remain on the Entity List are:

Defence Research and Development Organisation (4 entities), Department of Atomic Energy (3 entities and all nuclear reactor activity related entities, including power plants) and Indian Space Research Organisation (8 entities).

(e) Government has used every opportunity to convey to the US that all unilateral restrictions against India are unjustified and counterproductive and should be completely lifted.

[Translation]

Appointments in Bharat Wagon and Engineering Co. on Compassionate Ground

977. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale bungling has taken place in the appointment on compassionate ground in Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company;

(b) if so, the number of compassionate appointments made on the basis of fake medical certificate before the retirement of concerned person; and

(c) the number of people who have not been appointed on compassionate ground even on the death of the concerned person while in service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) As per information available, 235 appointments on compassionate ground have been made during 1992-1999. No specific instance of appointment on misrepresentation has come to notice.

(c) No specific instance has come to notice.

*[English]***Setting up of Handicraft Complexes**

978. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are providing assistance for setting up of handicraft complexes/showrooms in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the places where these complexes/showrooms have been set up during the last three years, year-wise, location-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of the other places where such more complexes/showrooms are proposed to be set up, State-wise;

(d) the number of showrooms/complexes which have taken loans or assistance from Handicrafts Board are now closed; and

(e) the details of action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Assistance is provided for setting up handicraft showrooms. The details of emporias setup during the last three years, year-wise, location-wise and State-wise is as under:-

Sl. No.	State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Assam	Borjhar	Rehabri	Guwahati
2.	Delhi	(i) New Delhi (Zakir Nagar) (ii) -do-	—	—
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	—	—
4.	J & K	—	(i) Jammu (ii) Srinagar (iii) Srinagar	—
5.	Kerala	—	(i) Trivandrum	—
6.	Manipur	Imphal	—	—
7.	Mizoram	—	Lungei	—
8.	Nagaland	Dimapur	—	—
9.	Tamil Nadu	—	Chennai	Chennai
10.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	—	—
11.	Gujarat	—	—	Ahmedabad
12.	West Bengal	Kolkata	—	—

(c) Places are not predecided because new emporia are set up on the basis of receipt of viable proposal from various State Handicrafts Corporation/NGO's etc. and availability of funds.

(d) Nil.

(e) Does not arise.

Guidelines on Promotion Policy

979. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector banks have sought relaxation in the government guidelines on promotion policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of nationalised banks are witnessing shortage of senior officers to manage key portfolios; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to find competent and qualified persons for middle and senior management following post-VRS manpower problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) A few Public Sector Banks like State Bank of Saurashtra, UCO Bank and Union Bank of India have sought Government's permission for relaxing the eligibility norms for promotion of officers.

(c) and (d) The Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) was designed with the objective of right-sizing the manpower without affecting the functioning of banks adversely. However, in the post-VRS scenario certain imbalances/mis-matches have occurred between officers and award staff employees as well as within officers' cadre. To manage these imbalances/mis-matches, banks have undertaken re-assessment of their cadre-wise staff requirement at different centres in order to provide the requisite staff by relocation from surplus to deficit pockets and by need-based promotions of competent and qualified officers. Other measures include re-structuring of the administrative tiers/controlling offices in order to re-deploy staff to operational units, speeding up of computerization of branches/offices, etc.

Reservation of Seats for Handicapped in Institutions

980. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Educational Institutions like Delhi College of Engineering (DCE), National Institution of Subhash Chandra Bose Technological Institute (NSIT), Delhi, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi are not reserving seats for handicapped students seeking admission under Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act, 1995;

(b) whether he is aware of Delhi High Courts observation that seats referred to in Section 39 of Chapter 6 (titled employment) in the Act means 'post' for the purpose of employment in Government bodies and not seats in educational institutions;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry would bring an amendment to the Disability Act, 1996 to provide reservation to the physically handicapped students seeking admission in educational institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Section 39 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides that all Government educational institutions and other educational institutions receiving aid from the Government, shall reserve not less than three percent seats for persons with disabilities. Keeping in view the above provision, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment have requested all appropriate Governments and Central Ministries/Departments to ensure implementation of this provision.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) There is a proposal to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

Automobile Exports

981. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the automobile exports from the country has been declined during the first three months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the automobile export into the rest months of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is a world-wide economic slow down. To boost exports, the export credit rate has been brought down by 1% from 26th September, 2001.

New VRS for Central Government Employees

982. SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised new Voluntary Retirement Scheme for Central Government employees;

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

(c) the time by which scheme is likely to be implemented;

(d) the percentage of total employees that are likely to opt for this scheme;

(e) whether it has examined that downsizing of Government establishments will not result in inefficiency in Governance; and

(f) if so, the details with the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Under the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972, a government servant on completion of 20 years of qualifying service can seek voluntary retirement by giving notice of not less than 3 months in writing to the appointing authority. These rules also provide for option of voluntary retirement to employees who are declared surplus provided they have rendered not less than 15 years of service. While there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to introduce a new voluntary retirement scheme for Central Government employees in general, it is proposed to offer the employees in the surplus pool an attractive VRS package as announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on 28th February, 2001. Necessary action has already been initiated in this regard?

(e) and (f) Downsizing/rightsizing of the government machinery is undertaken to contain avoidable expenditure on establishment but while doing so care is taken that it is not at the cost of efficiency.

Guarantees by States

983. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Government have been ignoring the warning of the Reserve Bank of India to put a cap on guarantee offering consequent to which billions of rupees guarantee standing have increased from March, 1992 to September, 1999;

(b) if so, the measures Union Government propose to take to direct the State Government from giving further guarantees and to recover the amount from them; and

(c) the amount of guarantee outstanding/issued by State Government, State-wise as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) It was stated in the Report of the Technical Committee on State Government Guarantees that in the interest of the ensuring fiscal sustainability as well as more selectivity in the matter of taking and giving of guarantees, it would be desirable for the States to fix a ceiling on guarantees. As per information available, the state governments which have imposed the statutory ceilings on guarantees are Gujarat, Karnataka, Sikkim and West Bengal. Rajasthan and Assam have imposed administrative ceilings. Tamil Nadu has taken the decision to charge a guarantee commission on outstanding guaranteed amount.

(b) Ministry of Finance has issued communication to the Finance Secretaries of all States that for borrowings through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) which are guaranteed by the State Governments and clearly have to be serviced by the State, prior permission under Article 293(3) should be necessary. The SPV borrowings which enters the Public Account of the State Budget and is further on-lent to Consolidated Fund of State will not, in the ordinary course be allowed.

(c) State-wise amount of guarantees outstanding for 17 major states are given in the Statement.

Statement

Table: Trends in Guarantees of State Governments (Outstanding)

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the States	1992 (end March)	1999 (end September)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	3633	10469
2.	Assam	1008	1430
3.	Bihar	1359	525
4.	Gujarat	4514	7299
5.	Haryana*	1264	4119
6.	Himachal Pradesh*	370	1299
7.	Jammu & Kashmir*	459	599
8.	Karnataka*	3057	6517

1	2	3	4
9.	Kerala	1744	2866
10.	Madhya Pradesh*	677	3485
11.	Maharashtra	7351	12851
12.	Orissa*	1090	2292
13.	Punjab*	1303	7292
14.	Rajasthan*	2727	6454
15.	Tamil Nadu*	2895	4637
16.	Uttar Pradesh	4257	4643
17.	West Bengal*	2450	2680

*Outstanding Guarantees include Principle and interest components except for 1999.

source: Report of the Technical Committee on State Government Guarantee (Provided by RBI).

[Translation]

Handicapped Welfare Centres

984. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Handicapped Welfare Centres in Bihar;

(b) the details of facilities provided to the handicapped persons by the Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation;

(c) the latest position of progress made by them;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate a clear cut National Policy for Handicapped persons;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) 5 districts in Bihar have been selected for implementation of the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) in the first phase. In addition, District Disability Rehabilitation Centers (DDRCs) at Darbhanga, Muzzaffarpur, Nawada and Gaya are functioning and those at Banka, Bhagalpur and Chapra are in the process of becoming functional.

(b) and (c) the National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) extends loans to persons with disabilities for pursuing education at higher levels and assists them in upgradation of technical and entrepreneurial skills, procurement of raw material for them and marketing of finished goods and for starting small business, trade, cottage industries, agricultural and allied activities etc. The corporation has so far disbursed loans of Rs. 24.95 crores covering 5509 beneficiaries.

(d) to (f) A National Policy for Persons with Disabilities is at advanced stage of formulation.

[English]

Quality of PDS Rice in Tamil Nadu

985. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) whether Government of India have received any report of the Tamil Nadu Government regarding the quality of Rice available for the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Declaration of Rubber as Agricultural Products

986. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have filed its negotiating proposals with WTO to declare rubber and coir as an agricultural product;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries which have extended their support towards our efforts; and

(d) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) India in its negotiating proposals filed in January 2001 in WTO has proposed rationalization of

the product coverage of Agreement on Agriculture to include agricultural commodities such as rubber and coir.

(c) and (d) As mandated under article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), negotiations for further liberalisation in world trade in agriculture which commenced in the year 2000 are ongoing. These negotiations are taking place in the Special Sessions of the WTO Committee on Agriculture at Geneva wherein the proposals submitted by various Member countries are being discussed.

Policy to Attract FDI

987. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether public exhibition in many countries for disseminating information regarding investment opportunities in India have been held;

(b) if so, the names of the countries where such events have been organised during last year; and

(c) the details of FDI attracted during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) With a view to disseminate information regarding investment opportunities in India and to attract foreign direct investment, investment promotion meetings/seminars are organised in selected countries every year in association with industry associations like FICCI and CII. During the year 2000, such events were organised in Australia, Japan, France, New Zealand and United Kingdom. The FDI inflow from these countries during the year 2000 was as follows:-

Country	Amount of Actual inflow of FDI (Rs. in crore)
Australia	33.22
Japan	681.55
France	301.68
New Zealand	0.06
United Kingdom	257.02

Bungling by Plantation Companies

988. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given

to Unstarred Question No. 1883 on 9th March, 2001 regarding bungling by Plantation Companies and state:

(a) whether the properties of M/s. Anubhav Plantation Ltd. have been identified and sold;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a Claims Commissioner has been appointed;

(e) whether M/s. Green Gold Agro-Development Ltd. and its other branches were to be wound up;

(f) if not, the action taken against them;

(g) whether these companies were to send an information to the investors within two months from the date of receipt of the intimation from SEBI; and

(h) if so, the reasons for delay in sending intimation by SEBI and the date on which they will intimate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that M/s. Anubhav Plantations Ltd. has been wound up by orders of the High Court dated 23.6.2000. The Official Liquidator, High Court, Chennai has been appointed as liquidator for the company. The administrator appointed by the Court has intimated that the properties of the company are being identified and sold on the orders of the High Court and the sale prices are deposited into the account of the Official Liquidator, High Court, Chennai.

(d) No, Sir. The administrator appointed by the Court has intimated that after all the saleable properties of the company are sold, the High Court will appoint a Claims Commissioner.

(e) and (f) M/s. Green Gold Agro-Development Ltd. had applied to SEBI for grant for registration under the provisions of the SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999. Since it did not fulfil the requirements of registration, its application was rejected and intimation to that effect was sent to it on February 2, 2001. Accordingly, in terms of the regulations, it was required to wind up its schemes and repay its investors.

Since it did not submit the prescribed report to SEBI regarding repayment to investors, SEBI passed an order under Section 11B of the SEBI Act, 1992 directing it to

refund the money due to investors, with returns, as per the terms of the offer, within a period of one month from the date of the order. Since it failed to comply with the said order, the following action has been taken.

The entity and its promoters, directors etc. have debarred from operating in the capital market for a period of five years; the name of the entity has been referred to the State Government for initiation of civil/criminal proceedings; necessary information has been sent to the Department of Company Affairs for initiation of winding up proceedings and the entity has also been referred for prosecution under the SEBI Act.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) SEBI has intimated that there was no delay on their part.

[*Translation*]

Non-Performing Assets of Banks

989. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI SAHIB SINGH:
SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the non-performing assets (NPA) of the each public sector banks and Financial Institutions as on date;

(b) the NPA of these banks during each of the last three years;

(c) the steps the Government has taken during the above period to check/reduce the increasing NPA in banks and Financial Institutions;

(d) whether the Government propose to give more powers to banks and financial institutions to recover their dues;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The details of latest available figures of non-performing assets (NPA) of each Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions for the last three years is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (f) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have advised the banks and financial institutions to take several steps for recovery of bank dues such as evolving and implementation of recovery policy by banks, filing of suits with civil courts filing cases with Deb Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and monitoring and follow up of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) at various levels in the bank. RBI *vide* its circular dated 27th July, 2000 had framed non-discretionary and non-discriminatory guidelines for settlement of NPAs upto Rs. 5 crore and advised banks to evolve their own policy for loan outstandings of above Rs. 5 crore. Effective action by banks for rehabilitation, one-time settlement for filing of suits in all necessary cases by 30.9.2001 has to be ensured by the chief executives. The banks have also been advised to use the forum of Lok Adalat for compromise settlement of their NPAs and guidelines have been issued by RBI in May, 2001 for making increased use of this forum to settle disputes involving outstanding balance in NPA accounts upto Rs. 5 lakhs. Action has also been initiated to bring in a legislation that will facilitate foreclosures and enforcement of securities in cases of default, in order to enable the banks and financial institutions to realise their dues. Credit Information Bureau is being set up to disseminate information on borrowers to the banks.

Statement

Gross Non-performing Assets (NPAs) of Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions during the year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

				(Rs. in crores)
Sl. No.	Name of Bank/ FCIs	March, 1999	March, 2000	March, 2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	State Bank of India	14065	15246	15875
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	675	773	715

1	2	3	4	5
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	902	936	884
4.	State Bank of Indore	327	318	325
5.	State Bank of Mysore	589	550	581
6.	State Bank of Patiala	718	670	695
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	458	469	469
8.	State Bank of Travancore	886	811	758
9.	Allahabad Bank	1520	1694	1821
10.	Andhra Bank	450	457	470
11.	Bank of Baroda	3686	3897	4186
12.	Bank of India	3034	3464	3434
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	716	717	877
14.	Canara Bank	2100	2015	2243
15.	Central Bank of India	2436	2843	3253
16.	Corporation Bank	368	433	485
17.	Dena Bank	858	1400	1928
18.	Indian Bank	3709	3355	2359
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	1441	1623	1631
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	498	528	586
21.	Punjab & Sind Bank	731	777	1026
22.	Punjab National Bank	2832	3127	3460
23.	Syndicate Bank	1074	992	1075
24.	UCO Bank	1716	1651	1284
25.	Union Bank of India	1536	1881	2056
26.	United Bank of India	1549	1520	1411
27.	Vijaya Bank	533	549	595
<i>Financial Institutions:</i>				
1.	IDBI	6490	7675	8370
2.	ICICI	3623	3959	2982
3.	IFCI	4231	4103	3897
4.	IIBI	480	658	625
5.	Exim Bank	–	374	407
6.	SIDBI	193	197	174

Setting up of Industries in Bihar

990. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that industrialists are scared of setting up industries in Bihar despite availability of raw materials in abundance;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any study to identify the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the findings of the study;

(d) whether the Government have discussed these problems with the Government of Bihar and asked the State Government to create suitable atmosphere for attracting the industrialists;

(e) if so, the response of the Government of Bihar thereto; and

(f) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government for proper industrial growth in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (f) Industrial Development in the States, including creating appropriate investment environment, is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. Government of Bihar entrusted Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur to conduct a study to identify the reasons for slower investment in Bihar. Important suggestions that have been made are:-

- (i) Training programmes of stakeholders for good governance.
- (ii) Attract non-resident Biharis (NRBs) to invest in Bihar.
- (iii) Create at least two centers of excellence in each district (e.g. New Patna, New Begusarai, New Ranchi and New Dhanbad) at an accelerated pace.

(iv) Benchmark and borrow good policies.

(v) Help create some excellent companies/ organizations which can become the 'showcase' for the world, including Indian entrepreneurs.

It is for the Government of Bihar to take necessary action for implementation of the recommendations made in the study, if found feasible.

[English]

Export of Beedies

991. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and value of beedies exported to foreign countries during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The quantum, value and foreign exchange earnings from export of beedies over the past three years is as follows:

Year	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (US\$ Million)
1998-99	998	7.58
1999-2000	1174	8.69
2000-01	962	7.43
2001-02 (April-Sept)	426	3.13

Source: Directorate-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics and Tobacco Board.

The details of country-wise exports are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Region-wise exports of Beedies from India
(Qty in Tons. Value in Rs. lakhs)

	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Asia						
Afghanistan	44	95.56	56	129.39	66	162.77

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Japan	A	3.95	A	0.94	1	23.56
Malaysia	12	41.97	10	4275	15	72.27
Nepal	1	0.74	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Philippines	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	A	0.12
Sri Lanka	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Singapore	31	132.10	68	252.75	27	114.75
South Korea	A	1.22	1	2.42	Nil	Nil
Total	88	275.54	135	428.25	109	373.47
America						
Argentina	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	A	0.41
Brazil	Nil	Nil	A	1.21	Nil	Nil
Canada	A	2.52	A	5.25	4	13.02
Mexico	2	5.81	Nil	Nil	10	28.51
USA	47	166.88	31	100.22	8	47.36
West Indies	3	12.3	A	2.84	A	0.89
Total	52	187.51	31	109.52	22	90.19
Middle East						
Bahrain	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	18	61.98
Jordan	16	54.17	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Kuwait	10	31.83	13	41.16	16	56.13
Oman	18	59.59	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
UAE	709	2155.05	932	2889.94	634	2178.87
S. Arabia	50	155.55	2	7.19	Nil	Nil
Yemen	30	90.19	54	216.27	153	507.52
Total	833	2546.38	1001	3154.56	821	2804.50
West Europe						
France	A	0.18	A	2.75	A	2.08
Germany	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Netherlands	A	0.78	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Portugal	Nil	Nil	A	0.08	A	0.21
Switzerland	5	10.33	5	17.62	9	21.90
UK	Nil	Nil	A	0.06	Nil	Nil
Total	5	11.29	5	20.51	9	24.19
Australia						
Australia	1	6.51	1	1.92	1	1.70
Total	1	6.51	1	1.92	1	1.70
Africa						
Djibouti	19	42.34	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
S. Africa	A	0.07	1	3.13	A	1.83
Total	A	0.07	1	3.13	A	1.83
Grand Total	998	3069.64	1174	3717.89	962	3295.88

Exports of Beedies—Country-wise during 2001-2002 (April-September)

Country	<i>(Qty. in Tns., Value in Rs. Lakhs)</i>			
	April-Sept. 2000		April-Sept. 2001	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5
Australia	1	1.70	Nil	Nil
Argentina	Nil	Nil	A	0.81
Afghanistan	33	79.17	33	84.16
Canada	A	0.64	Nil	Nil
France	A	2.08	1	2.17
Geneva	Nil	Nil	2	3.23
Japan	A	8.72	A	1.93
Kuwait	10	34.37	5	17.79

1	2	3	4	5
Malaysia	7	27.10	6	23.12
Mexico	9	21.25	Nil	Nil
Newzealand	Nil	Nil	1	3.40
Reunion	A	0.89	Nil	Nil
Switzerland	5	9.97	4	13.12
S. Arabia	Nil	Nil	17	6.31
S. Africa	A	0.54	A	0.29
S. America	Nil	Nil	2	5.11
Singapore	9	40.42	20	76.42
USA	4	27.64	4	11.97
UAE	235	797.99	277	1030.27
West Indies	Nil	Nil	1	5.34
Yemen	60	200.74	53	183.31
Total	373	1253.22	426	1468.75

Export Obligations

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

(a) whether his Ministry notified a blank amnesty scheme in April, 1999 to all defuncting firms by extending the period of export obligations to March, 2001 even though the Law Ministry had held such action beyond the audit of subordinate legislation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether recovery is being made from such defuncting firms; 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) Extension in period of export obligation for bonafide default was granted by public notice no. 5 (RE-99)/1997-2002 dated 6th April, 1999 against execution

of Bank Guarantee in respect of Advance Licences issues on or after 1.4.1992 and EPCG licences. While extension become effective for Advance Licence, the same could not be operationalised for EPCG licences as the Ministry of Law pointed out that extension in EO period cannot be allowed with retrospective effect in respect of licences issued under the Customs notifications where such facility did not exist. Therefore, an amendment was carried out in the Finance Bill, 2001 and extension was made applicable to the EPCG scheme also.

In cases where the licence holders have not availed the facility under the aforesaid public notice, adjudication proceedings have been initiated. Similarly, in cases where export obligation is not completed by the prescribed time, steps are initiated to recover the revenue involved through enforcement of bank guarantees.

[Translation]

Urban Cooperative Banks

993. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 4059 dated 23 March, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued circular No. UBD/Plan-1/U.B.-6/92-93 on 3.8.1992 and circular no U.B.D./Plan/R.C.S./13.09.72.00/95-96 on 19.01.1996 regarding distribution of charitable funds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether prior to the issuance of both the circulars Urban Co-operative Bank could donate 20 percent of their declare profit last year to any charitable funds/any other funds;

(d) if so, whether the Government have received any representation in regard to withdrawal of both the circulars by RBI; and

(e) if so, the details of the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To ensure that the financial resources are not frittered away by the boards of the urban co-operative banks, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as a prudent measure, prescribed a ceiling of 1% of the published profit of the previous year on donations to be made by urban co-operative banks *vide* its first circular dated August 3, 1992. These banks were also allowed to donate to National Funds and other funds reorganized/sponsored by the State/Central Government provided that, during a year, total donations did not exceed 2% of the published profits of the previous year. The policy was reviewed in 1996 following various representations from these banks and their federations. Following the same, a second circular was issued on January 19, 1996 indicating various relaxations like making adequate provisions for non-performing assets and for depreciation on investment, transferring atleast one fourth of the net profit to the reserve fund and make other reserves and provisions as required by the respective Co-operative Societies Act/its by laws, etc. The objective behind the issue of this circular was to allow well run urban co-operative banks to donate for charitable purposes, without causing a strain on their profitability.

(c) RBI has reported that before the issuance of these circulars, urban co-operative banks were, in this regard, governed only by the guidelines contained in their respective State Co-operative Societies Acts and the amount of donations were to be restricted as per the Provisions in the respective aforesaid Acts.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

German Assistance to India

994. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Germany had offered Rs. 670 crores assistance to India during the recent visit of German Chancellor; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects in which the assistance is likely to be invested?

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

(b) The assistance is to be utilized in the following projects:

1. 140 MW Integrated Solar Combined Cycle Power Project, Mathania, Rajasthan. — DM 250 Million (Loan). The project is to promote the usage of non-fossil fuel power sources and reduce the overall shortage of electricity supply in Rajasthan.
2. Pulse Polio Immunization Programme — DM 20 million (Grant). The amount would be used for import of the Polio vaccine, Cold chain equipment and other contingencies for administering polio vaccine to children in the vulnerable age group of 0-5 years.
3. Fertilizer Sector Programme-VII - DM 40 million (Loan). The assistance is for importing approx. 2 lakh MT of Muriate of Potash (MOP), a widely used fertilizer.
4. Rural Water Supply Project, Rajasthan, (Supplementary) - DM 10 million (grant). The amount is an additional assistance to the ongoing Integrated Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Community Participation Programme in Rajasthan, which aims at improving the health situation and general living conditions in the project area.

[English]

Rehabilitation Measures for HMT

995. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had implemented rehabilitation measures for the loss making HMT Limited;

(b) if so, the performance of HMT and its subsidiaries in the first year after initiating rehabilitation measures; and

(c) the amount spent on rehabilitation of each unit of HMT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR.

VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes Sir. Government had approved a turn around plan for HMT Limited which envisaged financial and organizational restructuring manpower rationalization and fresh infusion of equity. The turn around plan is being implemented by HMT Limited. Government has already provided financial assistance to the company.

(b) Performance of HMT and its subsidiaries in 2000-01 was as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Company	Turnover	Net Profit/ Loss
HMT Limited (Holding Company including Tractor Division)	305.23	24.41
HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	190.70	-96.17
HMT Watches Ltd.	126.23	-59.18
HMT Chinar Watches Ltd.	1.94	-7.95
HMT (International) Ltd.*	46.01	0.41
HMT Bearings Ltd.*	47.50	2.21

*Rehabilitation measures not initiated in these subsidiaries as they were already profit making.

(c) The Government has provided HMT Limited (holding Company) fresh equity of Rs. 250 crore for liquidation of debentures/dues of FIs & Banks and payment of outstanding statutory dues, plan equity of Rs. 7.20 crore (out of Rs. 15.10 crore agreed) for capital expenditure, conversion of outstanding loan of Rs. 39.70 crore to equity and waiver of accumulated interest thereon of Rs. 12.74 crore, guarantee for VRS bonds of Rs. 469 crore with 50% interest subsidiary and waiver of guarantee fee. Further, HMT has also been given a guarantee for raising working capital bonds of Rs. 40.43 crore for its Watch Business Group and budgetary support of Rs. 17.35 crore as grant-in-aid) for salary and wages of the employees of Srinagar Watch Factory. HMT Limited (holding company) in turn has further allocated the above funds/assistance to their respective subsidiaries/units.

[Translation]

Loans to Small Farmers

996. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Finance has recently announced to provide a loan of Rs. 64 thousand crore to

the farmers as published in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 22nd September, 2001;

(b) if so, the ratio of the loan which will be provided to small, medium and big farmers and the time by which the said loan is likely to be provided;

(c) the details of the guidelines issued by the Government in this regard; and

(d) other facilities the Government propose to offer a marginal and medium farmers and the time by which these said facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Finance Minister has mentioned in his Budget Speech this year that the total credit flow to agriculture through institutional channels is expected to increase to Rs. 64,000 crores during the year 2001-2002. No ratio has been prescribed for providing loans to small, medium and big farmers. No separate guidelines have also been issued in this regard and banks are expected to achieve this level of credit flow under the existing guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

(d) RBI has been taking various steps to strengthen the flow of credit to small and marginal farmers by making certain relaxations in regard to the margin money requirements, security norms, etc. These include non-insistence by banks on margin money for crop loans/terms loans granted to farmers upto Rs. 10,000/-, non-insistence by banks upon collateral security/third party guarantee for crop loans upto Rs. 10,000/- discretion of banks in matters relating to margin/security for loans above Rs. 10,000/-, insistence on payment of interest only at the time of repayment of loan/installments fixed, not to compound interest on current dues not falling due in respect of term loans, total interest debited not to exceed the principal amount in respect of short-term advances, etc.

[English]

Outdated Government of India Presses

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

(a) whether most of the Government of India presses have obsolete technology;

(b) if so, the average capacity utilization thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to modernise them with changing technology;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Government of India Presses have a mix of the modern and older technology. The Currency Note Press (CNP), Nashik has been recently modernised. The India Security Press (ISP), Nashik has been modernised to a large extent and the process continues. The Security Printing Press (SPP), Hyderabad also does not have obsolete technology. However, the Bank Note Press (BNP), Dewas has only two modern lines of production, replaced during 1997-98, out of five lines in use. The average capacity utilisation of the three obsolete lines at BNP during last three years has been about 50%.

(c) to (e) The modernisation of Government Presses is an ongoing and a continuous process. The Government has already approved replacement of one old line of production at BNP, Dewas with hi-tech modern machines. In addition, further modernisation of the three other Presses is also continuing and the old machines are being replaced by the latest modern machines, in a

phased manner, depending upon the demand for security items/bank notes in the country.

Profits of Foreign Banks

998. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign banks functioning in India are getting huge profits, while some of the nationalised banks of India are on the verge of bankruptcy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the foreign banks functioning in India, their annual turnover and profits; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the working of Indian banks so that they can compete with foreign banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that out of the 42 foreign banks operating branches in India, as on 31st March, 2001, 11 banks have incurred net loss. Further, all the 27 public sector banks, had made operating profits and, out of these, only two banks incurred net losses as on 31st March, 2001. Out of the 27 public sector banks, only 2 banks did not achieve the prescribed minimum capital adequacy ratio as on 31st March, 2001. Therefore, it would be observed that the public sector banks are not on the verge of bankruptcy.

(c) As on 31st March, 2001, 42 foreign banks were operating branches in India and their deposit/advance and profit/loss for the year 2000-2001 were as under:-

— Deposits	—	Rs. 35763.42 crores
— Advances	—	Rs. 42996.52 crores
— Profits/losses	—	Rs. 1096.54 crores

(d) The public sector banks are taking several steps to improve their working and increase their profitability which include rationalising their branch network, abolition of zonal offices, reduction of NPAs, lowering their cost of deposits, increasing productivity etc.

Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme

999. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme (KVSS) failed to realize its objective of declogging tax administration and raising revenue of fiscal significance;

(b) if so, whether the 21,134 arrears cases are pending involving an amount of Rs. 3205 crore as on September 1, 1999 under 22 Commissionarates;

(c) if so, the number of cases settled and the amount realized under KVSS;

(d) the reasons for its failure; and

(e) the steps are being taken to make the scheme more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) No Sir. The Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme attained a reasonable degree of success in realizing its objective of declogging tax administration and raising revenues which is evident from collection of taxes amounting to Rs. 738.74 crores and settlement of 33,918 disputes under the direct tax enactments and similarly, collection of taxes amounting to Rs. 643.80 crores and settlement of 11,159 disputes under the indirect tax enactments pending before different adjudicating/appellate authorities or courts. In all, over 45,000 disputes were settled under the scheme both under the direct tax enactments and indirect tax enactments. The Scheme was announced in the Budget 1998 and was in operation for a limited period from 1.9.1998 to 31.1.1999 only.

Branch of NIRTR at Bhubaneswar

1000. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand for setting up of a branch of National Institute of Research Training and Rehabilitation at Bhubaneswar or nearby in addition to the existing one at Olatpur for convenience of large number of physically handicapped and accident victim patients;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up;

(c) whether there is any proposal for providing modern equipments to NIRTR Centre at Olatpur for the benefit of the patients; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The Government has no proposal to set up any branch of NIRTR at Bhubaneswar or elsewhere.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The infrastructure facilities of NIRTR include modern physiotherapy equipment necessary for treatment of locomotor disability, two well equipped operation theaters and 100 bed indoor patient facility. Supporting services for radiological and pathological investigations are also available in the Institute.

Mismanagement in Super Bazar

1001. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inquiry was conducted by the Central Registrar under section 69 of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984 into the financial irregularities and mismanagement of the Super Bazar in Delhi by certain top executives both in Board of Directors as well as Administrations; and

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the inquiry made and the action taken against the persons responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The inquiry was instituted by Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies under Section 69 and 73 of Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 into the affairs of Super Bazar, Delhi.

(b) Based on the findings of Inquiry Report, Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies has issued Show Cause Notice to the persons involved for recovery of loss. Thereafter, the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies by exercising his power under section 73(2) of MSCS Act has established that Shri S.S. Dhuri, the then Chairman of Super Bazar was responsible for the loss and ordered the recovery of the amount of Rs. 24,45,780.00 alongwith an interest @ 15% per annum w.e.f. January 1999 from him in accordance with the law. Apart from Shri Dhuri, Shri Surender Gandhi, the then Vice-Chairman and Shri R.P. Maheshwary, the then member of the Board of Directors were also held responsible for causing loss alongwith the ex-Chairman Shri S.S. Dhuri. They have been jointly and severally held responsible to make good the loss of

Rs. 24,45,780.00 along with the interest @ 15% p.a. with effect from January, 1999. The Central Registrar has directed the Super Bazar to initiate recovery proceedings against the alleged persons in accordance with law.

[*Translation*]

Ban on Export of Agro-Products

1002. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of agro-products are banned from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the way in which this policy is beneficial for the country; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove such restriction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no general ban on export of agricultural products from the country. Most of the agricultural products are freely exportable, except a few which are subject to either licensing requirement, or quantitative ceilings, or their export is being allowed through certain designated State Trading Enterprises. Export of agro-products like Paddy (Rice in husk), Pulses in packing beyond 5 kgs, Seeds of certain varieties, Rice bran (raw and boiled), Fodder, Deoiled groundnut cakes etc. is permitted under licence. Export of Onions, Niger Seeds, Gum Karaya etc. is allowed through certain designated State Trading Enterprises. Wheat, Grain and Flour of Barley, Maize, Bajra, Ragi, Jawar etc. are subject to quantitative ceilings. The policy of the Government for export of agricultural products is governed principally by the consideration of country's food security, maximizing farm incomes and earning foreign exchange.

(c) The review of export performance of agricultural products is an ongoing process and policy interventions are made as and when considered necessary with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable. During the current year 2001-2002, the Government has removed quantitative restrictions on export of Sugar and Wheat products.

[*English*]

Banking Service Recruitment Board

1003. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision regarding replacement of the Banking Service Recruitment Boards (BSRBs) by individual recruitment bodies in each nationalised bank have been taken so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the announcement made by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2001-2002, 13 out of 15 Banking Service Recruitment Boards have already been abolished, Banks have now been advised to frame their own recruitment strategy, with the approval of their Boards, to meet their future requirements. However, while framing such strategy, banks are required to ensure *inter alia*, that the recruitment policy is transparent, the process of selection is fair, just, objective and unbiased and due representation is given in the selection committees to the members belonging to SC/STs and minority communities, etc. The banks have also been advised that reservations in posts for SC/STs OBCs, Ex-servicemen and disabled with concessions in eligibility norms, fees and cut off marks, etc. as laid down by the Government of India from time to time should be strictly followed.

Restructuring of Income-Tax Department

1004. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated strategy to restructure Income-Tax Department with a view to under- go a qualitative change;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Income-Tax Department propose to compile street directories to widen the tax base;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these directories will be compiled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Income Tax Department has recently been restructured with a view to increase the productivity of the Department through induction of technology, re-designing business process through functional specialization and right-sizing of manpower.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Income Tax Department is in the process of compilation of street directories. The proposed street directories will be a record of all commercial establishments/residences in a particular locality and would be a reference point for any verification of information. These street directories will be of great help in the widening of tax base.

IFC's Investment in India

1005 SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Finance Corporation (IFC) is planning to increase its investment in India;

(b) if so, the extent to which the investment is to be increased and the sectors in which the investment is proposed to be utilised;

(c) whether the Government have identified the projects for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) IFC plans to invest actively in India. The volume of investment would be subject to the availability of suitable investment opportunities. IFC would be investing mostly to support financial markets development, private infrastructure and internationally competitive industry and services.

(c) IFC identifies the projects for investment and the Government does not get involved in identification of projects.

(d) Does not arise.

Closure of Powerlooms

1006. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several powerlooms in the country have been closed down;

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

(c) the number of workers laid off alongwith the loss of production of textiles and the foreign exchange earning suffered due to closures of powerlooms in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to revive the powerlooms in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) No data is maintained as to closure of powerloom units. However, there has been an increase in number of powerlooms registered and consequential estimated employment generated. From 1997-98 till 31.10.2001, powerlooms registered has increased from 15.23 lakh to 16.66 lakh, and estimated employment from 38.08 lakh persons to 41.65 lakh persons. The figures, pertaining to Tamil Nadu also follow this trend. During this period number of looms registered in Tamil Nadu has increased from 2.81 lakh to 3.19 lakh, and estimated employment from 7.03 lakh persons to 7.98 lakh persons.

(d) Government has taken several initiatives to facilitate growth in the powerlooms industry. Some of these are:

(i) Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) under which cost of borrowing capital for modernisation of the textile and jute industries including powerloom industry is reduced;

(ii) Programme for induction of 50,000 shuttleless and for 2.5 lakh semi automatic and automatic looms in the decentralised powerloom sector, with incentives provided through the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS);

(iii) A programme for modernization of Powerloom Service Centers (PSC) by the upgradation of their looms so as to provide training and skills to powerloom weavers to operate modernized equipment;

(iv) A scheme for Computer Aided Design Centres in Powerloom Service Centers to provide value addition through design inputs into powerloom production.

(v) Powerloom Export Entitlement (PEE) quota has been provided to encourage powerloom exports. In the new quota policy for 2000-2004, the PEE quota has been raised from 10% to 15%.

[Translation]

Payment of Bonus to Farmers

1007. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to pay bonus on per quintal support price of wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of farmers expected to be benefited by this decision;

(d) the total amount disbursed after the announcement of the decision; and

(e) the excess quantum of foodgrains that Food Corporation of India have been able to buy after the said announcement?

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

(c) to (e) Does not arise, in view of above.

Import of Newsprint

1008. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of newsprint imported during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantity of newsprint consumed by print media during each of the last three years by print media especially; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of newsprint in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The quantity of newsprint imported during 1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 is as under:—

	Qty. in Tonnes		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001 (P)
	456483	439441	442444

(P) - Provisional, Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

(b) The import of newsprint by actual users being free since 1995, upto date consumption data is not available.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Government to increase the indigenous production of newsprint:—

(i) Newsprint industry has been delicensed subject to locational policy.

(ii) Newsprint has been exempted from excise duty.

(iii) There is no customs duty on pulp for manufacture of newsprint.

(iv) With a view to encouraging the indigenous availability of newsprint, such paper mills which are producing newsprint conforming to BIS standards are placed in schedule-I to the newsprints control order, 1962 declaring them as mills manufacturing newsprint.

[English]

Import Duty on Copra and Palm Oil

1009. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of copra and palm oil has taken place;

(b) if so, the details for the last two years till August, 2001;

(c) whether import duties on these items have been revised; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Import figures of copra and palm oil are as follows:—

Item	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002 (till June)	
	Qty. (Tons)	Value (Rs. Crore)	Qty. (Tons)	Value (Rs. Crore)	Qty. (Tons)	Value (Rs. Crore)
Copra (Exim Code: 08011902)	18	0.0004	40	0.22	—	—
Crude Palm oil & its fractions (Exim Code: 15111000)	97460	160	994233	1242	335697	338
Refined Palm oil & its fractions (Exim Code: 151190000)	2770969	5132	2060690	2829	438508	497

(c) and (d) Import duty on copra has been raised from 35% to 70% in the budget for the year 2001-2002. Similarly import duty on palm oil has been raised from 16.5% to upto 85% in last 2 years. However, the import duty on crude palm oil has been readjusted recently from 75% to 65%. These adjustments have been made taking into account the interests of the producers and consumers of these items.

Backlog of Reserved Vacancies

1010. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'backlog/carried forward vacancies' reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs are required to be treated as a separate and distinct group as provided under Article 16(4)B of the Constitution to overcome 50 percent ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in a year;

(b) if so, details of backlog/carried forward vacancies filled up in respect of (1) SCs (2) STs and OBCs in group A,B,C and D categories of services as on August 29, 1997 in his Ministry when Special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;

(c) the details of such carried forward vacancies filled up during the last four years and those which remain unfilled, year-wise; and

(d) the fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last four years as per post based rosters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir

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

Supply of Rs. 5/- Denomination Notes

1011. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in supplying five rupee denomination new notes by the RBI to the currency chest branches of nationalised banks in the country; and

(b) the time by which the new Rs. 5/- denomination notes will come into circulation through each currency chest branches of banks of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) There has been no delay in the supply of five rupee denomination new notes. The printing of Rs. 5/- denomination bank notes in the Ashoka Pillar Design was resumed only during May, 2001 and 184 million pieces of these notes have already been supplied till the end of September, 2001. Further, the printing of Rs. 5/- notes in the new design (Mahatma Gandhi series) has also commenced from October, 2001.

(b) The printing of Rs. 5 notes has begun in full swing. Preference is being given for supply of these new Rs. 5/- bank notes to the branches in such regions where shortage of Rs. 5/- coins is noticed and in the North Eastern Region.

[Translation]

Monopoly of Chinese Goods in Handicrafts Sector

1012. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese goods are having monopoly in the crafts market in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps so far to check this trend; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Expert Committee on Rural Credit

1013. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Expert Committee set up for revamping present Rural credit system has given its recommendations to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the implementation of recommendations;

(d) the recommendations which have not been implemented so far alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the entire recommendations will be totally implemented for the development of rural areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it had constituted an Expert Committee on Rural Credit in August, 2000, under the Chairmanship of Prof. V.S. Vyas, to review the rural credit systems and recommend strategies and approaches to meet the challenges of the future. The Committee had submitted its report on 23rd July, 2001 to NABARD. The Committee has made wide ranging recommendations in financing the various activities of agricultural lending, strengthening the credit delivery system, bringing about improvement in Regional Rural Banks, Cooperatives, Human Resources Development and legal environment with particular reference to recovery, etc.

(c) to (e) NABARD has further reported that it is taking steps to organize conference involving various agencies to elicit their response to the various suggestions. After generating consensus among the major stake holders and policy makers modalities for faster implementation of the recommendations would be worked out by NABARD.

Financial Package of Newly Created States

1014. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given any financial package to Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Central Assistance is being extended to Uttaranchal Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh for their Annual Plans 2001-02 after taking into account the resource availability of these States. Uttaranchal has been accorded the status of a Special Category State entitling the State to receive Central Assistance for State Plan as 90% grant and only 10% loan. Their share in central taxes and grants-in-aid under the Eleventh Finance Commission award is also being released in accordance with the respective State's Reorganisation Acts.

In addition, the Reserve Bank of India has allowed a 30% increase in the Normal W&M Advance limit and relaxation in 5 days limit on overdraft, upto 31st March, 2002, as a Special dispensation to the newly created States.

Rehabilitation of Run Away Children

1015. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government keep track of run away kids from homes for street children;

(b) if so, the percentage of rescued and rehabilitated children;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to rescue and rehabilitate them;

(d) whether any monitoring has been done to evaluate the post-rehabilitation status of these children; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Under its plan scheme titled, "An Integrated Programme for Street Children", the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is giving financial assistance to voluntary organizations for establishment of 24 hours drop-in shelters for street children with facilities for night stay safe drinking water, bathing latrines, first aid and creations as also for non-formal education. The street children come to these shelters and stay for few hours voluntarily. Therefore, the question of running away from the said drop-in shelters does not arise.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

NPA of IFCI

1016. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount outstanding as recovery and also the NPA in respect of IFCI as on date;

(b) the amount of recovery effected by the IFCI so far;

(c) the total amount required by the IFCI to bail out from the present financial crisis;

(d) whether the IDBI has been contacted to advance soft loan to the IFCI;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the other measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for smooth functioning of the IFCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The total outstanding assistance and net NPAs as on 31.3.2001 are Rs. 19,953 crores and Rs. 3,937 crores respectively.

(b) The total recoveries effected by IFCI during 2000-2001 and the first six months of the year 2001-2002 are Rs. 3,876 crores and Rs. 1,528 crores respectively.

(c) to (f) In order to improve the financials of IFCI Government of India has released Rs. 400 crores for subscribing to 20 years maturity Convertible Debentures of IFCI. Another Rs. 600 crores are to be provided by the major institutional shareholders like IDBI, LIC, SBI etc., very soon. They have been advised to expedite their assistance.

[Translation]

Special Campaign to Provide Education to Handicapped

1017. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether seventy percent of 12 lakh handicapped persons are living in rural areas of India are illiterate;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering/proposing to launch a special campaign to provide literacy to handicapped persons;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) As per the sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 1991, approximately 5% of the population is estimated to be affected by some kind of disability. 78.32% of persons with disabilities live in rural areas. Literacy rate in rural areas is 20.30% upto primary school level and 8.8% upto middle school level and above. With a view to ensuring that all children including those with disabilities get access to education, the government has launched the Sarwa Shiksha Abhiyan. Through this, several options are available to children with disabilities for pursuing their education in inclusive schools, integrated schools, through non-formal system, National Open School and through institutions for special education run by Government and voluntary organizations. The scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) provides for additional support by way of developing resource rooms in schools, teaching aids, assistive devices and transportation for the children.

[English]

World Bank Assistance for RWSS Project

1018. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from Maharashtra Government seeking World Bank assistance for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation project in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the project proposal and forwarded the same to the World Bank;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be accorded clearance?

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

(b) to (d) The proposal for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project received from the Government of Maharashtra was posed to the World Bank on 20th September, 2001 for consideration for funding.

Bank for Handloom Sector

1019. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand for the creation of a separate bank exclusively to tackle the financial needs of the handloom sector;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to meet the demands;

(c) the present Institutional lending arrangements available for the weavers in and out of cooperative fold;

(d) whether there is any proposal to create national fund for revival of the handloom sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (f) No formal demand has been received in the Ministry of Textiles for the setting up of a bank exclusively for the disbursement of credit in the handloom sector. However, in

certain meetings this issue has come up for discussion. Since institutional credit facilities are already currently available for the handloom sector from organizations like the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), State Financial Institutions as well as National Institutions like the National SC & ST Finance and Development Corporation, National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation and the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation, the need for the setting up of a separate bank to exclusively finance the handloom sector is not felt.

Foreign Exchange Lying Outside the Country

1020. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange of exports made to other countries which had not be repatriated to India and is still lying in the foreign countries;

(b) the steps the Government are taking to bring back this foreign exchange to India; and

(c) the name of main exporters whose maximum amount of foreign exchange is lying outside the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The total export bills outstanding on 31st December 2000 amounted to Rs. 14,158.97 crores.

(b) The various steps taken to realise outstanding export proceeds *inter-alia* include, regular meetings between commercial banks servicing exporters and the RBI, keeping board of directors regularly informed on any high outstanding export proceeds, using services of debt collection agents through ECGC etc.

(c) The centralised data in this regard is not being maintained by the Reserve Bank of India.

[*Translation*]

Inclusion of Halva Koshti caste in SC List

1021. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Halva Koshti caste of Madhya Pradesh is included in the identified caste of central list;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Halva Koshti caste is notified as a Scheduled Caste;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the category in which this caste has been classified in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) 'Halva Koshti' has not been notified as Scheduled Castes nor as Scheduled Tribes nor in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh. However 'Kosti/Koshti' has been included in the Central list of Other Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh.

[*English*]

Excess Grants

1022. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Miss the point, get more grants" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated September 26, 2001, Delhi edition;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have ordered an enquiry in this glaring error resulting grant of 67.5 crore excess to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

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

[*Translation*]

Facilities to Sugar Exporters

1023. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote the participation of non-Government sector in sugar exports in view of the huge stock of sugar in different States including Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the incentives proposed to be provided including subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Exports of sugar are free under the Exim policy of the Government. However, the exporters are required to obtain release order from the Directorate of Sugar for the quantity to be exported. There are no exports of sugar on Government account. It is the private or public sector bodies which can export sugar according to their best commercial judgements. Therefore, there is already participation of private sector bodies in export of sugar. In order to promote export of sugar, the Government has taken the following measures.

- The quantitative restrictions on export of sugar have been lifted.
- The requirement of registration of quantity to be exported with the Agricultural Processed Food Export Development Agency (APEDA) has been dispensed with.
- Sugar factories exporting sugar have been allowed exemption from levy on the quantity of sugar exported.
- The adjustment in freesale stocks of sugar factories exporting sugar, which was being made at the end of 12 months from the date of export has been increased to 18 months.
- Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) benefit @ 5% on the f.o.b. value of exports has been allowed on export of sugar.

The above benefits are available to all exporters of sugar irrespective of the fact whether such exporters of sugar are private or public sector bodies.

[English]

Identification of Wasteful Expenditure in the Ministry

1024. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has taken steps to minimize wasteful expenditures in Government

Departments and have already identified that there are certain sectors in which wasteful expenditure is maximum in various Government Departments;

(b) if so, details of such sectors of his Ministry/ Departments which have been identified for the purpose and quantum of wasteful expenditure identified therein during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by his Ministry to curtail/stops such wasteful expenditure so far?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Sectors identified by Ministry of Finance are non-plan, non-developmental expenditure like creation of posts, reduction in the number of posts, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, purchase of vehicles, restriction on foreign travel and entertainment/ hospitality. This Ministry is following instructions received from Ministry of Finance in this regard from time to time.

Export of Gems and Jewellery

1025. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to uncertainty in the global economy, after September 11, 2001 incident in New York the gems and jewellery has been badly hit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's stand towards export of gems and jewellery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) As per the provisional data of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), Mumbai, the export of gems and jewellery at Rs. 18378.58 crores or US\$ 3916.78 million during the period April 2001 to October 2001 has shown a decline of 9.85% in Rupee terms and 14.31% in US Dollar terms over the corresponding period of the last year. The main reason for the decline in exports is due to the global economic slow down especially in the markets of the developed countries such as USA and Japan etc.

Government have identified gems and jewellery as one of the thrust sectors for exports and in order to give a boost to the exports of gems and jewellery, the Government and the GJEPC have taken several initiatives. Some of the important initiatives include:—

- Preparing of a medium-term export strategy;
- Exploring the possibilities of direct procurement of rough diamonds from diamond mining countries;
- Providing funds under Critical Infrastructure Balancing Scheme to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre of Jewellery Design and Manufacture, under the auspices of Indian Diamond Institute at Surat to give a fillip to jewellery design and manufacturing;
- Promotion of the image of India's gems and jewellery abroad through frequent advertisements/publicity campaigns in international trade journals; participation in international fairs, buyers-sellers meet, direct approach to mass retailers etc.;
- Exploring and identifying new markets by undertaking market studies through expert consultants and by deputing Indian designers to various international trade fairs and exhibitions for on-the-spot study for latest trends in designs;
- Newer markets in the Latin American Countries are also being closely analysed for evolving a strategy for promotion of gems and jewellery exports from India;
- Promoting Hall Marketing of gold jewellery in India through publicity campaigns so as to create

an image of quality for the made in India jewelry.

- Based on the feedback and requests received from the exporters and GJEPC, necessary amendments were carried out in the last Exim Policy with a view to facilitate exports.

Cotton Technology Mission

1026. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a Cotton Technology Mission Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the mission would become operational;

(d) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme; and

(e) the States covered under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Government have launched the Technology Mission on Cotton since February, 2000. The Mission consists of four mini missions with details as under:

(Rupees in crore)

Mini Mission	Implementing Agency	Objective	Ninth Plan Outlay (1999-2002)-Centre share	Amount spent/ committed (upto October, 2001)
I.	Indian Council of Agricultural Research	Research	40.00	4.21
II.	Department of Agriculture & Cooperation	Dissemination of technology	349.31	36.52 (upto August, 2001)
III.	Ministry of Textiles	Development of market infrastructure	42.75	37.99
IV.	Ministry of Textiles	Modernisation of ginning & pressing factories	18.75	27.44

(e) The States covered under this scheme are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of the Disabled Persons

1027. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the schemes for the rehabilitation of the disabled;
- (b) the funds provided to Bihar for the rehabilitation of the disabled during the year 2001-2002;
- (c) whether the Union Government have issued directions to the State Government to check the growing number of poor and destitute in Bihar; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The schemes and programmes being implemented for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in Bihar include Assistance to Disabled for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP), Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (Umbrella Scheme) and National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD). An amount of Rs. 430.24 lakhs has been sanctioned during the year 2001-2002 for Bihar so far under these schemes/programme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Performance Monitoring of Voluntary Consumer Organisations

1028. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether proper monitoring of performance and functioning of Non-Governmental Organisations/voluntary consumer organizations involved in consumer movement is done;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present mechanism available in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) Project proposals for financial assistance from the Consumer Welfare Fund (CWF) received from non-Governmental organizations (NGOs)/voluntary consumer organizations (VCOs) are considered after obtaining the verification report/recommendations of the concerned State Governments. Grants from the CWF are provided if the proposals are approved by the CWF Standing Committee taking into account the recommendations of the State Government. After grant of financial assistance, the NGOs/VCOs are required to settle the accounts within the prescribed period by submitting audited accounts, utilization certificate, performance reports, etc. State Governments have also been requested to evaluate utilization of the grants.

Selling the Lands by NTC in Karnataka

1029. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of land possessed by National Textiles Corporation owned textile mills in Karnataka;
- (b) whether the Union Government have sought the co-operation of the Karnataka Government to sell these lands;
- (c) if so, the details of the response of the State Government;
- (d) whether the surplus lands of these textile mills have been sold;
- (e) if so, the details of the amount realized; and
- (f) the amount invested/released so far during 2001-2002 for the upgradation of these mills in Karnataka, mill-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Textile mills under the National Textile Corporation in Karnataka possess 429.50 acres of land.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government has given consent for sale of land and conversion of land use provided it is used for package of reliefs & concessions to help NTC in reviving the mills. BIFR has directed the State Governments to give unconditional concurrence for sale of land as to realize maximum value from sale of land.

(d) and (e) So far, no land of NTC mills in Karnataka has been sold. The sale of land will be undertaken as a part of the rehabilitation scheme after it is finalised by BIFR.

(f) The modernisation of viable mills, as recommended by Textile Research Associations (TRAs), would be taken up as a part of Rehabilitation Scheme after the same is finalised by BIFR.

Revival of MSK Mills of Gulbarga in Karnataka

1030. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down the century old MSK Mills of Gulbarga in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, whether it was not be possible to revive the same;

(d) the number of permanent workers and badli workers will be thrown out;

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to rehabilitate these employees;

(f) the extent of land possessed by the above mill;

(g) whether the Government are going to sell the land, plant and machineries; and

(h) if so, the purpose for which the amount realized will be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (e) MSK Mills is under the management of NTC (APKKM) which is a Sick Industrial company before BIFR. Government decided on a unit-by unit approach for revival of all the revivable units and closure of non-revivable ones after giving attractive VRS. Viability of the units NTC (APKKM) was assessed by South India Textile Resesearch Association (SITRA). IFCl, the Operating Agency appointed by BIFR for NTC (APKKM) scrutinized the reports and submitted a Draft Rehabilitation Scheme to BIFR. BIFR has circulated the Draft Rehabilitation Scheme (DRS) seeking objections and suggestions. The issue of closure or revival of the Mills would be decided by BIFR when they finalise the Rehabilitation Scheme for the Company.

(f) to (h) The total land of MSK Mills is 205.32 acres. The DRS envisages for sale of surplus land and assets

for raising resources for the rehabilitation scheme consisting of modernisation, VRS, payment of statutory dues etc.

Apparel Park

1031. SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL):
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced 75 percent support for setting up of Apparel Parks under the new Textiles Policy;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received so far for such projects, State-wise;

(c) the present status of these projects, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which the funds for these projects are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (d) A scheme has been announced in the Union Budget 2001-02 for creating clusters of excellence i.e. "Apparel Park for Exports".

In anticipation of launch of the scheme, certain State Governments have forwarded project proposals for setting up of Apparel Parks for Exports in their respective States at Bangalore and Bellary (Karnataka), Tronica City and Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Indore and Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), Trivandrum (Kerala).

The project proposals would be considered as per the guidelines of the scheme, as and when these are finalised.

World Bank Loan to MUTP

1032. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started negotiation of Rs. 1,600 crore loan with the World Bank for the first phase of the Mumbai Urban Transportation Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total estimated cost of the MUTP Project; and

(d) the salient features of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No Sir. The Government has not yet started the negotiations with the World Bank for the proposed Mumbai Urban Transportation Project.

(b) to (d) The proposed Mumbai Urban Transportation Project (MUTP) is a multi-modal project for improvement and expansion of suburban transport system of metropolitan consisting of road and rail components. MUTP is proposed to be implemented in two overlapping phases. The total project cost of Phase-I and Phase II combined is estimated at Rs. 6871 crores of which total World Bank funding is estimated at Rs. 4038 crores. However, the costs, scope and size of the project will be finalized only at the Appraisal/Negotiations stage of project preparation.

[Translation]

Indo-US Economic and Cultural Co-operation

1033. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed Indo-US economic and cultural co-operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of major projects recognised and funded/assisted by the USA during the last three years alongwith the year-wise details of achievements made therein;

(d) the details of Indo-US joint projects under consideration of the Government; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to promote Indo-US economic and cultural co-operation?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details provided in the statement attached.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) (i) An India US Economic and Financial Forum was set up in April, 2000 to promote economic dialogue between the two countries. The forum is aimed to strengthen the financial and economic relationship between India and the USA through regular contact between economic policy makers from each country. This contact will be through inter-Governmental meetings led by Finance Minister of India and the Treasury Secretary of the US to discuss financial and economic developments and issues of mutual concern. There would also be sub-Cabinet level meetings involving officials

(ii) Whereas there have been no recent steps for fresh dialogue on bilateral cooperation in Culture, the US-India Rupee Fund for Educational, Cultural and Scientific Cooperation was set up in 1987 with an account of Rs. 127.49 crores from PL-480 funds, for a period of 10 years. On the education and culture side, USIF essentially supported the following programmes in India:

- U.S. Educational Foundation in India (USEFI)
- American Studies Research Center (ASRC)
- American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS)
- US Library of Congress programmes
- Indo-US sub-Commission on Education and Culture.

Statement

(US\$ million)

S. No.	Project Title	Grant Assistance	Utilization as on 31.3.1999	Utilization as on 31.3.2000	Utilization as on 31.3.2001
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Programme for Advancement Commercial Technology (PACT)	39.755	13.38	17.38	30.68
2.	Technical Assistance Support Project (TASP)	21.000	17.92	17.96	18.77

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Energy Management and Training (EMCAT)	27.000	20.379	22.97	23.98
4.	AIDS Prevention and Control (APAC)	10.000	1.96	2.9	8.97
5.	Innovations in Family Planning Services (IFPS)	225.000	35.2	46.6	56.7
6.	Trade in Environmental Services and Technology	29.950	12.17	14.37	16.58
7.	Financial Institutions Reforms and Expansion (FIRE)	44.000	18.24	20.00	21.87
8.	Greenhouse Gas Pollution Prevention (GEEP)	39.000	2.80	3.43	16.83
9.	Energy Conservation & Commercialisation (ECO)	25.000	00	00	0.91
10.	Avert: HIV/AIDS Prevention	41.500	0.00	0.00	0.273

Creation of a Separate Pension Fund

1034. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether increasing burden of pension payments is putting unnecessary pressure on Government Exchequer;

(b) if so, whether creation of a separate fund for pension payments is proposed;

(c) whether better information technology tools and modern techniques would be adopted for making an evaluation of pension payments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Government of India had constituted a Working Group

on "Assessment of Government of India's Pensionary Liability". The terms of reference of the Working Group included estimation of likely expenditure on the pension of Government employees in the short/medium term. The Working Group has submitted its report in June, 2001. In terms of the Working Group report, the total budgeted pension liability of the Government of India for 2000-2001 would constitute 0.96% of GDP. Similarly, pension expenditure expressed as a percentage of tax revenue of the Centre stood at 14.6% of the net tax revenues accruing to the Central Government during 2000-01.

The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare has set up a High Level Expert Group to provide a road map for introducing a new pension system for Central Government employees entering service after October 1, 2001, based on defined contribution. The group is deliberating on the issue and is expected to submit its report by the end of December, 2001.

(c) and (d) The Working Group has emphasised that scientific methods of forecasting pension liabilities including actuarial methods would be required in order to have reliable pension estimates.

Welfare Schemes for the Aged Persons

1035. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes formulated for welfare of aged persons in the country;

(b) the amount allocated by the Government for these schemes, scheme-wise during the last three years; and

(c) the number of the aged persons benefited under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment provides Grant-in aid/financial assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations for establishment and maintenance of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units and Non-Institutional Service Centres under the Plan Scheme *i.e.* "An Integrated Programme for Older Persons".

Similarly the Grant-in-aid is provided to eligible organizations for construction of Old Age Home and Multi Service centres for older persons under the Non-Plan scheme *i.e.* "Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons."

(b) The financial assistance given to the organizations, under the Integrated Programme for Older Persons during 1998-99, 1999-2000, & 2000-01 is Rs. 7.75 crores, Rs. 10.91 crores & Rs. 12.39 crores respectively.

The financial assistance given to the organization under the Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups during 1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-01 is Rs. 1.55 crores & Rs. 0.78 crores respectively.

(c) The total numbers of beneficiaries are approximately 60,000 persons.

[English]

Smuggling case Involving Uzbek National

1036. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has concluded the investigation into the smuggling case of Ms. Olga Kazireva and collusion by custom officials;

(b) if so, the extent of smuggling and collusion by custom officials detected by the DRI;

(c) whether the DRI investigation has revealed any smuggling of arms, narcotics, etc., as earlier reported in the media;

(d) if so, whether the Government have accepted the DRI report; and

(e) if so, the action has been initiated on the basis of the said report so far?

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

(b) Investigations conducted by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) revealed that Silk Textile collectively valued at Rs. 3,36,91,056/- (International value) were smuggled into India by Ms. Olga Kozireva and her associate on 25 occasions. Duty evasion to the extent of Rs. 2,06,66,729/- was detected in this case. Investigations further indicated the involvement of 22 Customs officials on different occasions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) On the basis of the investigation report of DRI, a show cause notice in the case was issued by Commissioner of Customs, Delhi on 23/24.8.2001. In the show cause notice, 45 persons including 22 Customs officials have been made notice. In respect of the Silk seizure from Ms. Olga Kozireva, on 28.8.2000, a complaint under Customs Act has been filed on 15.9.2001 against Ms. Olga Kozireva and 8 other persons including one customs officer, in the competent court. Further, in connection with the offences committed by Ms. Olga Kozireva prior to 28.2.2000, she was arrested by Customs under the Customs Act on 19.9.2001, and a complaint against 43 persons including 22 customs officials has also been filed on 16.11.2001 in the competent court in respect of cases involving offence committed prior to 28.8.2000.

Private Placement Deals

1037. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3867 on 17 August, 2001 and state:

- (a) whether the required information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons for delay; and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be laid on the Table of the House?

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

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) The Departments/regulatory bodies concerned have been requested for details regarding this issue.
- (d) As information is awaited from several sources it is difficult to set an exact time frame for answering the Question.

[*Translation*]

CBI Raids on Officials of Central Excise and Customs Department

1038. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the raids conducted by the CBI on the houses/offices of the officers of the Central Excise Department during last one year till 10th November, 2001;
- (b) the value of the assets seized from each employee/officer, separately;
- (c) the action taken in each of these cases; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to check increasing corruption in the Central Excise Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Information is being obtained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Production and Losses of CCI

1039. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the production of cement, sales turnover, gross loss and net loss in every unit of Cement Corporation of India (CCI) during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the non-plan budgetary support given by the Union Government during the aforesaid period; and
- (c) the present status about the privatization of CCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Unit-wise production, turnover, gross loss and net loss from 1998-99 to 2000-01 is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Non-plan Budgetary Support given by Government of India to Cement Corporation of India (CCI) from 1998-99 is as under:—

	(Rs. in lakhs)			
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02 (April-13th Nov.)
Non-plan Support for Salary & Wages, Statutory Dues, Gratuity and VRS	831.00	3677.00	8498.00	4805.39

(c) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), a quasi-judicial body, in its hearing held on 27.3.2001, directed IFCL, the Operating Agency (OA) to process the sale of CCI as a whole on a going concern basis or its plants, individually or collectively. IFCL has engaged SBI Caps as the Merchant Banker for the purpose. SBI Caps is currently scrutinizing 'Expressions of interest' received.

Statement**Unitwise Production, Turnover, Gross Loss and Net Loss from 1998-99 to 2000-01**

Unit	Cement Production			Sales Turnover			Net Profit/(Loss)			Gross Profit/(Loss)		
	1998-99 (In MT)	1999-2000	2000-01 (Prov.)	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (Prov)	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (Prov)	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (Prov)
Mandhar	30	0	0	0	0	0	(1374)	(1521)	(1539)	(671)	(774)	(660)
Kurkunta	44150	0	0	1060	12	0	(1128)	(1637)	(1242)	(708)	(845)	(799)
Bokajan	127020	116320	134335	3638	3282	4103	161	35	63	272	117	135
Rajban	159150	162155	106231	3399	3550	2370	(249)	(524)	(676)	(181)	(473)	(628)
Nyagaon	9920	1855	0	123	55	0	(1544)	(1746)	(1886)	(727)	(696)	(784)
Akaltara	0	0	0	36	0	0	(2155)	(2627)	(3107)	(600)	(914)	(859)
Yerraguntla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charkhi Dadri	15	—	0	5	3	0	(1144)	(1296)	(1349)	(526)	(614)	(530)
Adilabad	106999	9287	1806	2286	120	86	(1974)	(2250)	(2566)	(1048)	(1134)	(1143)
Tandur	489200	364100	36460	10371	6981	825	(4031)	(4549)	(4942)	(950)	(1292)	(2094)
Nyo. Expn.	10740	0	0	229	37	1	(5065)	(5404)	(6181)	(822)	(818)	(726)
Corporate Office	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	(172)	0	544	318	0
Total	947224	655717	278832	21147	14040	7385	(18494)	(21691)	(23425)	(5415)	(7124)	(8088)

Amendments in Certain Rules by Karnataka

1040. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has taken a decision to amend a host of rules to create confidence among the investors and also facilitate them to conduct business in a deregulated environment;

(b) if so, whether any proposal in this regard has been submitted to Union Government for approval;

(c) if so, the details of rules proposed to be amended by State Government;

(d) whether the Union Government have accorded approval to said proposed amendments made by the Karnataka Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. In the first phase, Government of Karnataka intends to amend the various Acts and rules under their jurisdiction;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Commercial Bank of Ethiopia

1041. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI P. MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has been permitted to take over management of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all pros and cons before taking over the management of CBE have been duly considered; and

(d) if so, the time by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that it had participated in a global bid floated by Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) for management contract of CBE. The lead was provided by the Embassy of India, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. SBI's bid was accepted. However, certain terms of specific contract are under negotiation and the arrangement has not yet been finalised. SBI will seek approval of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) after negotiation of various terms of contract are concluded.

(c) and (d) SBI have reported that a detailed due diligence exercise was carried out and all pros and cons of the arrangement have been duly considered. Since the negotiations are still on, the time frame can not be indicated at this stage.

Trade Fairs in North-Eastern States

1042. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to inviting trade and international investment in Assam and North-Eastern States, any strategy including trade fairs in different States has been evolved;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the trade fairs held in different North-Eastern States during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 so far and the result thereof in terms of securing industrial and trade investments in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Government of India has been paying special attention for inviting trade and international investment in Assam & North Eastern States. The strategy of Government of India includes the following:

1. Special industrial policy for the North East.
2. Development of Critical Infrastructure.
3. Export Development Fund.
4. Human Resource Development.

Special sector/area specific incentives such as transport subsidy and other fiscal incentives are being provided in North Eastern States. All the Export Promotion Councils/Commodity Boards under the Department of Commerce have been advised to formulate specific schemes and organised trade fairs for North Eastern Region.

(c) Government of India, India Trade Promotion Organisation had organised India Trade Show at Palijor Stadium, Gangtok, Sikkim from March 11-18, 2001. Sixty companies/organisations had participated in the show. The display profile included capital goods, processed food, giftware, handicrafts, kitchenware, textiles, beauty & health care products, agriculture equipment, furniture and furnishing, grinders, engineering goods, jute/coir products, computer hardware & software, etc. Consumer product catalogues on engineering goods were also displayed in this show by India Trade Promotion Organisation.

India Trade Promotion Organisation had also given approval for holding of the following international exhibitions in the North Eastern States.

- (1) Bastra Mela, Government of Tripura, Agartala, Sept. 23 — Oct. 10, 2000-Garments & Clothing
- (2) Bangladesh Trade Fair, 2001, Sylhet Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Silcher, Jan. 10-16, 2001, Consumer & Industrial Products.
- (3) 8th International Guwahati Trade Fair, 2001, Industries and Trade Fair Association Guwahati, Feb. 22-5 March, 2001, Consumer & Industrial Products.
- (4) 9th International Guwahati Trade Fair, 2001, Industries and Trade Fair Association, Guwahati, Feb. 16-2 March, 2002, Consumer & Industrial Products.

Release of Funds for Benefit of Weavers of Andhra Pradesh

1043. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh sent 12 proposals to the Union Government for release of funds for benefit of weavers since 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has already released the matching share to be paid by the State;

(c) if so, the reasons for Union Government not yet releasing its share; and

(d) the time by which the same is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Proposals are received from the various States including the State of Andhra Pradesh for release of funds under the central and centrally sponsored schemes implemented by the Ministry of Textiles, for the benefit of the Handloom Sector. The statistics on the number of proposals received from each State has not been maintained and hence is not available.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) No definite time limit can be indicated since the release of funds involves the approval of the scheme as per its guidelines, provision of sufficient budget by the State Government, concurrence of the Finance Wing of this Ministry for the sanction of the funds, release of the funds by the Pay and Accounts Office of the Ministry and other such procedural requirements.

Statement

Information on the release of matching funds by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and the position of release/non-release of funds by the Central Government on the proposals received during the current year i.e. 2001-2002 is given below:—

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	Name of the Schemes	Amount involved in the proposals	Central Share released	State Share released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Workshed-cum Housing Scheme	133.03	No, since the proposal has been received only recently.	As per the guidelines of the scheme there is no provision for State share.
2.	Health Package Scheme	90.15	No, since the amended proposal has been sent by the State Government only recently.	As per the guidelines of the scheme there is no provision for state share.
3.	Thrift Fund Scheme	40.00	The Central share has not been released for want of certain clarifications from the State Government on the proposal.	There is a State share component in the scheme. However the proposal of the State Government is silent about the release of the State share. Therefore, the State Government has been asked to clarify the position.
4.	Group Insurance Scheme	25.00	The Central share has not been released for want of certain clarifications from the State Government on the proposal.	There is a State share component under the scheme. The proposal submitted by the State Government is not complete. Details have been sought from them.
5.	Handloom Development Centre/ Quality Dyeing Units	93.89	The Central share has not been released because the proposals could not be processed for want of certain additional information and documents from the State Government.	This is a Central sector scheme where the entire cost of the project is borne by the Central Government.

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana	28.72	Central share has not been released. The proposals have been found either incomplete or not viable.	As per the guidelines of the scheme the State share is to be released only after release of the Central share.
7.	Project Package Scheme	579.78	The Central share has been released in six projects worth Rs. 33.87 lakh.	The matching State share for the six projects works out to Rs. 25.21 lakh. However, no information is available about its release.
8.	Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme	492.25	The proposals could not be considered for the release of Central share, as the beneficiary agencies have not fully utilised the Central share already released as first instalment.	The matching State share works out to Rs. 436 lakh. However no information has been made available by the State Government about the release of requisite matching share.
9.	Market Development Assistance Scheme	326.45	Rs. 64.07 lakh only has been released as Central share since proposals for this amount alone were found viable.	State share sanctioned.

[*Translation*]

Procurement of Millet

1044. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether Government have directed Food Corporation of India to procure the millet on its support price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether delegation of farmers from Rajasthan have given any memorandum to the Government in this respect;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the procurement of millet has started in Rajasthan;

(f) if so, since when;

(g) whether the procurement target for the millet has been achieved by the FCI;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The Government of India has directed the Food Corporation of India to procure one lakh tonnes of Bajra in Rajasthan jointly with the State Agencies in view of the bumper crop. The State Government will provide storage space for this purpose.

The State Government of Rajasthan would take steps to procure 30,000 MTs of Maize.

(c) and (d) A delegation led by Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, former Chief Minister of Rajasthan and some

MPs including Shri Subhash Maharia, Minister of State for Rural Development met Union Minister of State for Food & Public Distribution on 20.10.2001 and apprised him about the distress sale of Bajra by the farmers in the State.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The purchase of Bajra has commenced with effect from 1.11.2001 in Jaipur, Alwar and Jodhpur, Revenue Districts and from 5.11.2001 in remaining Districts.

(g) to (i) The procurement of Bajra is in progress. During the current Kharif Marketing Season 2001-2002, as on 20.11.2001, a quantity of 5225 tonnes of Bajra has been procured by the FCI and State Agencies.

[English]

Boycott of Indian Leather by Multi-National Companies

1045. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain multi-national companies have decided to boycott Indian leather in the manufacture of shoes and other accessories;

(b) whether a number of multi-national organisations have approached the Indian Government to follow basic animal protection laws;

(c) whether such type of decisions of these multi-national companies would have a unsatisfactory effect through out the world about Indian leather; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Council for Leather Exports has brought to the notice of the Government that while companies like Timber Land have suspended their further procurement of shoes and leather products from India, some other companies have expressed their concern over the use of cow leather in the manufacture of shoes and other accessories.

Government have taken a number of steps including establishing of contacts with such multi-national organisations and the addressing issues raised by these organisations. The issue is not expected to have a perceptible adverse impact on the export of shoes and other accessories from India.

Subsidies to State Run Companies and Banks

1046. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing implicit subsidies to State run companies and banks;

(b) if so, the quantum of subsidies provided during the fiscal year ending March, 2001; and

(c) the dividend which the Government has earned during the last fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Interest subsidies and certain other subsidies like guarantee fee subsidy, subsidies to individual companies for specific purposes are being provided to Central Public Sector Undertakings.

(b) The quantum of subsidy on this account for the year 2000-2001 as per Revised Estimates was of the order of Rs. 1020.90 crore.

(c) Total dividend received from Central Public Sector Undertakings, Banks and Financial Institutions during the year 1999-2000 was Rs. 5037 crore.

[Translation]

Retrenchment of Security Guards in FCI

1047. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the retrenchment of the security guards of FCI in Punjab and other States;

(b) if so, the reasons of their retrenchment;

(c) the reasons for not implementing the orders of Punjab and Haryana High Court and Supreme Court regarding the reinstatement of these employees; and

(d) the time by when the said decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) FCI does not recruit any security guards, directly. FCI, only engages agencies/contractors for manning the depots of the Corporation. Pursuant to the Ministry of Labour's Office

Memo:andum No. S-16011/2/99-LW dated 8.2.99 prohibiting engagement of contract labour for watch and ward purposes, the contracts with various agencies were terminated. No employer-employee relationship exists between the FCI Management and the security guards. Hence, the question of their retrenchment by the FCI does not arise.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No specific judgement of Punjab and Haryana High Court and Supreme Court of India is quoted.

(d) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Rules Regarding Import of Live Animals

1048. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the animals especially dogs, which are brought by the importers are often released by the custom officers after getting payment of minimum charges ignoring the facts that under rules these dogs are required to be kept in quarantine for a stipulated period;

(b) if so, the number of live animals imported during the last three years and released after getting minimum charges; and

(c) the fresh steps taken/proposed to ensure that all the animals are kept in quarantine after the arrival in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) All live animals especially dogs when imported were being cleared on payment of customs duty and other charges on production of health certificates issued by the concerned authorities of country of origin. In the absence of such certificate, the animals used to be kept under the observation of Animal Quarantine Officer for a stipulated period. During the last three years, 166 live animals were imported and cleared on payment of duty and other charges.

Instructions have since been issued to the field formations of Customs & Central Excise to allow clearance of live animals only against valid import licence and after clearance from the Animal Quarantine Authorities.

Weights and Measures Rules, 1977

1049. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provisions of the Standards and Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 and policy matters relating thereto have been reviewed and changes incorporated in the provisions of the Rules brought out;

(b) if so, the details of the changes that has been brought out;

(c) whether there is any provision in the Act and Rules for a manufacture to paste and revised sticker on the existing ones to save money on wasting of already printed material/packages; and

(d) if so not, the action which can be taken against such manufacturers or their authorised distributors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Packaged Commodities Rules, 1977 are amended from time to time to meet the changing requirements, incorporate the new technological innovations in the field and to better protect the interest of the consumers.

(c) and (d) Under the Packaged Commodities Rules, there is no bar on the manufacturer to blank-out the earlier declarations made on a package and re-print revised declaration, before packaging.

[*Translation*]

Fire in Udaipur Branch of Dena Bank

1050. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently an incident of fire took place in Dena Bank at Udaipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total loss caused to bank therefrom;

(d) whether any enquiry Committee has been constituted in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to Dena Bank, on 17th October 2001 an incident of fire took place in the building where the Udaipur branch of Dena Bank is located. The ground floor of the building has Showrooms of clothes and garments and the branch is located on the first floor. The fire broke out at the ground floor and flames did not enter the branch but the front portion of the branch was partly affected due to the heat generated by the fire and water thrown by the fire brigade. The damage caused to Branch Manager's cabin, PCs, electrical fittings and other items resulted an approximate loss of Rs. 4.75 lacs.

(d) to (g) Setting up of Inquiry Committee was not considered necessary. The fire prevention and safety measures in the branch are functional and working satisfactorily. All other occupants of the building have been asked to ensure necessary arrangements to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

Defaulting Non-Banking Companies

1051. SHRI BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified those Non-banking defaulter companies which do not file their balance-sheet, account of loss and profit and annual statements each year;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued notices to these companies;

(c) if so, the names of these 15 major companies to whom notices have been served; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the companies who have not filed their documents even after several warnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) are required to file the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account statement to Registrar of Companies as per Companies Act, 1956. However, as per Directions issued by RBI, the NBFCs which are holding/accepting public deposits are also

required to furnish a copy of the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account to the Bank. The Bank is following with the companies which are not furnishing the Balance Sheet/Profit & Loss Account within the prescribed time limit and also have taken action such as cancellation of Certificate of Registration (COR)/rejection of COR, issuance of Show Cause Notice, filing of criminal complaints/prohibition from acceptance of public deposits etc. for non submission of Balance Sheet and also for other supervisory concerns. The name of some companies which have not submitted Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss Account for the year ended 31.03.2000/2001 is given below:—

- (1) Prudential Capital Markets Limited
- (2) Janapriya Finance & Industrial Investment (I) Ltd.
- (3) Lynx India Ltd.
- (4) Rapti Nidhi Limited
- (5) Nagarjuna Finance Ltd.
- (6) Asia Pacific Investment Trust Ltd.
- (7) EBF Finance Ltd.
- (8) Midwest India Industries Ltd.
- (9) Pennar Paterson Ltd.
- (10) Crystal Credit Corporation
- (11) Danesh Motor Finance Co. Pvt. Ltd.
- (12) Haryana Credit & Leasing
- (13) Sagar Suri Estate & Finance Ltd.
- (14) Madhur Leasing Limited
- (15) Allianz Capital & Management Services Limited.

[English]

Vacancies of Chairmen and Directors in Banks

1052. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies for Chairmen and the post of Executive Directors as on date in each public Sector Bank; and

(b) the time by when these vacancies are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and

(b) At present three posts of Executive Directors only (in Punjab & Sind Bank, Canara Bank and United Bank of India) are vacant in Public Sector Banks. The process of filling up these posts has already been initiated.

Enhancing Procurement Price of Rice

1053. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have enhanced the procurement price of rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of rice in stock with the Government as on 31 March, 1999, 31 March 2000 and 31 March 2001;

(d) the quantity of rice procured during the above period, year-wise each year;

(e) the quantity of rice lifted by various States during last three years, year-wise; and

(f) the arrangements made for storage of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rice is not procured directly from the farmers. Only paddy is procured from the farmers. The Government has increased the procurement price of Common and Grade 'A' paddy for the Kharif Marketing Season 2001-2002, from Rs. 510/- to 530/- per quintal and from Rs. 540/- to Rs. 560/- per quintal respectively.

(c) The stock position of rice in Central Pool is as under:—

Position as on	Quantity in lakh tonnes
31 March, 1999	121.63
31 March, 2000	157.19
31 March, 2001	231.91

(d) The following quantities of rice were procured during the last three financial years:—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Financial Year	Levy Rice	Paddy	Total in terms of rice
April 1998-March, 1999	73.02	62.48	115.34
April 1999-March, 2000	105.40	90.71	165.87
April 2000-March 2001	109.82	115.71	186.97

(e) The details of the quantity of rice lifted by various States during last three years, year-wise is given in the statement enclosed.

(f) As on 1.10.2001, the Food Corporation of India was holding a stock of 31.07 million tonnes of foodgrains as against its total storage capacity of 35.45 million tonnes.

The States which have adopted the decentralized scheme of procurement, make their own arrangements for storage of foodgrains. Besides, this, stocks are also held by the State Agencies in their godowns.

The availability of space with the FCI depends upon the trend of procurement and offtake/sale of foodgrains in the procuring/consuming States. The FCI also creates additional storage capacity by construction of its own godowns and plinths, besides hiring storage capacity available with the agencies. The field officers of FCI have also been delegated full powers for hiring additional storage capacity as and when considered necessary. Keeping in view the requirement for storage of rice, FCI has given 7 years guarantee for creation of additional storage capacity of about 77.74 lakh MTs by the State Warehousing Corporations, State Governments and Central Warehousing Corporation in Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. In addition, FCI has also advertised for creation of conventional godowns on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis through Private Sector participation at 78 locations involving 5.88 lakh MTs of storage capacity in 14 States.

Statement

Off-Take of Rice by Various States Under TPDS During the Last three Years, Year-wise

S.No	States/UTs	Offtake		
		April, 98- March, 99	April, 99- March, 2000	April, 2000- March, 2001 (P)
		3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2116.279	2307.920	1927.292
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	94.190	101.730	20.786
3.	Assam	555.026	528.130	379.911
4.	Bihar	235.771	236.570	132.477
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	88.204
6.	Delhi	112.672	74.470	1.980
7.	Goa	58.960	46.130	8.552

1	2	3	4	5
8	Gujarat	251.356	169.050	116.596
9	Haryana	—	—	1.640
10	Himachal Pradesh	93.993	64.800	26.274
11	J&K	318.262	342.660	68.745
12	Karnataka	888.057	823.000	948.458
13	Jharkhand	—	—	14.270
14	Kerala	1625.887	1191.000	488.950
15	Madhya Pradesh	305.969	318.941	283.098
16	Maharashtra	666.099	680.890	374.390
17	Manipur	42.956	42.370	23.276
18	Meghalaya	182.350	191.700	31.164
19	Mizoram	123.139	90.890	41.060
20	Nagaland	114.805	113.560	18.215
21	Orissa	575.806	887.600	662.920
22	Punjab	0.783	0.270	0.434
23	Rajasthan	5.440	2.740	1.225
24	Sikkim	63.027	70.020	9.159
25	Tamil Nadu	1282.717	1807.270	1209.710
26	Tripura	182.900	152.130	59.792
27	Uttar Pradesh	462.503	488.060	321.004
28	Uttaranchal	—	—	—
29	West Bengal	249.708	421.450	339.878
30	A&N Islands	—	16.680	7.265
31	Chandigarh	1.709	0.110	—
32	D&N Haveli	3.763	1.380	2.634
33	Daman & Diu	1.468	0.820	0.361
34	Lakshadweep	2.620	5.000	5.288
35	Pondicherry	1.643	11.890	9.904
Total		10620.858	11189.231	7633.912

(P) = Provisional

Fake Currency Notes

1054. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are no RBI guidelines for compensating fake notes when common citizen receive such currency notes inadvertently;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to frame guidelines for compensating common man who inadvertently receive fake notes of currency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not have any guidelines for compensating citizens who receive fake notes inadvertently.

(b) and (c) The Government does not propose to frame any guidelines for compensating any person who receives fake bank notes inadvertently since it shall not be legal to make payment for a note which is not genuine. However, the security features of the bank notes are widely publicized by the RBI through the electronic and print media to enable the common man to verify the bank note for its genuineness while receiving the same.

Financial Health of IFCI

1055. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation of India have negotiated a one time settlement with some of the companies so as to recover a part of their outstanding amount against them;

(b) if so, the names of the companies with whom this settlement has been arrived at and the amount recovered or likely to be recovered from each together with the total outstanding against each;

(c) whether Industrial Finance Corporation of India have also formulated some such restructuring plan in respect of the companies indebted to them and if so, the total amount involved in these companies; and

(d) the other concrete steps have been taken/being taken to improve the financial health of IFCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) During the year ended 31.3.2001, one time settlement/negotiated settlements have been agreed to in 175 cases involving an amount of Rs. 994.6 crore. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act,

1983, details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

(c) Restructuring programmes have been formulated in 52 cases involving an amount of Rs. 1,414.4 crore (which included 27 NPAs with total outstanding assistance of Rs. 490.0 crore)

(d) Steps taken/being taken to improve financial health of IFCI:

- A right issue in December, 1999 which mobilized Rs. 286.40 crore
- Capital infusion of Rs. 400 crore by Govt. on 30.10.2001
- Further capital of Rs. 600 crore is expected to be contributed by major shareholders *i.e.* IDBI, LIC & SBI.
- Decision to restrict financial assistance to a single borrower to a maximum of Rs. 100 crore
- To strengthen recovery management.

- To reduce the share of long term loans in favour of short term funds.
- To increase fee-based income.

World Bank Assisted Projects in North Eastern States

1056. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes being undertaken in the Sikkim and other North-Eastern States with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) the extent of financial assistance provided by the World Bank for these schemes during each of the last three years; and

(c) the targets achieved so far in each of these States under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The schemes being undertaken in Sikkim and other North-Eastern States with assistance from the World Bank and other related details are given in the statement.

Statement

Ongoing World Bank Aided Projects in Sikkim and Other North Eastern States

(US \$ million)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Donor	Date of Agreement	Loan/Credit amount	Disbursement during the year			Cumulative Disbursement upto 30.9.2001
					1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	IPP-IX Project	IDA	24.06.94	78.60	9.71	6.93	10.41	56.98
2.	District Primary Education Proj-I Project	IDA	22.12.94	260.30	36.99	23.99	21.44	169.15
3.	Assam Rural Infrastructure Agriculture Support Project	IDA	06.06.95	126.00	6.93	10.29	23.70	55.65
4.	District Primary Education Proj-II Project	IDA	18.04.96	395.20	64.01	78.75	75.05	267.36
5.	States Road Infra. Dev. TA Project	IBRD	15.01.97	46.50	8.28	12.13	9.29	41.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6.	TB Control Project	IDA	14.03.97	142.40	4.97	0.00	19.89	26.89
7.	Reproductive Child Health Services Project	IDA	30.07.97	218.30	3.45	39.47	33.813	109.60
8.	Malaria Control Project	IDA	30.07.97	164.80	3.78	11.62	12.88	36.63
9.	Second HIV/AIDS Control Project	IDA	14.09.99	194.75	—	5.00	36.36	48.88
10.	Immunisation Control Project	IDA	19.05.00	142.60	—	—	29.63	52.57
11.	Technical Education-III Project	IDA	18.10.00	64.90	—	—	2.77	3.13

Note:- Some of these project are being implemented in other States of the country besides North-eastern States.

Converting PDS into Statutory Entity

1057. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to convert PDS into a statutory entity covered by a Central Order issued under Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to make it mandatory for State to run PDS for the poor;

(d) whether the Union Government have decided to empower itself with legal power to prosecute those responsible for any flaw in the operation of the Public distribution system;

(e) if so, the number of cases registered against those held responsible for non-compliance of the order, State-wise; and

(f) the action taken against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) In order to streamlining the functioning of Public

Distribution System (PDS) and make it more accountable and effective. Government of India has issued the Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955. This order contains provisions in regard to the following matters:—

- (i) Identification of families living below the poverty line;
- (ii) Ration cards;
- (iii) Scale and Issue prices;
- (iv) Distribution of foodgrains;
- (v) Licensing;
- (vi) Monitoring; and
- (vii) Penalties for violation.

(c) PDS is already being implemented in the States/UTs.

(d) Under clause 13 of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001, Government of India is empowered to give such directions as it may deem necessary to State Government for execution of all or any of the provisions of this Order and the State Government shall comply with such directions. The provisions of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001. can be used by the State Governments/UT Administrations to remedy the Public Distribution System and make it transparent and accountable.

(e) and (f) Details of no. of cases registered for non compliance of the order and action taken by State Government is not maintained by the Government of India.

Ballout Package for IFCI

1058. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have released Rs. 400 crores as Bailout package for IFCI; and

(b) if so, the details of the package and the target being fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Government of India (Gol) has released Rs. 400 crore to IFCI Ltd., on 30th October, 2001 for investment by Government in IFCI's 20 year Convertible Debentures. IFCI has re-invested it simultaneously in Gol Securities. The above capital infusion has been made to improve the Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of IFCI. While releasing the funds IFCI has been asked *inter-alia* to take steps to expedite cases pending with BIFR and Courts particularly with large NPAS, to undertake a study on the NPA in IFCI portfolio with a view to solve the problem through a sector-wise approach and to explore the possibility of roll over and refinancing of foreign currency and domestic lenders.

[*Translation*]

NABARD Loan to Customers

1059. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is formulating scheme to grant loan directly to customers and also diversify into Life Insurance business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas in which this loan would be provided;

(d) whether any agency has proposed to associate with NABARD in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and decision taken thereon; and

(f) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (f) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural development (NABARD) has reported that it is presently seeking approvals for setting up a life insurance company. However, there is no proposal currently for directly financing the customers while procuring insurance business. NABARD has also reported that as at present,

there are no concrete proposals from any agency cooperating in this regard.

[*English*]

Visit of Canadian Business Delegation

1060. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

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

(a) whether a 100 member strong business delegation led by Canadian Minister for International Trade visited various parts of the country in July, 2001;

(b) if so, the main purpose of the delegation's visit;

(c) the outcome of the discussions held between India and Canadian delegations;

(d) whether the Canada is one of the G-17 countries and 7th largest economy in the world; and

(e) if so, the extent to which Canada has agreed to have joint-ventures and improve trade with India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir. A Canadian trade delegation led by Minister for International Trade Mr. Pierre S. Pattigrew was scheduled to visit India in October 2001, however the visit did not materialize.

(b) to (d) The Canada is one of the countries comprising the G-8 group.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Increase in the Reservation Quota for OBC

1061. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the reservation quota for Other Backward Classes (OBC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which such increase in likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In view of the judgment of Supreme Court delivered on 16-11-1992 in the Case of Indira Sawhney

& Others Vs. Union of India & Others, the total reservation under Article 16(4) can not exceed 50%. At present 49.5% posts are reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes in case of direct recruitment on All India basis by open competition and 50% of posts are reserved in case of direct recruitment on all India basis by other than open competition.

[English]

Wheat Import Scams

1062. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

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

(a) whether investigations into the alleged Wheat Imports Scams of 1977-78 import of wheat from Australia have been completed by CBI;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the action taken/being taken against those found involved; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay and time by which the investigation is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) After the conclusion of the preliminary enquiry into the alleged irregular import of wheat from the Australia Wheat Board, a regular case has been registered by the CBI on 11.9.2001 in connection with this matter. Further investigation is in progress. Appropriate action will be taken on the completion of the investigation.

[Translation]

Closure of Super Bazaars

1063. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:
KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to close down the Super Bazaar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of loss being incurred by the Super Bazar at present and particularly after 1997 alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of employees working in the Super Bazar as on date;

(e) the place/organizations where the Government propose to absorb these employees and compensation likely to be given alongwith its criteria;

(f) whether the Union Government will consider some alternative measure to save Super Bazar;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether any demand has been received by the Government to handover Super Bazar to some multi state cooperative or start working it as a joint venture; and

(i) if so, the 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) and (b) The Cooperative Store Ltd. (Super Bazar) registered under Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act 1984, (MSCS Act 1984) started incurring loss from 1996-1997 which mounted in subsequent years. Besides, the liabilities of employees' salary, suppliers' dues, unpaid dividend and Govt. loans, the financial constraints faced by Super Bazar have very adversely affected the overall functioning of the Store in terms of administration, commercial operations and supply chain management resulting in rapid deterioration. Considering all factors and the present circumstances of Super Bazar, the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) have been requested to take action for the winding up of the Super Bazar under the provisions of Multi-State Cooperative Societies act 1984.

(c) The year wise loss of Super Bazar particularly after 1997 are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	Loss
1996-97	(-)67.75
1997-98	(-)321.33
1998-99	(-)706.80
1999-2000	(-)1372.52
2000-2001	(-)1628.57

The main reasons in losses appear to be lack of professionalism and mismanagement, corruption and malpractices by the employees. Disproportionate wage revisions without corresponding increase in volume of business, reduced credit from suppliers, reduced turnover with disproportionately large number of employees, increasing level of fixed costs, and inadequacy of working capital.

(d) As on 31st March, 2001, the Super Bazar had a total of 2016 employees.

(e) In the event of winding up of Super Bazar, under the provisions of Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act 1984, the compensation will be paid to Super Bazar employees as per the rules.

(f) and (g) No, Sir.

(h) and (i) No, Sir.

[English]

Meeting of Commerce Secretaries of SAARC

1064. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the Commerce Secretaries of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at a meeting held in the month of August, 2001 expressed deep concern over the attempts of developed countries to expand the trade agenda for WTO;

(b) if so, whether all the participants have agreed that it was essential that obligations already entered into be fulfilled in the first instance before taking on fresh commitments and obligations;

(c) if so, whether they have recommended that the ongoing consultations in Geneva by the SAARC ambassadors to WTO be intensified to include other like-minded countries and also to ensure that the agenda for the fourth WTO ministerial conference be agreed to without further delay; and

(d) if so, the efforts that are being made by the SAARC countries particularly by India on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Commerce Secretaries of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region met on 22nd August 2001 at New Delhi to formulate a coordinated strategy of SAARC countries on multilateral trade issues and submitted a draft of a Joint Statement for consideration of the SAARC Commerce Ministers. The Commerce Secretaries emphasized that Implementation issues are a legacy of the Uruguay Round Agreements and must be resolved upfront without any extraneous linkages.

(c) The SAARC Commerce Secretaries also recommended to intensify consultations amongst the Ambassadors of SAARC countries at Geneva along with other like minded countries during the preparatory process for the Doha Conference at Geneva. It was also emphasized that the Doha Ministerial Declaration and its mandate should be clear and specific without any scope for ambiguities and there should be no attempt to include new issues into the Declaration at the eleventh hour, which should be prepared on the basis of full prior consultations and consensus.

(d) The Ambassadors of SAARC countries accredited to the WTO in Geneva and also other Like Minded Group (LMG) of countries were in touch prior to and during the Doha Ministerial Conference and held various informal discussions so as to effectively safeguard their common interests at the WTO.

Handloom Fairs

1065. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handloom fairs held in various places in the country 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, with locations;

(b) the assistance provided to each State Government during the above period for this purpose;

(c) whether the Union Government have monitored the utilisation of the funds given to State Governments for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

of places/States and the assistance provided thereon are given in the statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The details of the number of handloom fairs held during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 alongwith the details

(c) and (d) The final releases are made only on receipt of the audited accounts on the utilisation of the funds from the State Government/the agency concerned.

Statement

Details of National Handloom Expos/Special Expos organised during 1999-2000

Sl. No.	Name of Events and State	Period	Place	Expenditure incurred by G.O.I.
1.	<i>Delhi</i> National Handloom Expo	10.10.99 to 31.10.99	New Delhi	16,46,845/-
2.	Spl. Expo (Silk Fab)	23.10.99 to 03.11.99	New Delhi	18,43,865/-
3.	Spl. Expo (IITF-1999) 1999	14.11.99 to 27.11.99	New Delhi	4,30,995/-
4.	<i>Jammu & Kashmir</i> National Handloom Expo	27.12.99 to 13.01.2000	Jammu	15,89,200/-
5.	<i>Madhya Pradesh</i> National Handloom Expo	10.10.99 to 02.11.99	Bhopal	35,79,649/-
6.	<i>Maharashtra</i> National Handloom Expo	17.12.99 to 09.01.2000	Mumbai	38,00,000/-
7.	<i>Uttar Pradesh</i> National Handloom Expo	23.03.2000 to 16.04.2000	Kanpur	34,10,602/-
8.	<i>West Bengal</i> National Handloom Expo	11.02.2000 to 05.03.2000	Calcutta	30,12,720/-

Details of National Handloom Expos/Special Expos organised during 2000-01

Sl. No.	Name of Events and State	Period	Place	Expenditure incurred by G.O.I.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	<i>Andhra Pradesh</i> National Handloom Expo	20.09.2000 to 15.10.2000	Hyderabad	33,76,559/-
2.	<i>Assam</i> National Handloom Expo	16.03.2001 to 08.04.2001	Guwahati	37,20,000/-
3.	Spl. Exhb. (Ek Jagaran)	20.01.2001 to 04.02.2001	Guwahati	4,00,000/-
4.	<i>Delhi</i> National Handloom Expo	04.10.2000 to 20.10.2000	New Delhi	17,21,338/-

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Spl. Expo (Silk Fab)	11.10.2000 to 22.10.2000	New Delhi	20,58,615/-
6.	Spl. Expo (IITF-2000)	14.11.2000 to 27.11.2000	New Delhi	4,00,000/-
7.	Spl. Expo (Woollen)	30.12.2000 to 13.01.2001	New Delhi	8,65,227/-
<i>Maharashtra</i>				
8.	National Handloom Expo	22.12.2000 to 14.01.2001	Pune	38,00,000/-
<i>Nagaland</i>				
9.	Spl. Exhb. (Horn bill Festival)	01.12.2000 to 05.12.2000	Kohima	4,70,500/-
<i>Rajasthan</i>				
10.	Natioinal Handloom Expo	28.11.2000 to 18.12.2000	Jaipur	18,00,000/-
<i>Uttar Pradesh</i>				
11.	Spl. Expo (Silk Fab)	23.12.2000 to 03.01.2000	Lucknow	2,00,000/-

Details of District level Fairs/Festivals were organised during the year 1999-2000

Sl. No.	Name of Events and State	Period	Place	Expenditure incurred by G.O.I.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	<i>Andhra Pradesh</i> Chenetha Sambaram	06.10.99 to 19.10.99	Hyderabad	1,90,363.00
2.	Chenetha Sandadi	06.10.99 to 10.10.99	Vijayawada	1,74,270.00
3.	<i>Arunachal Pradesh</i> Republic Day	26.01.2000 to 28.01.2000	Itanagar	1,30,560.00
4.	<i>Assam</i> Durga Puja Mela	16.10.99 to 20.10.99	Darrang	1,99,886.00
5.	Mali Puja Festival	06.11.99 to 09.11.99	Tinsukia	2,00,000.00
6.	Christmas Sale	03.12.99 to 12.12.99	Shillong	2,00,000.00
7.	Maghi Sale	03.01.2000 12.01.2000	Agartala	2,00,000.00
8.	Ex-Jagaran	18.02.2000 to 27.02.2000	Itanagar	2,00,000.00
9.	Ek-Jagaran-Handwoven	20.12.99 to 30.12.99	Guwahati	4,00,000.00

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Doul Utsav	26.03.2000 to 13.04.2000	Tezpur	2,00,000.00
11.	Bodo-Sahitya Sabha	25.02.2000 to 27.02.2000	Kokrajhar	1,99,938.00
12.	<i>Delhi</i> Dussehra Festival	16.10.99 to 27.10.99	Laxmi Nagar	2,00,000.00
13.	Deepavali Festival	27.10.99 to 07.11.99	Madhuvan Chowk	2,00,000.00
14.	<i>Gujarat</i> Navratri Utsav	02.10.99 to 10.10.99	Baroda	1,91,416.00
15.	Dipawali Utsav	29.10.99 to 04.11.99	Ahmedabad	2,00,000.00
16.	Mahashivratri	01.03.2000 to 05.03.2000	Junagadh	1,73,683.00
17.	<i>Haryana</i> Durga Ashtmi (Mansa Devi)	10.10.99 to 18.10.99	Panchkula	1,61,202.00
18.	Kartik Cultural Festival	15.11.99 to 21.11.99	Ballabgarh	2,00,000.00
19.	<i>Himachal Pradesh</i> Renukji Fair	18.11.99 to 23.11.99	Sirmour	1,25,027.00
20.	Lavi Fair	11.11.99 to 16.11.99	Shimla	86,105.00
21.	Christmas/New Year	24.12.99 to 02.01.2000	Shimla	1,70,715.00
22.	Navratra Mela	10.10.99 to 19.10.99	Jawallaji	80,296.00
23.	<i>Jammu & Kashmir</i> Amar Nathji Yatra	19.08.99 to 26.08.99	Baltal (Srinagar)	1,98,120.00
24.	<i>Karnataka</i> Sri Kollur Mookambika Devi Jathra	07.03.2000 to 12.03.2000	Dakshina Kannada	1,81,917.00
25.	Lord Narasimha Jathra	25.03.2000 to 03.04.2000	Mandya Distt.	1,38,160.00
26.	<i>Madhya Pradesh</i> Mahashivratri Mela	25.12.99 to 06.01.2000	Bhopal	2,00,000.00
27.	Jagar Utsav	30.01.2000 to 10.02.2000	Raipur	2,00,000.00

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Durga Mela	02.12.99 to 10.12.99	Durg	2,00,000.00
29.	<i>Maharashtra</i> Distt. Level Exhib.	06.12.99 to 15.12.99	Pune	1,92,950.00
30.	<i>Manipur</i> Khongjom Day Festive Fair	22.04.99 to 30.04.99	Thoubal	1,81,763.00
31.	<i>Meghalaya</i> Handloom Exhibition	02.12.99 to 06.12.99	Tura	1,60,972.00
32.	<i>Nagaland</i> Sekrenyi (Angami)	15.03.2000 to 24.03.2000	Kohima	2,00,000.00
33.	<i>Orissa</i> 'X' Mass Fair	30.12.99 to 08.01.2000	Puri	1,99,015.00
34.	<i>Punjab</i> Maghi Mela	11.01.2000 to 14.01.2000	Mukatsar	95,504.00
35.	<i>Rajasthan</i> Craft Ind '99	25.10.99 to 03.11.99	Jaipur	2,00,000.00
36.	<i>Sikkim</i> Gangtok Craft Fair	14.11.99 to 20.11.99	Gangtok	1,99,470.00
37.	<i>Tripura</i> Handloom & Handicrafts Fair	05.10.99 to 14.10.99	Agartala	2,00,000.00
38.	Handloom Fair (Bastra Mela)	08.12.99 to 14.12.99	Dharmanagar	1,18,946.00
39.	<i>Uttar Pradesh</i> Distt. Level Exhib.	21.10.99 to 05.11.99	Obera (Varanasi)	1,96,044.00
40.	Lucknow Mahotsav	25.11.99 to 05.12.99	Lucknow	1,98,459.00
41.	Numaish Mela	09.03.2000 to 16.03.2000	Hardoi	1,97,553.00
42.	<i>West Bengal</i> Sharadiya Bastra Mela	28.09.99 to 12.10.99	Chinsurch (Hooghly)	2,00,000.00
43.	Basantika Tant Bastra Pradarshni	03.04.99 to 12.04.99	Contai (Mindnapore)	1,00,702.00

Details of District Level Fair/Festivals were organised during the year 2000-01

Sl. No.	Name of the Events and State	Period	Place	Expenditure incurred by G.O.I.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>			
	Chenetha Kalanjali	24.07.2000 to 03.08.2000	Vijayawada	1,98,500/-
2.	Chenetha Sambaram	01.08.2000 to 11.08.2000	Visakhapatnam	1,81,925/-
3.	Chenetha Layalu	14.12.2000 to 24.12.2000	Warangal	1,97,283/-
4.	Chenetha Muripalu	25.12.2000 to 05.01.2001	Tirupathi	1,94,523/-
5.	Chenetha Harivillu	03.01.2001 to 12.01.2001	Hyderabad	1,93,565/-
6.	<i>Arunachal Pradesh</i> Losser Festival	05.02.2001 to 9.02.2001	Dirang/Rupa/Bomdila	1,61,010/-
7.	Nyokum Festival	22.02.2001 to 31.03.2001	Ziro/Hapoli/Palin	1,90,000/-
8.	<i>Assam</i> Saradia Bastra Utsav	10.09.2000 to 02.10.2000	Rehabari (Guwahati)	2,00,000/-
9.	Durga Pujar Mela	15.9.2000 to 16.10.2000	Agartala	2,00,000/-
10.	Kali Puja	05.11.2000 to 09.11.2000	Dibrugarh	2,00,000/-
11.	Mali Puja Mela	06.11.2000 to 09.11.2000	Tinsukia	2,00,000/-
12.	Rash Yatra	21.11.2000 to 29.11.2000	Nalbari	2,00,000/-
13.	Cristmas Day	14.12.2000 to 25.12.2000	Shillong	2,00,000/-
14.	Jonbil Mela	18.01.2001 to 21.01.2001	Morigaon	1,58,180/-
15.	Netaji Mela	23.01.2001 to 04.02.2001	Karimganj	1,59,300/-
16.	Gandhi Mela	30.01.2001 to 05.02.2001	Silchar	1,58,178/-

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Assam Sahitya Sabha	07.02.2001 to 11.02.2001	Dibrugarh	2,00,000/-
18.	District Level Event	25.03.2001 to 13.04.2001	Tezpur	2,00,000/-
19.	<i>Chhattisgarh</i> Chhattisgarh Utsav	01.03.2001 to 15.03.2001	Dilli Haat, New Delhi	2,00,000/-
20.	<i>Delhi</i> Guru Nanak Jayanti	07.11.2000 to 16.11.2000	Gulabi Bagh	2,00,000/-
21.	Ahoi Asthami	19.10.2000 to 28.10.2000	Pitampura	**1,00,000/-
22.	Christmas (X-Mass)	21.12.2000 to 31.12.2000	Govindpuri	2,00,000/-
23.	<i>Gujarat</i> Tarnetar Fair	02.09.2000 to 04.09.2000	Tarnetar	* —
24.	Navratri Utsav	01.10.2000 to 08.10.2000	Baroda	* —
25.	Dipawali Fair	15.10.2000 to 22.10.2000	Surat	* —
26.	Christmas Fair	25.12.2000 to 29.12.2000	Anand	* —
27.	Maha Shivratri Fair	17.02.2001 to 22.02.2001	Junagadh	**1,00,000/-
28.	<i>Haryana</i> Durga Ashtami	28.09.2000 to 05.10.2000	Panchkula	1,73,035/-
29.	Kapal Mochan Mela	09.11.2000 to 11.11.2000	Bilaspur-District Yamuna Nagar	1,53,570/-
30.	<i>Himachal Pradesh</i> Jawalaji Navratra Mela	28.09.2000 to 07.10.2000	Kangra	1,37,270/-
31.	Kullu Dussehra	07.01.2000 to 13.10.2000	Kullu	1,30,083/-
32.	Renuka Fair	06.11.2000 to 11.11.2000	Sirmour	1,15,653/-
33.	Christmas/New Year Mela	24.12.2000 to 02.01.2001	Shimla	1,73,380/-
34.	Shivratri Mela	21.02.2001 to 28.02.2001	Mandi	1,60,158/-
35.	<i>Jammu & Kashmir</i> Amarnathji Yatra	22.07.2000 to 15.08.2000	Phalgam	1,98,280/-

1	2	3	4	5
36.	Amarnath Yatra	01.08.2000 to 20.08.2000	Baltal	2,00,000/-
37.	Handloom Mela	28.09.2000 to 06.10.2000	Katra	2,00,000/-
38.	Diwali Festival	24.10.2000 to 03.11.2000	Udampur	* —
39.	<i>Karnataka</i> Kottureshwara jathre	17.02.2001 to 22.02.2001	Kottur	99,338/-
40.	District Level Event	21.01.2001 to 25.01.2001	Mysore	1,99,868/-
41.	District Level Event	15.03.2001 to 25.03.2001	Tumkur	* —
42.	District Level Event	25.03.2001 to 03.04.2001	Mandya	* —
43.	<i>Madhya Pradesh</i> HL&HC Exhb. (Gandhi Jayanti)	02.10.2000 to 12.10.2000	Korba	**1,00,000.00
44.	Dipawali Festival	10.10.2000 to 20.10.2000	Bilaspur	**1,00,000/-
45.	Dipawali (Handloom Mela)	16.10.2000 to 25.10.2000	Indore	1,76,222/-
46.	Makar Sakranti Parva	11.11.2000 to 19.11.2000	Jabalpur	2,00,000.00
47.	Maha Shivratri Parva	25.12.2000 to 07.01.2001	Bhopal	2,00,000.00
48.	Handloom Fair	01.02.2001 to 14.02.2001	Bhilai (Durg)	2,00,000.00
49.	<i>Manipur</i> Khongjom War Memorial Fair-2000	21.04.2000 to 27.04.2000	Thoubal	2,00,000.00
50.	Ningol Chakkouba Festive Fair	26.10.2000 to 01.11.2000	Imphal	2,00,000.00
51.	Ningol Chakkouba Festive Fair	25.10.2000 to 31.10.2000	Bishnupur	2,00,000.00
52.	<i>Meghalaya</i> Exhibition-cum-Sale	05.12.2000 to 09.12.2000	Shillong	1,93,025.00
53.	<i>Mizoram</i> Lunglei Distt. Level Handloom Fair	01.09.2000 to 16.09.2000	Lunglei Town	2,00,000.00
54.	Aizwal Distt. Level Handloom Fair	01.11.2000 to 17.11.2000	Aizwal	2,00,000.00

1	2	3	4	5
55.	<i>Nagaland</i> Nanknyulum (Chang) Festival	10.07.2000 to 19.07.2000	Tuensang Town	1,94,250.00
56.	Amongmong (Sangtam) Festival	06.09.2000 to 15.09.2000	Kiphere Town	1,94,874.00
57.	Tsokum (Khimangan) Festival	09.10.2000 to 18.10.2000	Noklak Town	1,95,273.00
58.	<i>Orissa</i> Baliyatra Mela	11.11.2000 to 17.11.2000	Cuttack	2,00,000.00
59.	Makar Festival	02.01.2001 to 12.01.2001	Mayubhanj	*—
60.	<i>Punjab</i> Saheedi Jor Mela	26.12.2000 to 28.12.2000	Fatehgarh Sahib	1,35,570.00
61.	Hola Mohalla	Mid. of March, 2000	Anandpur Sahib	**1,00,000.00
	<i>Rajasthan</i>			
62.	Craft-Ind-2000	14.10.2000 to 23.10.2000	Jaipur	**1,00,000.00
63.	Mewar Udyog Utsav-2000	2.12.2000 to 11.12.2000	Chittorgarh	*—
64.	Ajyameru Udyog Craft Mela-2000	January, 2001	Ajmer	**1,00,000.00
65.	Hadoti Udyog Mela	25.02.2001 to 04.03.2001	Kota	**1,00,000.00
66.	Pachmi Raj. Udyog Hastshilp Mela	02.01.2001 to 11.01.2001	Jodhpur	*—
67.	<i>Sikkim</i> Phanglhapsol	15.09.2000 to 19.09.2000	Rabongla	1,97,425.00
68.	Gangtok Craft Fair	07.12.2000 to 12.12.2000	Gangtok	2,00,000.00
69.	Namprikdang Lossong Festival	19.12.2000 to 25.12.2000	Dzongu	1,99,350.00
70.	Legship Mela	22.02.2000 to 28.02.2000	Legship	1,99,500.00
71.	<i>Tripura</i> Saradia Hasta Karu & Bastra Mela	23.09.2000 to 02.10.2000	Agartala	2,00,000.00
72.	Winter HL/HC Fair	02.12.2000 to 11.12.2000	Udaipur	1,99,605.00

1	2	3	4	5
73.	<i>Uttar Pradesh</i> Sawan Jhoola Mela	07.08.2000 to 16.08.2000	Ayodhya	1,66,953.00
74.	Sawan Mela Anandeshwar	28.07.2000 to 20.08.2000	Parvat Kanpur	1,99,949.00
75.	Sawan Mela Siddhnath	08.08.2000 to 20.08.2000	Jajmau Kanpur	1,99,951.00
76.	Handloom Exhibition	01.10.2000 to 10.10.2000	Renkut	**1,00,000.00
77.	Kartik Purnima Mela	5.11.2000 to 15.11.2000	Varanasi	1,99,3833.00
78.	Numaish Mela	24.02.2001 to 04.03.2001	Hardoi	1,97,904.00
79.	Makar Sankranti Festival	14.01.2001 to 23.01.2001	Gorakhpur	1,22,905.00
80.	Bhumeshwar (Chakalwanshi)	March, 2001	Unnao	**1,00,000.00
81.	<i>West Bengal</i> Sharadiya Bastra Mela	20.09.2000 to 01.10.2000	Chinsurah	2,00,000.00
82.	Krishi 'O' Silpa Mela-2000	15.12.2000 to 04.01.2001	Raiganj	* —
83.	Tant Bastra Pradarshani-O-Mela 2000	02.04.2000 to 11.04.2000	Contai	1,65,160.00
84.	Sharadiya Shree Mela	02.09.2000 to 14.09.2000	Asansol	2,00,000.00
85.	Tant Bastra Pradarshani-2000	16.09.2000 to 25.09.2000	Midnapore	1,74,579.00

*No advance payment released. Final payment yet to be released.

**Advance payment only. Final payment yet to be released.

[Translation]

Branches of SBI

1066. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some branches of the State Bank of India are incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details of such branches alongwith losses incurred by them during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for incurring losses; and

(d) the steps taken by SBI to make them profitable?

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

(b) As reported by State Bank of India (SBI), the details of Loss Making Branches (LMBs) alongwith losses incurred by them for the last 3 years, group wise, are given below:

(Rupees in crores)

Population-Group	March, 1999		March, 2000		March, 2001	
	No. of branches	Amount involved	No. of branches	Amount involved	No. of branches	Amount involved
Metro	132	52.07	244	97.05	335	126.57
Urban	92	9.52	286	35.98	309	44.38
Semi-Urban	49	2.98	101	7.34	95	9.05
Rural	316	16.71	402	22.29	324	23.63

(c) Reasons for incurring losses in Rural, Semi-Urban, Urban and Metropolitan centres are given below:

1. Low Business Volume.
2. Inadequate growth of business on continuous basis.
3. Lack of proper infrastructure/staff complement.
4. High fixed cost of bank's operations.
5. Smaller operating margins.
6. Substantial NPA rise due to directed lendings and poor recovery.
7. Adverse law and order situation in Northern and North-East States affecting the smooth functioning of branches in some of those areas, resulting in lower volumes and less income.
8. Stiff competition from Private/Foreign Banks with techno-savvy services.
9. Non availability of profitable business at captive branches.
10. Decline in business volumes in captive branches alongwith the fortunes of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) where the branches are established.
11. Overheads on higher side/higher rentals cost for premises.
12. Assets portfolios of LMBs mainly comprise of priority sector advances with low net yields.
13. High NPAs.

(d) SBI has taken following steps to make them profitable:

1. Focus more aggressively on non-fund based business.
2. Reduction of controllable expenses.
3. Close monitoring of the business and net result of all LMBs.
4. Study the business opportunities available at LMBs in particular at Metro/urban centres to consider the options of merger/closure/relocation as per RBI guidelines when the losses are consistent and opportunity for conversion into profit does not exist.
5. Relocation of LMBs in Metro/Urban centres as per RBI guidelines to exploit the potential available in the area.
6. Promote conversion of Rural LMBs into Setellite Offices wherever feasible.

[English]

Fiscal Deficit

1067. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fiscal deficit is increasing alarmingly and the Union Government is unable to manage the present situation;

(b) if so, the actual fiscal deficit at present and corresponding position during the last two years;

(c) the steps taken or being taken to reduce the fiscal deficit in a phased manner; and

(d) the extent to which the Union Government have been successful in handling the fiscal deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the Controller General of Accounts, the fiscal deficit for the period April-September 2001 at Rs. 57262 crore shows an increase of 34.4 per cent over similar period during the previous year. The fiscal deficit during corresponding period during 1999-2000 and 2000-01 is Rs. 52395 crore and Rs. 42592 crore respectively.

(c) and (d) The Government is conscious of the need for better fiscal management to contain non-plan revenue expenditure and increase revenue receipts. With a view to achieve fiscal consolidation, the Budget for 2001-02 emphasises expenditure management through the process of bringing about structural changes in the composition of Central Government expenditure, economy in non-plan revenue expenditure while improving the quality of expenditure. To this end the Budget contains a number of initiatives which among others include restricting fresh recruitment to one per cent of total civilian staff strength, revision in user charges for services provided by the Government and its agencies keeping in view the increased cost of these services etc. Further, with a view to reduce interest burden, most administered interest rates were reduced by 1.5 per cent as of March 1, 2001. Besides, the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000 was introduced in Parliament in December 2000. This Bill includes provisions relating to ceilings on debt, deficit and borrowing.

Establishment of Special Cells of WTO

1068. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have advised the State Governments to establish Special Cells of WTO in their respective States;

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

(c) the details of States, who have established Special Cells in their respective States as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had advised all the State Governments/Union Territories to set up WTO

Cells and appoint nodal officers to effectively coordinate various WTO related matters.

(c) So far the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi, Tripura, Nagaland, Haryana and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli have established the WTO Cells. The State Government of Punjab has also constituted a high powered committee to assess the impact of emerging WTO regime on Punjab economy.

Income Tax Raids on Diamond Merchants

1069. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of Income Tax Departments recently raided the premises of two renowned, diamond merchants in the Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the seizure made during the raids; and

(d) the actual income-tax paid by them during each of last three assessment years and the amount outstanding against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, search action was conducted by the Income Tax Department at the business and residential premises of the following two renowned diamond merchants of Delhi;

(i) M/s. Chawla Jewellers, 2645 Bank Street, Karol Bagh, New Delhi.

(ii) M/s. Champalal Jewellers, 1070, Maliwara, Chandni Chowk, Delhi-6.

As a result of search, seizures were effected as under:

Name	Unaccounted Cash (in Rs.)	Jewellery (in Rs.)
Chawla Jewellers	2,05,000	4,02,06,934
Champalal Jewellers	3,31,79,300	8,65,12,756

(d) The income tax actually paid by the above assesseees and the taxes outstanding against them is mentioned as below:

Name	Taxes Paid (in Rs.)			Taxes Outstanding (in Rs.)		
	A.Y. 1999-2000	A.Y. 2000-2001	A.Y. 2001-2002	A.Y. 99-00	A.Y. 00-01	A.Y. 01-02
(i) Chawla Jewellers	56,095	5,000	13800	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Champalal Jewellers	99,970	39,80,402	16,93,919	Nil	Nil	Nil

Inspection of Items by DGS&D Officials

1070. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of the Directorate General Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) are not inspecting the items before releasing them to the buyers and many of those items are found defective;

(b) if so, the number of cases which have come to light of the Government and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the rails supplied by Bhilai Steel Plants to the Railways were found to be defective despite inspection by DGS&D officials;

(d) if so, whether the Government will enquire into the matters and take punitive measures;

(e) whether the officials of the DGS&D have amassed wealth disproportionate to their known sources of income; and

(f) if so, the number of such cases which have come to light so far and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) As a general rule supplies against DGS&D contracts are subjected to inspection by the Quality Assurance Wing of the DGS&D at pre-despatch stage. Only the stores fully conforming to the contract specifications and duly certified so by the concerned inspection authority are cleared for despatch. However, there may be a few cases where the consignees dispute the quality of inspected stores. In such cases, remedial action is taken through joint inspection system associating representatives of the consignee.

(c) and (d) There was one case of rejection of rails inspected by the QA Wing of the DGS&D in 1997. It was found that the rejection was due to surface defects in rails which developed after despatch. The reasons for the defects were investigated by a team of DGS&D officials, Bhilai Steel Plant, the manufacturers and Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO). Based on the findings of the team suitable measures were taken. Thereafter, no repetition of this defect has been reported.

(e) and (f) Complaints received in this regard are investigated on the basis of the enquiries conducted by CBI/Vigilance thus far, no complaint could be substantiated.

Abolition of BIFR

1071. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to abolish the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and replace it by a new body;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be done?

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

(b) and (c) The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) under which BIFR was set up has not effectively addressed the problem of industrial sickness. The deficiencies noticed in the operation of SICA *inter-alia* included:

- Restrictive definition of sickness;
- Slow pace of BIFR intervention; and
- Delays in winding up of sick companies.

A Bill, namely Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2001 to repeal SICA was introduced in Lok Sabha on 30.8.2001. Simultaneously another Bill, namely, Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2001 has also been introduced *inter-alia* providing for setting up of a National Company Law Tribunal with the powers currently exercised by (a) Company Law Board (CLB) (b) High Courts regarding winding up of Companies and amalgamation schemes; and (c) BIFR/AAIFR under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Import Duty on Aluminium

1072. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a persistent demand from Aluminium (Secondary) industry for reducing the import duty on Aluminium;

(b) if so, what is their precise demand;

(c) the manner in which Aluminium industry is using imported primary aluminium has been at a disadvantage *vis-a-vis* those using indigenous primary aluminium, indicating the cost of indigenous production including duties and that of the imported aluminium including customs duty and other levies; and

(d) the Government's response to this demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Some representations have been received for reduction/abolition of customs duty on aluminium.

(c) As per the information available, the landed cost of imported aluminium is reported to be Rs. 1,02,954 per

tonne (September, 2001). As against this, the market price of indigenous aluminium was reported to be Rs. 94,500 per tonne. However, the total aluminium production in the country and domestic consumption are almost at par.

(d) The representations have been examined. Taking into account all relevant factors, Government has decided to maintain the existing duty on aluminium.

[Translation]

Export of Textiles

1073. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton, yarn, cloth and ready-made garments are exported from the country;

(b) if so, the item-wise value of exports made during 1996-97 and 2000-2001;

(c) whether the profit margin are constantly on increase from exports of the above items;

(d) if so, the profit margin on these items; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase profit margin in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The item-wise value of textile exports from the country during 1996-97 and 2000-2001 are given below:

(Rs. in crores/(In Million US\$))

Items	1996-97		2000-2001	
	Rs.	US\$	Rs.	US\$
Readymade Garment	13324.1	3753.3	25470.9	5569.5
Cotton Textiles	12656.6	3565.3	16211.7	3548.2
Manmade Textiles	2561.3	721.5	5004.4	1095.3
Wool & Woollen	367.9	103.7	236.2	63.8
Silk	457.1	128.8	1457.7	318.9
Total	29367.2	8272.5	48380.9	10595.6

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

(c) and (d) The profit margins are realised by individual exporters depending on variety of factors, mainly commercial factors, such as variety, quality, prices, demand and supply position etc. The Government does not maintain any data regarding the same.

(e) In order to increase the cost competitiveness of our textiles and clothing products in the international market, Government have recently take a number of measures, which include:—

- (1) Large additional quantities have been opened for most of the categories under the FCFS/RGE systems of the Quota Policies with a view to providing quotas to the garment and textile exporters on a continuous basis.
- (2) In order to reduce transaction costs and time of the exporters, EMD/BG amounts have reduced for certain categories and the date for utilising quotas have been extended. Further, the L/C condition under the FCFS system has also been waived for all such categories which have quantities left over for the rest of the year.
- (3) DEPB rates for certain textile products have been rationalised.

Besides, a "Textile Package" was announced in the Budget 2001-02 to strengthen domestic textile industry for meeting the growing global competition. Some of the important provisions of the "Textile Package" are:—

- (i) Excise duty structure on textile items has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition.
- (ii) Custom duty has been reduced from 15% to 5% on 159 specified textiles and garment machineries. In addition, 12 important items of machineries including shuttleless looms have also been exempted from countervailing duty. A programme has been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.
- (iii) Assistance under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) providing for a reimbursement of 5% out of interest is available to textile industry for modernisation and upgradation. In addition, rate of depreciation allowance for machinery under TUFS has been raised to 50%.

(iv) A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the Budget 2001-02 for establishment of Apparel Parks for export of garments. Besides a provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made for the Scheme for improvement of critical infrastructure facilities at major textile production centres.

[English]

Transport Subsidy Scheme

1074. SHRI ANIL BASU:
SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:

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

(a) whether transport subsidy scheme launched in the year 1971 to promote industrialisation in remote, hilly and inaccessible areas has resulted in a subsidy of total Rs. 530.77 crore till 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the State-wise comparative figures for the year 2000-2001;

(c) whether the scheme has fulfilled its objectives;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The National Productivity Council (NPC) reviewed the implementation of the scheme in March, 2001 and reported growth in industrialisation in terms of increase in number of factories, employment and out put generation. The report also identified indirect benefits like infrastructure development in the beneficiary States and expansion/diversification of industrial units.

(e) and (f) In view of the above, does not arise.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	2000-01
1.	Assam	16.69
2.	Manipur	—
3.	Tripura	0.69
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
5.	Meghalaya	2.62
6.	Nagaland	—
7.	Mizoram	—
8.	Sikkim	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	40.38
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.76
11.	Uttar Pradesh	0.007
12.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.33
13.	Lakshadweep	—
14.	West Bengal (Darjeeling)	—
Total		63,477

[Translation]

Merger of Bank Branches

1075. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several branches of Nationalised Banks have been merged as per recommendations of the Narasimhan Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of branches of public sector banks merged/closed during the last three years, bank-wise;

(c) whether Mungi Branch of UCO Bank in Ahmed Nagar in Maharashtra has also been merged;

(d) if so, the present position after merger and whether people of the areas have made any proposal to make the said Branch of the Bank operational; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, 249 branches of nationalised banks have been merged during last three years *i.e.* 1998-1999 to 2000-2001. The bank-wise details of branches merged are given below:

Bank Name	No. of Branches
Allahabad Bank	1
Andhra Bank	1
Bank of Baroda	1
Bank of India	3
Bank of Maharashtra	1
Canara Bank	4
Dena Bank	12
Indian Bank	67
IOB	4
Punjab & Sind Bank	1
Punjab National Bank	20
SBBJ	2
State Bank of India	14
Syndicate Bank	3
UCO Bank	44
Union Bank of India	45
United Bank of India	20
Vijaya Bank	6

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Mungi Paithan branch of UCO Bank has been merged with Ahmednagar branch. The five villages in the service area of Mungi Paithan branch were re-allotted to branches of other commercial banks in that area. There has been a representation against the merger of Mungi Paithan branch but the need of banking service of the area are being taken care of by other bank branches located in the area.

*[English]***Incentives in the Duty Drawback**

1076. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced incentives in the duty drawback schemes to give boost to the sagging exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the items that will be benefited by these incentives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government have reviewed and revised duty drawback rates in respect of more than 300 export products through Notification No. 50/2001-Customs (N.T.) dated 4th October, 2001. This will benefit the dyes and chemicals, textiles, including woollens and handlooms, brass artwares/hardwares, leather footwear/footwear uppers, engineering goods including bicycle parts, electronics; and other miscellaneous articles including writing instruments.

*[Translation]***Foreign Exchange Reserve**

1077. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange reserve and the Gold Reserve in the country as on 31st October, 2001;

(b) the comparative figure for the last three years;

(c) whether the foreign exchange reserve is likely to increase in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) India's total foreign exchange reserves, as on October 31, 2001, amounted to US \$45.26 billion, of which US\$2.94 billion represents the value of gold held, as reserves, by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

(b) India's total foreign exchange reserves and the gold reserve component thereof for the corresponding period of the previous three years were as under:

	US \$ billion	
End of	Total Foreign Exchange Reserves*	Gold Reserves @
October 2000	34.90	2.80
October 1999	33.81	3.22
October 1998	29.76	3.06

*Foreign exchange reserves include foreign currency assets, gold and SDRs.

@ Gold holdings are valued close to prevailing international market prices.

(c) and (d) The level of India's foreign exchange reserves is at present comfortable. Future accretions to foreign exchange reserves will depend on net outcome of the international transactions put through the RBI as well as surplus condition in the foreign exchange market facilitating net purchases by the RBI from the market. It is the endeavour of the Government to ensure that the quantum of reserves in the long run is in line with the requirements of the economy and provides greater security against unfavourable and unanticipated developments.

*[English]***Writing-Off Loans by Banks**

1078. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently allowed a number of Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions to write off corporate loans running into crores of rupees;

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

(c) the estimated amount of loans to be written-off by the banks and the ultimate beneficiaries; and

(d) the relief proposed to be provided by the banks and Financial Institutions to small borrowers having outstanding debt up to 5 lakh?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide its circular dated 27th July, 2000 had framed non-discretionary and non-discriminatory guidelines for settlement of NPAs upto Rs. 5 crore and advised banks to evolve their own policy for loan outstandings of above Rs. 5 crore. Effective action by banks for rehabilitation, one-time settlement for filing of suits in all necessary cases by 30.9.2001 had to be ensured by the chief executives. The banks have also been advised to use the forum of Lok Adalat for compromise settlement of their NPAs and guidelines have been issued by RBI in May, 2001 for making increased use of this forum to settle disputes involving outstanding balance in NPA accounts upto Rs. 5 lakhs.

Purity of Jewellery

1079. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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 "Gahano Ke Sudhata ke Bare main Chokane Wale Tathya Samane Aye" appearing in the *Nav Bharat Times* dated October 13, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein alongwith the details of jewellers whose samples were not found correct and the action taken against the defaulters;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken any concrete measures for the purity of jewellery;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether these facts are likely to have any impact on the export of Indian jewellery; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and steps taken or being 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The facts reported in the news item are correct except that there are 248 jewellers in the country who have been licensed by BIS to get their jewellery Hallmarked from 12 approved Assaying and Hallmarking

Centres and not 248 Assaying and Hallmarking Centres as reported.

BIS conducted a survey in some of the major cities and out of 75 samples of jewellery tested, only 9 were found conforming to the claimed purity. Whether any action can be taken by BIS against those whose samples were not of the claimed purity is under consideration of BIS.

(c) and (d) Implementation of Hallmarking Scheme by BIS is being strengthened through education of jewellers and by bringing awareness among the common consumers.

(e) and (f) Government have not received any report of any impact on the export of Indian jewellery.

[Translation]

Functioning of Settlement Commission

1080. SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR:
SHRI P. MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of 1729 applications filed before the Settlement Commission during 1994-95 to 1998-1999, only 624 were disposed-off and 1105 applications were pending as on 31st March, 1999;

(b) if so, the actual latest figures of applications;

(c) whether no time limit is prescribed for disposal-off cases by the Commission with the result that the final settlement of cases is much delayed defeating its very objective;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to correct the situation on both the counts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) 2306 applications were filed before the Settlement Commission during the period 1994-95 to 1998-99. Prior to this period the pendency was 2369 applications. During the period 2782 applications were disposed. 1893 applications were pending for disposal as on 31.3.1999.

(b) As on 1.4.2001, there were 1608 cases pending for final disposal.

(c) and (d) The reason for delay include delayed reports from the field formations of the Income-tax Department and request by the applicant for adjournment of cases fixed for hearing.

(e) The Commission has taken following steps for settlement of cases:

- (i) holding meetings with the concerned Chief Commissioner of Income-tax to expedite the Reports.
- (ii) Camping by Benches of the Commission at different stations; and
- (iii) Reallocating the work among the four Benches of the Commission to increase disposal.

[English]

WTO Stipulations

1081. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the WTO stipulations *i.e.*, agreement on Agriculture and agreement on Textiles have been implemented by the developed countries by the due date *i.e.*, January 1, 2001;

(b) if so, the market access available to India in these countries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The WTO Agreement on Agriculture mandates disciplines in the areas of Market Access, Domestic Support and Export Subsidies. Through an established procedure of annual notifications, Members indicate the implementation of their commitments under the Agreement on Agriculture. As there is a time-lag in filing these notifications in the WTO, the final compilation of implementation of commitments is not complete as yet. However, as per WTO statistics India's share in world exports of agriculture commodities, which stood at 1.3% for the period 1991-94 increased to 1.9% for the year 1998.

The provisions of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) mandate eventual integration into GATT of trade in the area of textiles and clothing by 2005, after which the multilateral trading rules of GATT/WTO would be applicable. This integration is being carried out

in four stages over the 10 years transition period. So far various countries have integrated into GATT 1994 textiles and clothing products, which accounted for not less than 33% of the total volume of the country's 1990 imports of the products in this area. In accordance with the provisions of ATC, WTO member countries have also notified their schedule for integrating a further 18% of the total volume of 1990 import of the products in this area, to be effective from 1st January 2002. The process of integration into GATT 1994 of trade in this area has so far not resulted in any meaningful removal of quotas in respect of developing countries as the integration process is back-loaded and restraining members have chosen to integrate mainly those products which are not under quota.

Blackmarketing of Rice Meant for BPL

1082. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of blackmarketing of rice meant for BPL;

(b) if so, in how many States the rice reserved for BPL category was sold in blackmarket;

(c) whether rice is being exported at Rs. 5.65 per kg. but it is provided in drought-hit areas at Rs. 6.40 per kg.;

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

(e) the quantum of rice found damaged in FCI godowns during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Government. Whereas the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated godowns of FCI, the responsibility of distribution of foodgrains to targeted beneficiaries in a transparent and accountable manner rests with the State Governments. Complaints regarding malfunctioning of TPDS including block marketing of foodgrains meant for distribution under PDS received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for taking suitable actions.

(c) and (d) Government of India has allowed FCI to offer rice @ Rs. 5650/- per MT and parboiled rice @ Rs. 6000/- per MT to the exporters whereas Government has

been allocating foodgrains free of cost to the drought affected States for food for work programme. Foodgrains are also allotted to the States for calamity relief such as drought, flood etc. at BPL rates *i.e.* Rs. 5650/- per MT of rice and Rs. 4150 per MT of wheat for distribution to the affected families.

(e) The quantity of rice categorised as damaged in FCI godowns during the last three years is given below:

Year	Quantity
1998-1999	1.15 lakh tones
1999-2000	1.15 lakh tones
2000-2001	0.36 lakh tones

Policy on Subsidy

1083. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subsidy related policy of the Government has proved as total failure in giving the desired results;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the achievement made so far;

(d) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to set up any mechanism to review the subsidy policy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) Subsidy related policy of the Government is considered to be a powerful welfare-augmenting instrument of fiscal policy. Explicit subsidies provided by the Central Government are listed in the budget documents but substantial portion of subsidies remain implicit in the provision for social and economic services where they often go out of control putting further strain on the fiscal deficit. In the Central Government Budget, substantial and explicit subsidies are provided for fertilizer and food including sugar. There are also hidden subsidies on supply of kerosene, domestic LPG, electricity to agriculture, irrigation, water and provision of social services such as health, education etc. In the Budget for 2000-01 the Government had announced that the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) in respect of petroleum products would be dismantled by the end of March 2002. Government is

constantly reviewing the burden of subsidy and its implication on fiscal aggregates. In May 1997 the Government placed a "Discussion Paper on Government Subsidies in India" before the House. It may be recognised that social and economic compulsions would not allow complete abolition of subsidies. However, Government is attempting to make subsidies transparent, well targeted and efficiently managed.

Representation of SCs/STs in the Ministry

1084. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR:
DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:

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

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group A) Services stood only at 10.68% (SCs-08.41% and STs-2.27%) and in Class II (Group B) Services only at 13.20% (SCs-09.68% and STs-3.52%) as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs on 1.1.1996 under Central Public Sector Enterprises;

(b) if so, indicate the total number of posts in Class I (Group A) category and Class II (Group B) and equivalent thereof under all Public Sector Undertakings/Enterprises, Statutory Organisations/Corporations, Autonomous Organisations, Attached and Subordinate offices under his Ministry; and

(c) the number of persons belonging to General, SC, ST and OBCs separately working against such posts and their respective percentages to such total posts as identified as per instructions under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.), dated 2nd July 1997?

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.

[Translation]

Bank Frauds

1085. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fraud cases in banks which came to light during the last two years alongwith bank-wise details thereof;

(b) the amount involved in such cases, bank-wise;

(c) the reasons for such fraud cases;

(d) the action taken by the Government to recover amount involved in these cases and to take action against those responsible for the same; and

(e) the amount recovered so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) According to details reported by Public Sector Banks to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the number of fraud cases was 1839 in the year 1999 and 1858 in the year 2000 involving Rs. 536.63 crores and Rs. 538.56 crores respectively. A statement showing bank-

wise number of frauds and amount involved therein is enclosed.

(c) The primary factors responsible for continued occurrence of frauds in banks are laxity in internal control system, arrears in the balancing of books of accounts and non-reconciliation of inter-branch accounts and non-observance of the laid down systems and procedures by the bank functionaries.

(d) and (e) Banks are taking regular departmental action against the officials found involved in cases of frauds. Bank file civil and criminal suit against borrowers conniving with the officials and seek appropriate reliefs. Cases are also referred to CBI and Police for investigation wherever considered necessary. During the years 1999 and 2000, an amount of Rs. 70.65 crores was recovered.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	1999		2000	
		No. of frauds	Amount	No. of frauds	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	State Bank of India	492	30.50	546	269.15
		*04	23.03	*05	0.25
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	18	3.87	12	5.82
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	32	64.36	32	15.13
4.	State Bank of Indore	07	0.86	15	0.92
5.	State Bank of Mysore	31	0.92	34	0.71
6.	State Bank of Patiala	24	40.47	20	0.74
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	08	0.22	10	6.88
8.	State Bank of Travancore	39	15.60	23	0.37
9.	Allahabad Bank	39	0.55	55	3.30
10.	Andhra Bank	39	11.62	102	14.36
11.	Bank of Baroda	64	2.09	83	2.35
12.	Bank of India	140	22.24	151	33.13
		*13	94.17	*03	1.34
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	16	0.58	03	6.57
14.	Canara Bank	286	87.79	203	53.85
15.	Central bank of India	74	13.75	44	3.94

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Corporation Bank	13	0.78	37	17.50
17.	Dena Bank	39	28.08	13	2.30
18.	Indian Bank	69	13.26	55	3.88
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	55	8.06	41	17.88
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	10	0.45	22	18.66
21.	Punjab National Bank	54	33.51	49	22.52
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	12	11.02	14	13.23
23.	Syndicate Bank	97	3.19	107	8.66
24.	Union Bank of India	68	1.78	43	5.60
25.	United Bank of India	33	1.82	51	1.43
26.	UCO Bank	47	1.25	45	2.88
27.	Vijaya Bank	16	20.81	40	5.21

*Outside India

(Data provisional)

Utilization of Funds for the Welfare Schemes

1086. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
 PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
 SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
 SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
 DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated to different States for the welfare of SCs/STs under the Centrally sponsored schemes during the last three years have not been properly utilised;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper utilization of funds meant for the welfare scheme of SCs/STs?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Funds sanctioned to the States for welfare of SCs/STs are to be utilized as per guidelines. In the event of any utilization, which is not as per guidelines, being noticed, appropriate action is taken. Progress of utilization of funds by the States is monitored based on stage of implementation of the scheme from time to time. Proper

Utilization of funds by the States, is being pursued in the following manner:—

- (i) Utilization of funds sanctioned in the previous years is looked into while processing proposal for sanction of further fund under the same scheme.
- (ii) Utilization of fund is monitored based on receipt of periodic progress reports which gives progress of physical and financial achievement.
- (iii) Utilization of fund is monitored during field visit of the officers of the Ministry to the States.
- (iv) Utilization of fund is reviewed in the meeting with officials of the State Government periodically.

[English]

Scrapping of Foodgrain Procurement System

1087. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
 SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
 MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:
 SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
 SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAOTALA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal for scrapping the present foodgrain procurement system and also the minimum support price system;

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

(c) whether an alternative arrangement have been proposed in this direction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No concrete proposal in this regard is under consideration.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Corporate Governance

1088. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to tone up corporate governance;

(b) whether in view of the market manipulations in recent past it has become imperative to bring about necessary changes for reforming the systems of corporate governance; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government contemplate to take in near future in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) set up a Committee on Corporate Governance on May 7, 1999 to promote and raise the standards the Corporate Governance. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, SEBI directed stock exchanges to amend their listing agreements to implement the mandatory recommendations of the Committee. SEBI has made some of the best practices of corporate governance mandatory, through a phased programme. The board of directors of a company shall have an optimum combination of executive and non-executive directors with not less than 50% of the board consisting of non-executive directors. A qualified and independent audit Committee is required to be set up, which will meet at least thrice a year. The annual reports of companies are required to have a separate section on corporate governance. The new clause in the listing agreement also lays down board procedures including the frequency of board meetings.

Further, a director shall not be a member in more than 10 committees or act as Chairman of more than five committees across all companies in which he is a director. Shareholders are to be provided information in case of appointment of a new director or re-appointment of a director. A board committee is to be formed to look into redressal of shareholder and investor complaints. The Government has also instituted a National Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance.

Welfare Schemes for the SC Students

1089. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes presently being implemented for the welfare and upliftment of Scheduled Caste;

(b) whether any special Central assistance is being given to the beneficiaries and particularly to students under the scheme approved by the Central Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the specific measures adopted under the scheme in the State of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) The list of schemes presently implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for welfare and upliftment of Scheduled Castes and assistance provided under these schemes to Madhya Pradesh during the last three years is enclosed as statement.

Out of the schemes implemented, the scheme for provision of Special Central Assistance provides for 100% grant to the State Government as an additive to the Special Component Plan implemented by the State Government for welfare of Scheduled Castes. This amount is utilized for assisting of SC beneficiaries living below poverty line for upgradation of skill and taking up economically viable activities.

Under the scheme, Post Matric Scholarship, Pre-Matric Scholarship, Coaching and Allied Scheme, Book Bank, Assistance for Construction of Hostel and Upgradation of Merit, assistance is provided to the State Government for assisting SC students for pursuing education.

Under the Special Educational Development Scheme for SC girls, assistance is provided to Zilla Parishads in 48 selected Districts in the State of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Statement

Name of the State/UT	Madhya Pradesh	(Amount in lakhs)		
Name of the Scheme	Purpose	Funds provided in 1998-99	Funds provided in 1999-2000	Funds provided in 2000-01
1	2	3	4	5
Special Central Assistance	Additive to SCP for SCs development	2237.08	3303.27	1720.00
Assistance to Scheduled Caste Development Corporation	Funding income generating schemes	4.77	Nil	—
Scheme for Post Matric scholarship	Pursuing higher education	Nil	193.85	382.47
Scheme of Pre-matric scholarship	Scholarship to children engaged in unclean occupations	90.22	86.05	153.45
Upgradation of merit scheme	Providing remedial coaching	55.74	39.15	16.80
Scheme of Construction of Girls and Boys hostels	Providing residential facility for SC Girls and Boys	574.53	532.18	1202.46
Scheme of Book Bank	Providing latest text books for technical courses	Nil	Nil	12.79
Coaching and allied scheme	Coaching for various competitive exams	82.94	66.09	44.03
Special Educational Development programme for SC girls	Residential schools for girls	38.95	20.98	—
National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers	Rehabilitation of scavenging families	Nil	883.375	—

1	2	3	4	5
National Safai Karamacharis Finance & Development Corporation	Providing loan	228.60	82.25	373.00
Aid to Voluntary Organisations	Providing grants	55.81	83.82	69.98
National SC/ST Finance & Development Corporation	Providing loan	1930.34	1294.53	361.95
PCR and Atrocities	Checking atrocities on SCs/STs	682.06	732.96	977.24
Supporting Project of All India or Inter-state nature for Scheduled Castes (Research & Training)*	Conducting research studies	Nil	Nil	Nil
National Overseas Scholarship to SC, ST etc. students*	Providing scholarship for studies abroad	Nil	Nil	Nil

*Fund is not released State-wise.

[*Translation*]

Valuation of Assets of Sick PSUs

1090. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector units which are proposed to be closed down or liquidated shortly;

(b) whether such public sector units have immovable assets which are likely to be cornered by land mafia in the event of closure;

(c) whether the Government have not evaluated the real fair value/price of those assets and is going ahead for the disposal of such units without any scientific evaluation of the said immovable assets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) As per information available, as on 30.6.2001, BIFR have recommended 'winding up' of 12 CPSUs statement enclosed). Establishments of Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. (BGML), Tannery & Footwear Corporation of India Ltd. (TAFCO), Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd. (MNPM), Bharat Process and Mechanical Engg. Ltd. (BPMEL), Weighbird (India) Ltd. (WIL), Rehabilitation Industries Corpon (RIC) and National Bicycle Corp. of India Ltd. (NBCIL) have been closed. Permission for closure is received for Mining & Allied Machinery Corpon. Ltd. (MAMC). Four units of HMT and seven loss making Refractory Units (LRUs)/Fabrication Yard of Bum Standard Co. Ltd. (BSCL) have been closed. Further closure of Cycle Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL), Indian Road Construction Corpon. (IRCC) and ET&T have

also been approved by the Government. Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI) has filed an application for liquidation.

(b) to (d) Such companies would have to go through the winding-up process under the Companies Act, wherein liquidator appointed by the High Court would deal with assets and liabilities of the company.

Statement

Winding Up Recommended by BIFR

1. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.
2. Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd.
3. British India Corporation Ltd.
4. Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.
5. Cyce Corporation of India Ltd.
6. Elgin Mills Company Ltd.
7. Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
8. Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd.
9. Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd.
10. National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.
11. Tannery & Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd.
12. Weighbird (India) Ltd.

[English]

Security Scam

1091. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the recommendations of the previous Joint Parliamentary Committee that investigated

earlier security scam have not yet been implemented by the Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof giving the details of the recommendations made by the previous JPC and not yet implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Action Taken Reports on all the 274 recommendations contained in the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee to Enquire into Irregularities in Securities and Banking Transactions were laid in the Parliament in July and December, 1994. The further progress in the matter was reviewed by the present Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market scam on 13th and 14th June, 2001. The report of the Committee is awaited.

World Bank Aided Projects in Tamil Nadu

1092. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the World Bank aided projects in progress in Tamil Nadu and the projects awaiting sanctions from the World Bank;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to get them sanctioned; and

(c) the details of the World Bank assistance provided to various existing projects in India, State-wise during each of the ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) There are three World Bank assisted projects under implementation in Tamil Nadu. Details are as given below:—

	Name of the Project	Date of Signing	Total Credit/Loan	Disb. as on 31.10.2001
1.	Second Madras Water Supply Project	20.11.1995	US\$ 80.5 M	US\$ 63.44 M
2.	Second Tamil Nadu Urban Dev. Project	14.7.1999	US\$ 105 M	US\$ 70.38 M
3.	Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation	22.9.1995	SDR 181.9 M	SDR 96.319 M

In Addition, there are 3 multi-state projects namely (i) States Road Infrastructure Development Technical Assistance (ii) Agricultural Human Resource Development Project (iii) Hydrology Project, in which Tamil Nadu is one of the participating States.

Three project proposals namely (i) Tamil Nadu Women Development Project (ii) Tamil Nadu Health Services Project and (iii) Tamil Nadu State Highway Project have been posed to the World Bank for assistance.

(c) The requisite information is provided in the statement attached.

Statement

Details of World Bank Assisted Ongoing Projects (State-wise)

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Projects	(IBRD Loan and Disb. in US\$ M) (IDA Credit and Disb. in SDR M)	
			Total Assistance Credit/Loan	Disbursement as on 31.10.2001
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	1076.3 (IBRD) 526.025 (IDA)	386.116 298.260
2.	Assam	1	81 (IDA)	42.135
3.	Gujarat	1	381 (IBRD)	48.548
4.	Haryana	1	187.3 (IDA)	167.028
5.	Karnataka	3	435 (IBRD) 137.9 (IDA)	91.6 61.265
6.	Kerala	2	78.9 (IDA)	14.328
7.	Maharashtra	2	124.783 (IBRD) 97.9 (IDA)	51.988 7.444
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1	84.2 (IDA)	2.889
9.	Orissa	4	332.67 (IBRD) 286.6 (IDA)	117.509 130.942
10.	Rajasthan	3	180 (IBRD) 133.5 (IDA)	18.536 5.75
11.	Tamil Nadu	3	185.5 (IBRD) 181.9 (IDA)	133.815 96.319
12.	Uttar Pradesh	7	277.208 (IBRD) 300.5 (IDA)	54.332 68.202

In addition to this, there are 8 multi-state projects with total assistance of US\$ 285.895 million (IBRD) and SDR 470.7 million (IDA), which are under implementation in many States.

Minimum Support Price for Rubber

1093. SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Government to implement the minimum support price of rubber;

(b) the response from the natural rubber merchants in this regard;

(c) whether there is any non-cooperation from the rubber merchants to implement the minimum support price; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Government has not fixed 'minimum support price' for rubber. However Government has fixed and notified minimum price for trading in rubber under Section 13 of the Rubber Act, 1947. Trading in violation of the notified price is punishable under the Rubber Act. Rubber Board has set up a Monitoring Cell to look into the complaints of violation of the price notification.

(b) to (d) Initially rubber dealers had some misapprehensions about the minimum price but after discussions with the trading community, the market has since settled and normal trading is taking place now.

Import of Wood

1094. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wood imported from various countries during the last three years;

(b) the cost of the said imported wood;

(c) whether this wood was found to cheap quality and below the norms fixed for import;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry into this matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Wood has been freely importable since prior to 1996. No quality restrictions for the import of wood have been imposed by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. No incidence of import of cheap quality of timber has come to the notice of that Ministry.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Statement*Import of Wood*

Code No.	item Description	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Qty. (Tons)	Value Rs. crore	Qty. (Tons)	Value Rs. crore	Qty. (Tons)	Value Rs. crore
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4401	Fuel wood, in logs, in billets, in twigs, in faggots or in similar forms; Wood in chips or particles; Sawdust and wood waste and scrap; whether or not agglomerated in logs, briquettes, pellets or similar forms	1199	0.46	455	0.40	706	1.41
4403	Wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared	1614811 Cubic Metre	1428.01	1941946 Cubic Metre	1859.61	2097852 Cubic Metre	2092.05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4404	Hoopwood, spilt poles, Piles, pickets and stakes of wood, pointed but not sawn lengthwise; wooden sticks, roughly trimmed but not turned, bent or otherwise worked, suitable for the manufacture of walking-sticks, umbrellas, tool handles or the like; Chipwood and the like	105	0.52	41	0.30	89	0.20
4407	Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planned, sanded or finger-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm	*	15.03	*	12.28	*	26.01
4409	Wood (including strips and friezes for parquet flooring, not assembled) continuously shaped (tongued, grooved, rebated, chamfered, V-jointed, beaded, moulded, rounded or the like) along any of its edges or faces, whether or not planed, sanded or finger-jointed	2136	15.19	170	1.52	236	3.57
Total			1459.20		1874.01		2123.24

*=There are 16 Tariff lines under the heading 4407 and the unit of measurement of quantity is not the same for all these lines.

Demand and Allocation of Foodgrains

1095. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) the demand and allocation of wheat, rice, kerosene and edible oils during the last two years, State/ Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether allocation is less than their demand;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken to supply foodgrains as per their demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) under TPDS to all States/UTs has been fixed on the basis of TPDS guidelines and not on the basis of demands States/UTs. Annual allocation of kerosene oil to the States/Union Territories for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) is made by following certain principles in advance of the commencement of the year. In addition to the annual allocation, requests made by the State Governments for allocation of additional kerosene on account of unforeseen situations like flood, drought etc., are considered on merits. The statement-I indicating

allocation of wheat, rice and kerosene oil during the last 2 years, State-wise is enclosed.

Allocation of imported edible oil was made to States/ Union Territories under the Public Distribution System on the basis of demands received from them and on factors like total imports, inter-se requirements of States,

availability of stocks in the Central Pool, past off-take, storage capacity with STC at ports etc. Hence there was variation in the demand and allocation of edible oil to different States/Union Territories. The Statement-II indicating the demand of edible oil for PDS received from States/Union Territories during the financial year 1999-2000 & 2000-01 and allocations made is enclosed.

Statement I

State-wise allocation of Wheat, Rice and Kerosene during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

Sl.	State/UT	Allocation (1999-2000)			Allocation (2000-2001)		
		Rice (in '000 tonnes)	Wheat (in '000 tonnes)	K. Oil (in MT)	Rice (in '000 tonnes)	Wheat (in '000 tonnes)	K. Oil (in MT)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2300.400	141.000	679848	3179.258	96.000	651375
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	109.200	7.800	10917	88.704	8.200	10346
3.	Assam	670.000	213.900	272623	788.708	123.600	273270
4.	Bihar	507.360	861.040	870036	837.444	1256.168	894246
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	*	126.417	42.128	*
6.	Delhi	154.680	724.800	204672	163.320	511.680	204672
7.	Goa	75.960	33.720	28075	49.070	23.154	28075
8.	Gujarat	292.500	739.500	837295	559.526	919.287	874455
9.	Haryana	000.000	156.600	171731	0.000	184.558	175633
10.	Himachal Pradesh	146.760	142.440	61845	98.691	106.753	61434
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	433.266	364.548	111765	262.920	123.840	105216
12.	Jharkhand	—	—	*	82.236	123.352	*
13.	Karnataka	900.00	420.000	531167	1485.272	363.068	534360
14.	Kerala	1743.840	452.640	302078	1746.539	452.640	309149
15.	Madhya Pradesh	412.200	503.880	666632	577.452	814.762	685182
16.	Maharashtra	762.480	1208.160	1577953	790.064	1465.140	1488926
17.	Manipur	125.000	23.220	22859	65.534	20.520	22781
18.	Meghalaya	207.576	14.460	21034	224.770	12.000	21086

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Mizoram	125.076	14.080	8146	95.660	15.120	8195
20.	Nagaland	125.100	23.490	14362	122.040	23.040	14370
21.	Orissa	1169.855	420.000	381696	994.562	102.300	382251
22.	Punjab	11.520	61.560	343127	20.160	107.556	343127
23.	Rajasthan	15.860	633.220	443265	33.062	1251.943	544316
24.	Sikkim	87.720	2.090	7895	92.556	1.200	7895
25.	Tamil Nadu	1814.760	360.000	732527	1582.944	0.000	732527
26.	Tripura	197.500	17.160	32562	164.890	15.360	32757
27.	Uttar Pradesh	739.700	1529.440	1410905	873.440	1798.576	1456783
28.	Uttaranchal	-	-	*	24.760	16.964	*
29.	West Bengal	518.600	1061.100	820091	874.824	1354.896	831722
30.	A&N Islands @	30.000	9.000	7037	31.804	9.840	6736
31.	Chandigarh	3.600	21.600	15408	2.520	15.478	15408
32.	D&N Haveli	6.600	3.000	3238	5.109	1.345	3238
33.	Daman & Diu	7.200	2.400	2438	1.852	0.748	2438
34.	Lakshadweep @	6.300	0.504	921	6.540	0.504	921
35.	Pondicherry	24.000	9.000	15363	38.568	6.240	15363
Total		13724.613	10175.352	10609516	16091.216	11367.960	10738253

@-Allocation for these two States are made annually.

*-New States were formed in November, 2000-allocation/upliftment are included in undivided Bihar, MP and UP.

Statement II

State-wise Demand, Allocation and Lifting of imported edible Oils under PDS during the Financial year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

(Quantity in tonnes)

S.No.	States/UTs.	1999-2000			2000-2001		
		Demand	Alln.	Lifting	Demand	All.	Lifting
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	98000	56700	12139	2400	10000	3000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Goa	3600	2430	851	1350	1050	545
6.	Gujarat	40330	25400	10082	25000	12504	9058
7.	Haryana	200	200	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3200	2060	737	840	535	326
9.	J&K	1500	1262	55	750	250	8
10.	Karnataka	14000	13600	2341	6000	3500	—
11.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Maharashtra	56000	41800	9347	25000	Nil	Nil
14.	Manipur	7800	5215	56	5850	2180	Nil
15.	Meghalaya	1000	560	26	300	200	12
16.	Mizoram	600	306	45	1500	675	—
17.	Nagaland	4800	3740	1636	2400	1940	540
18.	Orissa	20900	10000	956	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Sikkim	2200	1720	960	600	550	540
22.	Tamil Nadu	5400	3950	914	Nil	Nil	Nil
23.	Tripura	1100	660	101	220	90	50
24.	U.P.	5000	5000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
25.	West Bengal	53000	28000	5479	11300	5026	4885
26.	A&N Islands	250	177	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
27.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	D&N Haveli	960	808	448	480	360	272
29.	Daman & Diu	1850	1561	530	750	455	265
30.	Delhi	5900	4950	1951	2100	1379	847
31.	Lakshadweep	400	334	147	180	180	Nil
32.	Pondicherry	11000	6800	988	2400	1250	324
Total		338990	217233	49789	111020	42124	20672

[*Translation*]

Export-Import Performance

1096. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:
SHRI SAHIB SINGH:

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

(a) the value of export and import made during the year 2001 till date;

(b) the present position of India's foreign trade and the steps being taken by the Government to maintain the balance between export and import; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage exports and reduce the imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) As per the provisional data furnished by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta, India's exports and imports are valued at US\$ 32706.14 million and 37531.35 million respectively, during January-September 2001. India's export growth rate was 4.17% and import growth rate was—2.68% during January-September 2001.

(b) and (c) The exports of merchandise goods during April—September, 2001-02 has recorded a negative growth of 1.95% and imports have witnessed a growth of only 1.81%. A number of measures have been taken to boost exports which include reduction in the export credit rate for both pre-shipment and post-shipment, special financial package to manufacturer exporters with an export contract of Rs. 100 crores or above for a period of one year from October 2001, extension of normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days for exports made to Latin American countries for a period of one year and upward revision of duty drawback rates on a number of product groups. Export performance is constantly being monitored and suitable measures are being taken.

Export of Honey

1097. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high grade honey is being produced in our country;

(b) whether the Government are taking steps to encourage the exports of good quality thick honey;

(c) whether low quality honey is being imported in our country on cheaper rates thereby making lakhs of families unemployed;

(d) whether the scheme is being formulated by the Government to check such imports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) Government have not received any report on import of low quality honey at cheaper rates.

(d) and (e) Import of natural honey is subject to a basic customs duty of 35%. Import of all edible products including honey into the country is subject to the standards laid down in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. The imported honey is required to conform to the quality standards laid down under the above act.

[*English*]

Excise Duty Collected from Beedi Industry

1098. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue of excise duty collected from Beedi industry during 2000-2001;

(b) the percentage of revenue which was diverted as welfare cess from excise duty; and

(c) the revenue collection of West Bengal State during the said fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The total excise duty collected from Beedi industry during 2000-2001 was Rs. 354 crore.

(b) The information is being collected.

(c) During the said fiscal year, the revenue collection from excise duty on beedis in respect of the Excise Commissionerates located in West Bengal, whose jurisdiction also extends to Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, was of the order of Rs. 56 crore.

Rejection of Indian Wheat by Indonesia

1099. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the efforts of the Union Government to export wheat to Indonesia received setback since the Indonesian Government has rejected Indian wheat due to quality reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have been exporting poor quality wheat resulting in heavy transit charges etc.;

(d) if so, the details of such losses suffered during the last three years;

(e) whether the Union Government have initiated steps to stop recurrence of such incidents in future;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Interest Rates of Banks

1100. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has cut the interest rates and CRR again in the month of October, 2001;

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

(c) whether the Government have evaluated the impact of such steps on small savings;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the benefits achieved/likely to be achieved through this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) On a review of macroeconomic and monetary developments, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced the Bank Rate by 0.50 percentage point from 7.0 per cent to 6.50 per cent with effect from the close of business on October 22, 2001.

In the mid-Term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy for the year 2001-2002 presented on October 22, 2001, Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) was reduced by 200 basis points to 5.50 percent from 7.50 per cent of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL). Effective from the fortnight beginning November 3, 2001, CRR was reduced to 5.75 per cent and effective from fortnight beginning December 29, 2001, the CRR will be further reduced to 5.50 percent of NDTL.

(c) to (e) It is expected that the recent changes in policy with regard to CRR will facilitate the development of a short term yield curve, develop money market, reduce the regulatory arbitrage between banks and non-banks, enhance the availability of lendable resources with the banks and improve the efficiency of indirect instruments in the conduct of monetary policy. At the present level of NDTL, the combined impact of the measures will result in augmenting lendable resources of the banking system by about Rs. 8,000 crore (about Rs. 6,000 crore effective from November 3, 2001).

The reduction in CRR and consequent increase in lendable resources of the banking system should have a favourable impact on the economy.

[*English*]

Export of Marine Products to USA

1101. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total marine products exported to the United States of America during last three years;

(b) the details thereof in terms of quantity and value;

(c) whether efforts are being made to increase the export of marine products to that country;

(d) if so, the achievement made in that regard in the current financial year; and

(e) the marine products exported to other countries during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The quantity and value of marine products exported from India to the United States of America (USA) during the last three years is as shown below:

Year	Quantity (In Metric Tonnes)	Value (in Mln. US Dollars)
1998-'99	34472	147.68
1999-2000	36645	180.17
2000-01	41747	255.93

Source: Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The details of marine products exported to the USA and other major markets during the current financial year (*i.e.* during April-September 2001) are as shown below:

Country	Quantity (In Metric Tonnes)	Value (in Mln. US Dollars)
USA	20836	144.43
Japan	33473	233.35
European Union	33481	99.08
China	32108	39.23
South East Asian Countries	15360	43.46
Middle East	6831	18.28
Other countries	9532	24.82
Total	151620	602.65

Source: Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

Dismantling of Trade Barriers

1102. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in accordance with the World Trade Organisation Treaty of 1994, 10 year transition period was allowed to developing countries for dismantling all trade barriers in the textile sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to ensure that our export efforts do not prove to be futile before the expiry of the transition period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The provisions of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) mandate eventual integration into GATT of trade in the area of textiles and clothing by 2005, after which all restrictions under ATC would have been eliminated and the multilateral trading rules of GATT/WTO would be applicable. This integration is being carried out in four stages over the 10 year transition period. So far various countries have integrated into GATT 1994 textiles and clothing products, which accounted for not less than 33% of the total volume of the country's 1990 imports of the products in this area. In accordance with the provisions of the ATC, WTO member countries have also notified their schedule for integrating a further 18% of the total volume of 1990 imports of the products in this area, to be effective from 1st January, 2002.

The Government has taken a number of steps to make the domestic industry competitive to face the growing global challenge. Some of the steps taken in this regard include dereservation of woven segment of ready made garment from the SSI sector, operationalisation of Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), facility of accelerated depreciation for certain machinery covered under TUFS etc. Technology mission for cotton has been launched for initiating focused steps for enhancing production, productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive down stream textile products. Concessional custom duty has also been permitted in respect of certain textile machinery. The National Textile Policy 2000 has been announced to provide policy direction for orderly and sustained growth of the textile industry and to give thrust to textile exports.

'Smuggling of Drugs'

1103. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug peddlers are now using Indian route for smuggling of narcotics and banned drugs particularly after the start of war in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details of the seizures made after September 11, 2001 in India; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check and curb drug trafficking through India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The proximity to the International border and good air-linkage with other countries make India vulnerable to drug trafficking, which is a clandestine activity. Seizure of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in India, as reported by various drug law enforcement agencies, do not indicate an overall increasing trend after the start of war in Afghanistan.

(b) Details of narcotic drugs seized in India, as reported by various drug law enforcement agencies, during the month of September and October, 2001 are opium-389 kgs Heroin-147 kgs, Hashish 2456 kgs, Ganja-2770 Kgs and Methaqualone-40 Kgs.

(c) Government of India has already taken a number of significant steps to prevent and put effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, training to officers, liberal reward scheme for informers, fencing of Indo-Pak border provided with flood lighting, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act, quarterly coordination meetings by NCB, holding of quarterly cross-border meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies as a part of the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers, holding of operational level meetings with Myanmar officials and providing two sniffer dogs and also training dog handlers of Myanmar.

Waiver of Interest Burden on Orissa

1104. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has approached Union Government for wavier of interest burdens on Orissa w.e.f. 1999-2000 till date because of the poverty of the State as well recurring natural calamities since 1999 super cyclone followed by severe drought of 2000 and heavy flood in 2001;

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

(c) whether the State Government has approached the Union Government for moratorium of the Central Government loans and arranging World Bank and DFID assistance for financial restructuring of the State; and

(d) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Requests have been received from the Government of

Orissa from time to time, for the waiver of outstanding loans and interest and for moratorium on Central Government loans from 1999-2000 onwards.

In the aftermath of super cyclone, in view of the financial constraints faced by the State, the repayment of loan and interest for the period from November 1999-March 2000 was rephased for two years, with a moratorium of six months. The recovery of loans along with the interest due for 15th March 2001 was also deferred till 29th March 2001. For the over all economic development of the State, Government of India has provided Central Assistance to the State Plan amounting to Rs. 2626.56 crores from 1999-2000 till date. Besides Government of India has also released Rs. 1106.48 crores during this period as the Centre's share towards the Calamity Relief Fund of the State and assistance under Natural Calamity Contingency Fund for calamity relief.

Orissa Government have approached the Government of India, for World Bank assistance for Structural Adjustment loan of Rs. 3000 crores with possible DFID co-financing, which is under the active consideration of Government of India and World Bank.

Impact of Nuclear Test on Export/Import

1105. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

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

(a) the Import-Export that suffered after the 1998 nuclear tests;

(b) the steps taken by the Governments to increase the exports and decrease the imports in the country;

(c) whether some countries have lifted their bans which were imposed aftermath 1998 nuclear tests;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which India's manufacturing sector and trade has or likely to be improved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The value of Exports and Imports of

Indian merchandise goods and the growth rates as per data furnished by Directorate General of Commerce Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, are given below:

(US \$ Million)

Year	Exports	%Growth	Imports	% Growth
1997-98	35006	4.6	41484	6.0
1998-99	33219	(-) 5.1	42389	2.2
1999-2000	36822	10.8	49671	17.2
2000-01	44560	21.0	50537	1.7
2001-02 April-Sept. (Provisional)	20968	(-)1.95	25931	1.81

The negative growth in 1998-99 was mainly due to the South East Asian crisis. There has been no perceptible impact on India's exports due to the ban by countries like USA as the Indian entities affected by export restrictions hardly export to USA.

Several measures to boost exports have been taken in order to provide competitive edge to Indian goods in the global market. The measures include reduction in transaction costs through decentralization, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions, setting up of Special Economic Zones. Besides these, the measures announced in the new Exim Policy 2001-2002 inter alia include promotion of agricultural exports, market access initiative, setting up business cum trade facilitation center, etc. Some of the recent measures taken to promote exports include reduction in the export credit rate for both pre-shipment and post-shipment, special financial package to manufacturer exporters with a export contract of Rs. 100 crores or above for a period of one year from October 2001, extension of normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days for exports made to Latin American countries for a period of one year and upward revision of duty drawback rates on a number of product groups. Export performance is constantly being monitored and measures are being taken to reduce the trade deficit. A war room is constantly monitoring the import of sensitive items for which Quantitative Restrictions have been removed.

(c) to (e) The restrictions imposed by countries like USA and Japan consequent upon Indian Nuclear Tests of May, 1998 have since been lifted. However, the actual impact of the removal of these restrictions on Indian Trade etc. cannot be quantified separately as the manufacturing and trading activities are determined by a number of factors like global economic growth, infrastructural development within the country etc.

[Translation]

Trade Disputes

1106. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases of trade disputes between India and other countries are pending with dispute disposal body of the World Trade Organisation (WTO);

(b) if so, the details thereof and negotiation conducted in this regard; and

(c) the steps/measures taken by the Government in order to ensure the favourable decision of the dispute disposal body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) India has approached the Dispute Settlement Body of the World Trade Organization (WTO) for settling some trade disputes we have with certain trading partners. A few of our trading partners have also complained to the WTO against India in certain cases. The present status of all these pending cases in the Dispute Settlement Body of WTO where India is either the complaining country or the country complained against, is given in the table given below.

In all these disputes India has held consultations with the country complained against or the complaining country with a view to clarifying the issues related to the specific measures under dispute and arriving at a mutually acceptable solution. In certain cases no mutually acceptable solution could be reached and either India or the complaining country has sought the establishment of a dispute settlement panel. Timely submissions have been made before these panels setting forth the Government's view point on the measures under-dispute.

Sl.	Subject of Dispute	Complaining Country	Complaint against	Present Status
1.	Restrictions on export of products including raw hides and skins.	EC	India	Consultations held
2.	Concerning certain measures affecting the Auto motive sector- Auto policy	EC	India	Panel process near conclusion
3.	Import restrictions maintained by India for reasons other than Article XVIII: B of GATT 1994	EC	India	Consultations held
4.	A series of customs duties increases implemented by Indian authorities	EC	India	Consultations held
5.	Anti-dumping duties imposed by South African Authorities on imports of anti-biotics from India	India	South Africa	Consultations held
6.	Concerning certain measures affecting the Automotive sector- Auto policy	USA	India	Panel process near conclusion
7.	Anti-dumping duties imposed by US on CTL Steel Plate imports from India	India	US	Panel established. First submission made.
8.	US legislation on dumping and subsidy offset (Byrd Amendment)	India and 8 other countries	US	Panel established
9.	Anti-dumping duties imposed by Brazil on Jute bags imports from India	India	Brazil	Consultations held
10.	Argentina Drugs Dispute	India	Argentina	Consultations held

Authority to coordinate between Foreign Investors and Government

1107. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any authority to coordinate between foreign investors and the Government machinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details of mechanism available in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) The Government has set up a Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) on 9.8.1999 to facilitate quick translation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approvals into implementation, provide a pro-active one-stop after-care service to foreign investors by helping them obtain necessary approvals, sort out operational problems and meet with various Government agencies to find solutions to problems as well as maximizing opportunities through a partnership approach. FIIA acts as a single point interface between the investor and various Government agencies. The functions of the FIIA are to

expedite various approvals/permissions, foster partnership between Investors and Government agencies concerned, resolve difference in perceptions, enhance overall credibility, review policy framework and liaise with the Ministry of External Affairs for keeping India's diplomatic missions abroad informed about translation of FDI approvals into actual investment and implementation.

[English]

Cooperative Banks

1108. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cooperative banks are likely to get Rs. 8,000 crore fund infusion from the Central and State Governments to tide over financial crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise, names of the banks which are envisaged for the benefit under the scheme; and

(d) the terms and conditions on which such package is likely to be given to these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Government had appointed a Task Force to study the co-operative credit system and suggest measures for its strengthening under the Chairmanship of Shri Jagdish Capoor, the then Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Task Force has, in its report, suggested broad guidelines for framing a package for strengthening of cooperative credit system. The report is under examination of the Government in consultation with State Governments and other financial institutions. Government had organized a Conference of Chief Ministers on 25th August, 2001 in which a decision was taken to re-examine the issues relating to the assistance to be provided to the cooperative credit system as also the funding mechanism therefore. Accordingly, a Committee of Cooperative Ministers of select State Governments under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of State for Finance has been set up. The Committee is expected to examine the feasibility of delayering of cooperative credit structure apart from the issue of sharing pattern of assistance for revitalization of cooperatives and its funding mechanism, with a view to reduce intermediation cost in cooperatives. The Committee is deliberating on various issues and is expected to give recommendations shortly.

Grants to Gujarat Under SCP & TSP

1109. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made by Union Government to Gujarat under Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) during the last three years; and

(b) the number of SC/ST families benefited from these plans in Gujarat during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The strategy of Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) was evolved for ensuring rapid economic development of Scheduled Tribes (STs). The strategy of Special Component Plan (SCP) was evolved similarly for ensuring rapid economic development of the Scheduled Castes (SCs). Under the strategy, fund under TSP and SCP are earmarked out of the Plan fund available with the States/UTs concerned, in proportion to the percentage of ST and SC population in the States/UTs respectively.

Special Central Assistance (SCA) is provided by Union Government to States/UTs as an additive to their Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) and Special Component Plan (SCP). The funds allocated to Government of Gujarat under SCA to SCP and SCA to TSP for SCs and STs during the last three years as under:—

Plans	(Amount Rs. in lakhs)		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
SCA to SCP	371.40	682.27	1,521.88
SCA to TSP	3,689.70	3,139.98	3,139.98

(b) As per information received under Point 11 (A) and 11 (B) of 20 Point Programme, number of families benefited under various schemes are as follows:—

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
SC families	65,073	60,146	67,304
ST families	1,25,651	1,26,543	1,25,271

Corruption cases in New India Assurance Company

1110. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 838 given on July 27, 2001 regarding corruption in New India Assurance Company Limited and state:

(a) the details of official of DO-31090 named in the investigation report;

(b) whether the report of the Central Vigilance Commission so referred by the Ministry has been received; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken or being taken against the officials found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Investigation Report of the Vigilance Department of the New India Assurance Company has named officials of the level of Administrative Officer and Assistant of the company alleging irregularities in the settlement of claims.

(b) and (c) The Central Vigilance Commission has advised initiation of Penalty proceedings against the officials. Accordingly, disciplinary proceedings are being initiated by the Vigilance Department of the Insurance Company.

[Translation]

Revamp of CE&C Deptt.

1111. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the collection revenue of the Department of Central Excise and Customs is declining;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the revenue collected during the last three years and the present year till date;

(c) whether the Government propose to revamp the Central Excise and Customs Department in order to meet the declining revenue collection;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor the other corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The revenue collected during the last three years and the present year till date is given below:

	Customs (Rs. in crore)	Excise # (Rs. in crore)
1998-99	41278	52454
1999-2000	48334	61747
2000-2001	47620	68242
April-October, 2001	23131 (P)	37073 (P)

#Excise revenue is exclusive of cesses not administered by Department of Revenue.

Note: Revenue collection are as per departmental records.
P=Provisional figures.

There was no decline in the revenue from excise duty during 1998-99 to 2000-2001. As regards customs, there was marginal decline in revenue in 2000-2001 over previous year. Apart from other factors, the reduction of customs duty on crude & petroleum products in September, 2000 contributed to decline in revenue in that year.

(c) to (e) A proposal to achieve restructuring of the Customs & Central Excise Department for enhanced revenue productivity, better tax management, improving administrative efficiency has been approved by the Government.

Export of Meat

1112. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which meat of various cattles were exported during the each of last three years till date and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(b) whether the Government have received requests/suggestions from various religious/social organisation to stop meat export;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The total value of meat of various cattles exported during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Value (Rs. crores)
1998-99	691.30
1999-2000	706.42
2000-01	1375.04
April-June 2001 (Prov.)	259.61

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Meat of various cattles has been exported from India to Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Peoples Republic of China, Comoros, Congo, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Arab Republic of Egypt, Equadon, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea (Bisu) French Guinea, Greece, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seschelles, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad, Turks CIS, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, USA, Ukraine, Yemen Republic and Vietnam.

(b) and (c) Various religious/social organisations have been representing to the Government from time to time to stop the export of meat on religious ground as also due to their apprehensions that it would lead to the depletion of livestock wealth of India. Prominent among these organisations include Ahimsaa Research Foundation, New Delhi; Animal Rights International, New Delhi; Ahimsa Mahasangh, Mumbai; The Humanitarian League, Mumbai; Maharaja Kumarapal Jeevadaya Trust, Chennai, Jain Samaj in various States; Ahimsa Priya Samaj, New Delhi; Akhil Bharatya Maans-Niryat Nirodh Parishad and its branches in various States.

(d) Government has considered, with necessary gravity, the requests to ban export of meat and meat products from India. Exports of meat have not led to depletion of livestock wealth of India. According to the livestock census of 1987 and 1992, the livestock population has reportedly increased from 445.28 million in 1987 to 470.14 million in 1992, thereby registering an annual growth rate of 1.1%. Moreover, the meat exports of India amount to only about 4% of meat production in

the country. The livelihood of a sizeable number of people is connected with the meat industry involving rearing of animals, slaughtering of animals and meat processing. As such, a ban on meat export may result in unemployment as well as loss of foreign exchange earnings. Moreover, unproductive animals will not be tended and thereby become carriers of livestock diseases affecting productive cattle and milk production. Such unproductive animals will also require to be fed, thus depriving healthy productive animals of the care they would need.

Lodhi Caste in as Backward Caste in Maharashtra

1113. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Lodhi" caste has being identified throughout India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the "Lodhi" caste has been identified as backward caste, particularly in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the name of the States where this caste has been included as a backward caste?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Doesn't arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) As per the provision of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) Act, 1993, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has considered the proposal to include "Lodhi" caste in the Central Lists of OBCs for Maharashtra and has recommended rejection of the request for its inclusion as the community has not been found socially backward in the State of Maharashtra.

(f) "Lodhi" caste/community has been included in the Central Lists of OBCs for Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. This caste has also been included in the State of Gujarat as Lodha and in Haryana as Lodh/Lodha.

*[English]***100% Export Oriented Units in Tamil Nadu**

1114. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been encouraging setting up of 100% Export Oriented Units in the Granite Industrial Sector;

(b) if so, the details of such Industries set up in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether the applications received from the industrial entrepreneurs in this regard are still pending for clearance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the same will be cleared?

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

(b) A list showing details of industries set up in Granite Sector under EOU Scheme in Tamil Nadu is enclosed as statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Statement*List of EOUs in Granite Sector Approved till date*

Sl.No.	Unit Name	Approval Date
1	2	3
1.	Interfit India Limited	March, 30, 1982
2.	Tamin Granite Plant (I)	August 26, 1982
3.	Gem Granites	May 21, 1983
4.	Raslee Granites Pvt. Limited	June 23, 1983
5.	Enterprising Enterprises	April 17, 1984
6.	Amman Granites	October 22, 1984
7.	Monuments India	October 28, 1985
8.	Coramandel Granite Company Limited	October 27, 1986
9.	Pallava Granite Industries	September 8, 1987
10.	Pooshya Exports Pvt. Ltd.	December 15, 1987
11.	Himalaya Granites Ltd.	March 25, 1988
12.	Vijay Granites Pvt. Limited	April 15, 1988
13.	Sparetek Ceramics India Limited	April, 1988
14.	Aro Granite Industries Ltd.	August 12, 1988
15.	Swan Stonarts Pvt. Limited	September 26, 1988
16.	Yercaud Granites Pvt. Ltd.	October 3, 1988
17.	Arkeyan Granites Pvt. Limited	October 12, 1988
18.	Emmessen Exports Pvt. Ltd.	October 12, 1988
19.	Erode Granites Pvt. Ltd.	November 4, 1988

1	2	3
20.	Karthik Granites Pvt. Limited	December 14, 1988
21.	Brite Granites Pvt. Ltd.	February 15, 1989
22.	Disco Stone Indo Limited	March 30, 1989
23.	Inlac Granston Limited	March, 31, 1989
24.	Monumarx Granites	March 31, 1989
25.	Sigmah Granite Limited	April 7, 1989
26.	Madhav Marbles and Granites Limited	September 8, 1989
27.	Bannari Amman Sugars Limited	October 31, 1989
28.	Tamin Granite Tiles Plant-II	November 7, 1989
29.	Ankit Granites Limited	February 16, 1990
30.	Gran Rock Tiles Pvt. Ltd.	March 5, 1990
31.	G.T.P. Granites Limited	March 5, 1990
32.	Kothari Industrial Corporation Limited	June 28, 1990
33.	Premium Granites Limited	June 28, 1990
34.	Talvadi Rock and Mineral Products Ltd.	June, 28, 1990
35.	South India Corporation	June 29, 1990
36.	Sharon Granites	April 30, 1991
37.	Gee Gee Granites Limited	April 30, 1991
38.	Imperial Granites Ltd.	May 7, 1991
39.	G.T.P. Granites Ltd., Unit-II	December 24, 1991
40.	U.T. Limited	December 31, 1991
41.	Kaisei Kattima Granites Pvt. Ltd.	February 21, 1992
42.	Obli Granites	February 28, 1992
43.	Heritage Granites Pvt. Ltd.	April 9, 1992
44.	Sharon Super Granites	December 17, 1992
45.	Saketh India Limited	March 5, 1993
46.	Squared Granites Limited	June 28, 1993
47.	United Granites Pvt. Limited	May 18, 1994
48.	Amman Granites Exports Private Limited	December 19, 1994
49.	Alps Granite Pvt. Limited	March 31, 1995
50.	Ashok Granites Limited	July 7, 1995
51.	Indigra Exports Pvt. Ltd.	September 19, 1995

1	2	3
52.	Wellshine Granites Pvt. Limited	September 19, 1995
53.	Euro Industries India Limited	September 27, 1996
54.	Stone Wonders India Limited	March 19, 1996
55.	Omega Granite	May 27, 1996
56.	Peter Deniss	December 2, 1996
57.	Shri Cevraj Granites Pvt. Limited	March 20, 1997
58.	Atlas Granite	April 22, 1998
59.	G.R. Granites	August 31, 1999
60.	Madurai Arkay Rock Produce Pvt. Ltd.	September 9, 1998
61.	AG Granites (P) Ltd.	September, 22, 1998
62.	Fauna International	January 5, 1999
63.	A Blue Hill Granites (India) Pvt. Ltd.	March 19, 1999
64.	Arkay Glenrock Pvt. Ltd.	August 30, 1999
65.	SNI Granites	January 5, 2000
66.	Peri Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	March 23, 2000
67.	Aro Granite Industries Ltd.	March, 29, 2000
68.	Archean Granites Limited	March 29, 2000
69.	Seven Hills Enterprises	March 29, 2000
70.	Madhav Marbles & Granites Ltd. Unit II	March 31, 2000
71.	Mani Omega Granites Pvt. Ltd.	June, 21, 2000
72.	Katt-Ma Exports Private Limited	March 20, 2001
73.	Selective Stone Private Limited	June 7, 2001

**Grants for the Welfare Scheme for
the Backward Classes**

1115. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes prepared for the alleviation of poverty among the backward communities in the country;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted on the unequal development of various backward communities in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount earmarked for the welfare scheme for backward classes during the last three years and in the current financial year; and

(e) the achievements made therein?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The Government of India has set up National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC), which has been entrusted with the task of providing financial assistance at concessional rate of interest to the eligible members of Backward Classes for skill development and setting up of self-employment ventures. The NBCFDC provides Term Loan, Margin Money Loan

and Micro Credit Finance for the purpose. Under the Swamima scheme, the NBCFDC provides loan to women of Backward Classes for inculcating the spirit of self-reliance. The NBCFDC has, so far, released Rs. 552.19 crores to 3,42,671 OBC persons through the State Channelising Agencies under the schemes of the Corporation. The Government of India has also been implementing the scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organizations for the Welfare of OBCs.

In addition, the Government of India has been implementing following poverty alleviation programmes for the urban and rural poor including OBCs living below the poverty line.

- (i) Swama Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY);
 - (ii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS);
 - (iii) Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY); and
 - (iv) Swama Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)
- (b) No Sir.
- (c) Doesn't arise.
- (d) and (e) A Statement showing the amount earmarked and achievements under the schemes implemented for the welfare of OBCs is enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. crores)

S. No.	Scheme	1998-99			1999-2000			2000-01			2001-02 (as on 20.11.2001)		
		Allocation (RE)	Expr.	Benef.	Allocation (RE)	Expr.	Benef.	Allocation (RE)	Expr.	Benef.	Allocation	Exprn.	Benef
1.	Pre-matric Scholarships for OBC Students	2.00	1.50	19523	5.00	4.25	116920	6.00	6.00	184340	18.00	17.20	9,41,589
2.	Post-matric Scholarships for OBC Students	5.00	4.65	28,095	5.50	4.97	41794	9.00	8.99	357739	24.50	7.90	54,001
3.	Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls	2.00	1.31	350	3.00	3.00	3110 (44 hostels)	5.00	5.00	2410 (43 Hostels)	15.00	1.47	600 (12 Hostels)
4.	Assistance to Voluntary Org. for the Welfare of OBCs	1.00	0.64	2105	2.50	1.07	4915	3.50	1.57	3860	3.50	2.48	8495
5.	Pre-examination Coaching for OBCs	0.20	0.20	320	2.50	0.03	100	3.00	0.01	40	1.50	0.35	1670
6.	NBCFDC*	91.50	91.50	109948	100.00	100.00	42,724	0.01	0.00	21518	16.84	0.00	16,269

*The amount shown as expenditure pertains to Government of India's contribution towards the Share Capital of NBCFDC. The beneficiaries have been assisted by the NBCFDC under their schemes by disbursement of loans out of the funds available with them due to Government of India's contribution towards share capital, good recovery position and internal resources.

Deen Dayal Hathkarga Protsahan Yojana

1116. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched "Deen Dayal Hathkarga Protshahan Yojana" with a view to support and assist handloom activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme envisages assured supply of yarn at concessional rates to handloom weavers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has launched a scheme called "Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana" for the handloom sector.

(b) It is a comprehensive scheme to take care of a wide gamut of activities such as product development, infrastructure support, institutional support, training to weavers, supply of equipment and marketing support, in an integrated and coordinated manner for an overall development of the sector and benefit to handloom weavers. The scheme provides financial assistance in the form of margin money to facilitate availing of credit facilities from financial institutions, financial assistance for projects of eligible implementing agencies for basic inputs like looms, accessories, etc., assistance for training in the form of compensation of wages to weavers undergoing training, financial assistance for infrastructure support to eligible organizations/groups for setting up of water and

effluent treatment plants and for process houses having facilities like bleaching, dyeing, finishing etc., assistance towards provision of designs and installation of computer aided design system to improve the design, quality of the handloom products, financial assistance to handloom organisations for projects involving expenditure towards publicity, advertisement, printing of brochures/catalogues, market research, surveys and studies, production of films for promotion of sales of handlooms, assistance towards subsidizing the cost of transportation of finished goods from the States in the North East, Sikkim and J&K, and assistance towards financial restructuring of National Level Handloom Organizations, State Handloom Corporations, Apex Weavers Cooperative Societies/Federations with a view to making them viable by enhancing their credit limit/working capital.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The total amount sanctioned and released so far under the scheme, Statewise, is as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Year 2000-2001		Year 2001-2002	
		Amount Sanctioned	Amount released	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	432.64	432.64
2.	Assam	658.08	424.10	—	—
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	202.16	101.01
4.	Gujarat	425.00	212.50	—	—
5.	Himachal Pradesh	13.868	6.89	14.99	7.49
6.	J&K	57.64	44.54	—	—
7.	Manipur	287.16	143.51	—	—
8.	Madhya Pradesh	37.88	32.71	3.28	3.28
9.	Nagaland	66.35	33.10	—	—
10.	Tamil Nadu	677.05	677.05	1246.97	1246.97
11.	Tripura	62.69	33.14	—	—
12.	Uttar Pradesh	111.35	54.15	365.94	242.47
13.	West Bengal	56.42	28.1511	—	—
14.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	13.10	13.10
15.	Karnataka	—	—	166.32	166.32
16.	Meghalaya	12.035	6.00	—	—
	Total	2465.523	1695.841	2445.40	2213.28

[*Translation*]

Export of Artificial Fabric

1117. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to develop artificial fabric and export it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the fabrics included in the category of artificial fabrics; and

(d) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*English*]

BIS Certification of CNG Cylinders

1118. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated a plan for compulsory BIS certification of CNG cylinders/units considering the large number of spurious CNG cylinders in the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) CNG cylinders are covered under Gas Cylinder Rules, 1981 and Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE) is the statutory authority to accord permission for manufacture and their filling in India. As per the requirements of the CCOE, Seamless Cylinders manufactured as per IS 7285: 1988 are inspected/certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) through operation of BIS Certification Scheme under which a licence for use of ISI Mark is granted to the manufacturer. Imports of CNG cylinders have also been permitted by the Chief Controller of Explosives under the provisions of the Gas Cylinder Rules which are inspected by Inspection Agencies

approved by CCOE. Enforcement of various provisions of the Gas Cylinder Rules rests with CCOE.

(c) Does not arise.

Credit to Film Industry

1119. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some earning branches and film industry feel that some of the RBI's guidelines for film financing issued on May 14, 2001 are unrealistic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to modify the guidelines, in order to make it more popular;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the names of the banks which have started film financing; and

(g) the names of the producers those who have received loans for their projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (g) After the issue of RBI guidelines for film financing on 14th May, 2001, there are no reports to suggest that the guidelines are unrealistic. However, the financing scheme will be reviewed at a later stage by the various banks, if required, based on banks experience in terms of growth and quality of related asset portfolio. As on 30th Sept., 2001, various public sector banks have financed 167 commercial films involving an amount of Rs. 174.78 crore. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Warehouses Hubs

1120. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether warehouse hubs are being constructed to meet the challenges of food storage;

(b) whether the private sector is being encouraged to participate in this task;

(c) whether the construction of a warehouse hub at Jabalpur is proposed to be undertaken; and

(d) the place-wise and cost-wise details of the warehouse hubs proposed to be constructed in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to modernize the system of handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains procured for the central pool and to harness the efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign, to build and operate infrastructure, the Government has

announced a National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of foodgrains. The integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains has been accorded the status of infrastructure sector. The incentives admissible in this sector have been extended to this sector as well.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Integrated bulk handling storage and transportation facilities for wheat are proposed to be created at eleven locations in producing and consuming States through private sector participation. The list of locations identified by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is enclosed as Statement I.

The FCI has also identified 78 locations with a total storage capacity of 5.88 lakh tons in 14 States for creation of conventional godowns on "Build-Own-Operate" (BOO) basis through private sector participation. A list of these locations is enclosed as Statement II.

Statement I

List of Locations identified by FCI for Creation of Bulk Storage Capacity of Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis by Private Sector

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Place	Capacity
<i>Procuring State</i>			
1.	Punjab	i. Nabha	3 Lakh Tonnes
		ii. Barnala	do
		iii. Moga	do
2.	Haryana	i. Sirsa	3 Lakh tonnes
		ii. Kaithal	do
<i>Consuming States</i>			
3.	West Bengal	i. Hooghly	1 Lakh tonnes
4.	Tamil Nadu	i. Chennai	1 Lakh tonnes
		ii. Coimbatore	do
5.	Karnataka	i. Bangalore	1 Lakh tonnes
6.	Maharashtra	i. New Mumbai	2 Lakh tonnes
Total			21 Lakh tonnes

In addition to this, CWC is also to create bulk handling, storage and transportation facilities at port town of Pipavav in Gujarat.

Statement II

List of Locations identified by FCI for creation of conventional storage capacity on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) Basis by private sector

S.No.	Zone/Region	Centre	Capacity (in MTs)	Remarks (Total Capacity of each State in MTs)
1	2	3	4	5
<i>East Zone</i>				
1.	Orissa	1. Sambalpur	10,000	70,000
		2. Titlagarh	10,000	
		3. Talcher	10,000	
		4. Koraput	10,000	
		5. Kalahandi	10,000	
		6. Bolangir	10,000	
		7. Kendrapara	10,000	
2.	Bihar	1. Darbhanga	5,000	10,000
		2. Bokaro	5,000	
3.	Sikkim	1. Gangtok	5,000	5,000
4.	W. Bengal	1. Midnapore	10,000	10,000
<i>South Zone</i>				
5.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Srikakulam	10,000	70,000
		2. Samalkot	10,000	
		3. Rajamundry	10,000	
		4. Eluru	10,000	
		5. Jaggaiapep	10,000	
		6. Huzurnagar	10,000	
		7. Jammikunta	10,000	
6.	Tamil Nadu	1. Kanchipuram	5,000	45,000
		2. Vridhachalam	10,000	
		3. Salem	10,000	
		4. Dharmapuri	5,000	
		5. Erode	10,000	
		6. Kanyakumari	5,000	
7.	Karnataka	1. Bangerpet	10,000	60,000
		2. Mandya	10,000	

1	2	3	4	5
		3. Mangalore	10,000	
		4. Devanagari	10,000	
		5. Karwar	10,000	
		6. Koppal	10,000	
8.	Kerala	1. Thiruvalla	10,000	35,000
		2. Manjeswaram	10,000	
		3. Thirunavayya	10,000	
		4. Parapannangadi	5,000	
	<i>West Zone</i>			
9.	Gujarat	1. Himatnagar	10,000	30,000
		2. Porbander	5,000	
		3. Dahod	10,000	
		4. Bharuch	5,000	
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Chindwara	5,000	20,000
		2. Bhopal	10,000	
		3. Shivpuri	5,000	
11.	Chhattisgarh	1. Mahasamund	10,000	50,000
		2. Bhatapara	10,000	
		3. Akaltara	5,000	
		4. Durg	10,000	
		5. Jagadapur	10,000	
		6. Rajanand Gaon	5,000	
12.	Maharashtra	1. Beed	5,000	15,000
		2. Osmanabad	5,000	
		3. Nanded	5,000	
	<i>North Zone</i>			
13.	Haryana	1. Ambala city/Cantt	10,000	135,000
		2. Naraingarh	10,000	
		3. Barara	5,000	
		4. Jagadhari	10,000	
		5. Kurukshetra	10,000	
		6. Kaithal	10,000	

1	2	3	4	5
		7. Shahbad	20,000	
		8. Ladwa	10,000	
		9. Jakhal	10,000	
		10. Tohana	10,000	
		11. Fatehabad	10,000	
		12. Hodel	10,000	
		13. Ballabgarh	10,000	
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1. Mandi	5000	33,000
		2. Lahulpiti/ (Keylong)	2500	
		3. Simla	5000	
		4. Kinnaur	2500	
		5. Kangra	5000	
		6. Bilaspur	1000	
		7. Tissa	1000	
		8. Bharmour	1500	
		9. Killar	1000	
		10. Dehra	2000	
		11. Baijnath	1000	
		12. Hath-kothi	1000	
		13. Nahan	2500	
		14. Surgani Chamba	1000	
		15. Thunag Mandi	100	
Grand Total				5,88,000

[English]

**Industrial Development Plan for
North-Eastern States**

1121. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special concessions are being offered to attract FDIs and FII investments for the industrial development of the North-Eastern region the Prime Minister special plan for development of the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof with respect to Assam and other States in the North-Eastern region; and

(c) the present status of FDI and FII investments in Assam and other North-Eastern States indicating the investments made during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) While there are no special concession schemes meant exclusively for attracting Foreign Direct Investment, including investments from FIIs, special sector/area specific

incentives such as transport subsidy, interest subsidy and other fiscal incentives being provided in the North-Eastern States are equally applicable to all Indian companies, including foreign-owned.

(c) The details of the FDI proposals approved in Assam & other North-Eastern States for the period 1998 to 2000 are given below:

Name of the State	FDI (in Rs. crore)
1. Assam	Nil
2. Meghalaya	44.46
3. Tripura	Nil
4. Mizoram	1.52
5. Arunachal Pradesh	Nil
6. Manipur	Nil
7. Nagaland	Nil

The FII investments are not region specific and are made in the Indian Capital Markets.

Apex Body for Cotton Industry

1122. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received to set up an apex body for cotton industry viz. National Cotton Board of India on the line of National Cotton Council of USA;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Working Group on Textiles, Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), New Delhi, envisaged the setting up of a National Cotton Board of India.

The existing Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) having representatives from all concerned advises the Government generally on matters pertaining to production, consumption in marketing of cotton and also provides a forum for liaison between the cotton textile mill industry,

cotton growers, the cotton trade and the Government. The CAB performs similar functions that have been envisaged for the National Cotton Board of India by the FICCI.

Redemption Application for US-64 Schemes

1123. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of redemption applications have been received by UTI under the US-64 scheme;

(b) if so, the total amount settled by the UTI under this scheme till the end of October, 2001 as against the demand for redemption;

(c) the reasons for not releasing the entire redemption sought;

(d) whether any comprehensive proposals have been finalised for the restructuring the UTI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Unit Trust of India (UTI) has intimated that they have received 2,43,544 applications (provisional) under US-64 during 1st August, 2001 to 31st October, 2001 considering the total number of unitholding accounts (1.89 crore approximately) the number of repurchase cases is not significant.

(b) and (c) UTI paid Rs. 294.15 crores (provisional) towards repurchase value of units from 1st August, 2001 to 31st October, 2001. All the valid repurchase applications have been processed subject to the limit of 3000 units per unitholder under limited repurchase package as approved by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on 15th July, 2001.

(d) and (e) The Corporate Positioning Committee constituted by UTI under the chairmanship of Shri Y.H. Malegam in July, 2000 has submitted its report to the UTI in October, 2001. The Committee has recommended, *inter-alia*, that the structure of UTI should be in line with SEBI (Mutual Fund) Regulations. Accordingly, there would be (i) a sponsor, (ii) a Trustee Company, and (iii) an Asset Management Company.

The Board of Trustees of the UTI have in its meeting held on 30th October, 2001 decided to make the report public to elicit the views of all stake holders.

Wasteful Expenditure

1124. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that his Ministry have taken steps to minimise wasteful expenditure in Government Departments and have already identified that there are certain sectors in which wasteful expenditure is maximum in various Government Departments;

(b) if so, the details of such sectors of his Ministry/ Departments under him, which have been identified for the purpose and quantum of wasteful expenditure identified therein during each of the last three years; and

(c) the corrective steps taken so far by his Ministry to curtail/stop such wasteful expenditure, if any?

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

(b) and (c) It is Government's constant endeavour to contain non-plan, non-developmental expenditure. It is in this context that, along with other measures, instructions to avoid wasteful Government expenditure are issued from time to time to all the Ministries/Departments including the Departments under the Ministry of Finance. These measures include ban on the creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and on entertainment/hospitality expenses etc.

Non Banking Finance Companies

1125. SHRI Y. V. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India is reducing the upper ceiling of the deposit rates of non-banking finance companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of times this has been reduced during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The interest rate payable on public deposits accepted by Non-Banking Financial Companies (other than Residuary Non-Banking Companies) and the deposits accepted by the Nidhi and Chit Fund Companies, was reduced by (i) 2% from 16% per annum to 14% per annum on 31.3.2001 effective from 1.4.2001 and (ii) by 1.5% from 14% per annum to 12.5% per annum on 31.10.2001 effective from 1.11.2001. The new rates have been made applicable only to fresh deposits and renewal of existing deposits on and from 1.11.2001.

Increase in Sugar Prices

1126. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether during the month of September 2001, sugar prices in India shot up by Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 a tonne;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether there was an unprecedented stock of over 110 lakh tonnes in the country by the end of September, 2001; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to reduce the sugar prices 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 wholesale prices of S-30 grade of sugar in the four principal markets of the country namely Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai during the month of September, 2001 ranged between Rs. 1413/- to Rs. 1650/- per quintal while during the corresponding month of the previous year, they were in the range of Rs. 1470/- to Rs. 1700/- per quintal. Thus the prices during the month of September, 2001 were lower than the prices prevailing during the same month of the previous year.

(c) As on 30.9.2001, the stock of sugar with the sugar mills was 103.61 lakh tonnes on provisional basis.

(d) Question does not arise.

Growth Rate

1127. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "IMG scales down India's growth estimated to 4.5%" as appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated the September 6, 2001;

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

(c) whether the Government have fixed growth rate as 6.5%; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the aforesaid target of growth rate?

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

(b) The said news item is based on World Economic Outlook, October 2001 published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) wherein the projection for growth in real gross domestic product for India is placed at 4.5 per cent for the year 2001.

(c) and (d) The target growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) is fixed at 6.5 per cent per annum on an average. With a view to promoting growth, the broad strategy enunciated in the Budget for 2001-02 has emphasized speeding up of agricultural sector reforms and better management of the food economy; intensification of infrastructure investment, continued reform in the financial sector and capital markets, and deepening of structural reforms through removal of remaining controls constraining economic activity; human development through better educational opportunities and programmes of social security; stringent expenditure control of non-productive expenditure; acceleration of the privatization process and restructuring of public enterprises and; revenue enhancement through widening of the tax base and administration of a fair and equitable tax regime. The Budget for 2001-02 has also provided enhanced central plan outlays for key infrastructure sectors. Besides, measures have been taken to stimulate domestic demand. These among others include reduction in interest rates on contractual savings, tax cuts through abolition of surcharge payable by corporates and non-corporates, further scaling down of peak customs tariff, major

simplification in the excise duty regime, etc. These specific measures to stimulate demand in the backdrop of Budget strategy are expected to have a favourable impact on growth.

[Translation]

Export of Wheat

1128. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

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

(a) the total quantity of wheat and rice exported during each of the last three years and during the current year, so far, country-wise and also foreign exchange earned from it, year-wise;

(b) the target set for the export of wheat and rice during 2001-2002 and the last three years;

(c) whether the export of wheat and rice has shown declining trend during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the efforts made to reverse the trend and to achieve the target set for the current financial year;

(f) the countries from whom export orders for wheat and rice have been received during the year 2001-2002;

(g) whether the Union Government have initiated measures to boost export of wheat and rice; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The detailed data of imports and exports (including those on non-Government account) are available in the monthly/annual numbers of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) There was no export target of wheat & rice from the Central Pool during 1998-99 and 1999-2000. The

Government decided to offer 50 lakh MTs of wheat and 20 lakh MTs of rice for export from the Central Pool for 2000-2001. For 2001-2002, it has been decided to offer 50 lakh MTs of wheat and 30 lakh MTs of rice.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

(f) Orders of export have been received by exporters from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Contonu, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Maldives, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Taiwan, Thailand, UAE, Vietnam, Yemen.

(g) and (h) The steps taken to increase export of wheat and rice from the Central Pool include the following:

- (i) Offer wheat and rice from the Central Pool for export and maintain the export price of wheat and rice at internationally competitive levels.
- (ii) To constantly monitor exports of wheat and rice and sort out the problems on this front.
- (iii) Setting up Cleaning facilities at the Kandla Port for ensuring that acceptable quality of foodgrains are sent for export and
- (iv) Creation of an Export Cell in the Department of Food & Public Distribution to deal with export of foodgrains in a focussed manner.

[English]

Mentally Handicapped Persons

1129. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mental illness has been listed as seventh disability under the Disability Act, 1975;

(b) if so, whether the Act suggests many ways to gainfully employ the mentally handicapped persons;

(c) whether no proper efforts are being made for their welfare;

(d) if so, whether the Central Coordination Committee supposed to review and coordinate all activities in their favour has not met since November, 1998;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being considered by the Government to benefit the mentally handicapped persons?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Mental illness is recognized as one of the disabilities under Section 2 (i) of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(b) to (f) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, which came into force from 7.2.1996, is a comprehensive piece of legislation which, *inter alia*, provides for both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, job reservation, research and manpower development, development of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation of persons with disability, including mentally handicapped, unemployment allowance for the disabled, special insurance scheme for disabled employees and establishment of homes for persons with severe disability etc. The Act stipulates, *inter-alia*, that the appropriate Governments and local authorities shall, by notification, formulate schemes for ensuring employment of persons with disabilities, etc. The Act also provides that appropriate governments and the local authorities shall, within the limits of their economic capacity and development, provide incentives to employers both in public and private sectors to ensure that at least five year cent of their work force is composed of persons with disabilities.

The National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped (NIMH), Secunderabad, an autonomous organization under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, is engaged in human resource development through conducting degree/diploma courses, training programmes including parent training programmes etc. The Institute provides special services of early intervention, special education, behaviour modification, guidance and counseling, speech pathology and audiology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, vocational training and job placement, genetic counseling and management of multiple handicaps by multidisciplinary team of professionals. Besides, NIMH also conducts outreach programmes by organizing camps in rural areas.

The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC) set up in 1997 by the Government provides financial assistance at concessional rate of interest to eligible disabled persons, including mentally handicapped so as to enable them to take up self-employment ventures. The National Trust for Welfare of

Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities has been set up by an Act of 1999 for welfare of the target groups. The National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has been approved in the State sector for implementation in order to create infrastructure at State/District/Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. A Central Scheme is also under implementation for setting up Composite Regional Centres for providing composite rehabilitation services. Over hundred districts have been identified for setting up District Centers for persons with disabilities with the objective of providing comprehensive rehabilitation services for disabled persons, including mentally handicapped.

After November 1998, the Central Coordination Committee has met twice *i.e.* on 24.10.2000 and 27.6.2001.

Trade Agreement with Korea

1130. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

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

(a) whether any trade agreement has been signed between Korea and India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions alongwith the time limit of this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Trade Agreement between India and Republic of Korea (South Korea) was signed in 1974 providing *inter alia* for maximising trade between the two countries, giving full consideration to the suggestions of either side for promoting trade, according Most Favoured Nation treatment in matters relating to trade, promoting technical cooperation for economic development and payments in US Dollars or Pound Sterling or any other convertible currencies acceptable to both countries. As regards the validity of the Agreement, it continues to be in force from year to year unless either Party gives to the other at least 90 days' written notice of its intention to terminate the Agreement.

Revenue from Tyres Industry

1131. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excise duty from tyres and tubes is one of the significant sources of revenue for the exchequer;

(b) whether the Government lost Rs. 2,160 crore due to excise duty on tyres and tubes during 1997-2000;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps are being taken to raise the collection of revenue on this account?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of answer to (b) above.

Agricultural Export Zones

1132. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken final decision to establish Agricultural Export Zones in the country to make export of agricultural products more convenient;

(b) if so, the places where these zones are proposed to be established, State-wise;

(c) the time by which such zones would be established in each State; and

(d) the criteria followed to select the location of such zones and the funding pattern thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has given 'in principle' approval for setting up six Agri-Export Zones in various States. These are at Ramnagar in Uttaranchal for Lychees, Agra for Potatoes and Lucknow for Mangoes in Uttar Pradesh, Bangalore in Karnataka for Gherkins, Siliguri and Jalpaiguri in West Bengal for Pineapples and Fatehgarh Sahib, Sangrur, Ludhiana and Patiala areas of Punjab for Vegetables.

(c) This will depend upon the receipt of proposals from the State Governments and its consideration to ascertain whether they are in line with the Policy of the Government in that regard.

(d) Location is determined on the basis of the viability of setting up such Zones. The Government funding for the zones will be through convergence of various existing schemes of the Central and State Governments. The assistance provided as per these schemes would be utilised for funding the activities under the Agri Export Zones.

Revitalising NCCF

1133. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 41 on 23.2.2001 and state:

- (a) whether the said information has been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The two assurances that were given at the time of discussions are (i) the Ministry will initiate preliminary investigation in to the allegation that the NCCF was sourcing its supplies from dealers holding no authorization from the manufacturers; and (ii) the NCCF was charging higher margins on the sale of computers. Accordingly, the Director (Vigilance) in the Department of Consumer Affairs had been asked to hold an enquiry. Based on the Inquiry Report, the NCCF was asked to initiate departmental proceedings against the persons responsible for the irregularities committed. Two Implementation Reports regarding the fulfilment of the said assurances have already been sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for being laid by them.

Reservation of Handicapped Persons

1134. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved for disabled/physically handicapped persons in his Ministry and departments under his Ministry during the last three years, year-wise/post-wise/category-wise;

(b) the number of posts for disabled/physically handicapped persons lying vacant as on October 31, 2001/year-wise/post-wise/category-wise;

(c) the number of disabled/physically handicapped persons given employment on such posts, year-wise/post-wise/category-wise; and

(d) by when these vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Cadre control in respect of all Group 'A' posts under the two Departments of this Ministry, viz., Department of Heavy Industry and Department of Public Enterprises, is with the Department of Personnel & Training. In respect of all Group 'B' & 'C' posts, cadre control is with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, except in respect of 57 posts of various categories for which cadre control is vested with the Department of Public Enterprises. Of these 57 posts, two are reserved for disabled/physically handicapped persons. Of these two posts, one post is filled up. One post of Senior Investigator (Group-B Non-gazetted) is vacant since 1999 and the filing-up of the same is awaiting recommendation of the Staff Selection Commission.

Department of Heavy Industry controls the cadre of Group 'D' employees only, in which, of the 47 posts, one is reserved for disabled/physically handicapped and the same is already filled-up.

Tax on Share Transaction

1135. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to tax all share transactions with a view to mop up new revenues; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN). (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Expenditure Reforms Commission

1136. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Expenditure Reforms Commission has been set up in his Ministry to give his recommendations for reducing the existing wasteful expenditure of his Ministry and departments under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of recommendations made by this Commission so far;

(d) the details of those recommendations which are yet to be implemented by his Ministry or departments under his Ministry alongwith reasons for not implementing them till date; and

(e) by when these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (e) The Seventh Report of the Expenditure Reforms Commission which deals with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has been received recently. A summary of the recommendations made by the Expenditure Reforms Commission in its report on the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is enclosed as statement. Since major issues are involved in implementation of these recommendations, it is not possible to lay down a time frame in this regard.

Statement

Summary of the Recommendations made by the Expenditure Reforms Commission

S.No	Brief Subject
1	2

Department of Food and Public Distribution

1. The Minimum Support Price, as the nomenclature implies, should be such as to encourage farmers to sell their marketable surplus in the open market in the normal course.
2. State Governments and the private sector should be encouraged to take up procurement, trade and export of food grains with the assurance of continuity of policy over the long term.

1	2
3.	The quantities to be procured/purchased by FCI should be limited to what is required for replenishing the food security buffer stock and for meeting the PDS requirements of those States which request FCI to undertake purchases on their behalf.
4.	Save Grain Campaign (SGC) Scheme should be discontinued.
5.	The Indian Grain Storage Management & Research Institute (IGMRI) should be closed down.
6.	The Quality Control Cells (QCC) and the Central Grain Analysis Laboratory need to be strengthened.
7.	The decontrol of sugar should be put through within the current year.
8.	The Directorate of Sugar needs to be closed down.
9.	The National Institute of Sugar and Sugar Technology (Mau) should be closed down and the facilities transferred to a nearby Agricultural University or Training Centre.
10.	The National Sugar Institute (Kanpur) should be restructured and made the focal point for technological inventions and for addressing the training needs of the changing technical manpower needs of this sector.
11.	The downsized Sugar Division should focus on administration of the Sugar Development Fund (which could have as its thrust promotion of diversified uses of sugarcane) and reorganization of NSI.
12.	The closure of the Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation Limited should be expedited; the Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable Oils and Fats should be wound up.
13.	The number of Joint Secretaries in the department should be reduced to three and the staff strength at the support level suitably downsized.
Department of Consumer Affairs	
14.	The arrangements for monitoring of prices need to be improved.

- | 1 | 2 |
|-----|---|
| 15. | The Forward Markets Commission needs to be strengthened. |
| 16. | The process of review under the Black Marketing of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act should be utilized for reviewing the procedures adopted for determining detention cases. |
| 17. | Government should divest its holding in the Super Bazaar and the National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India. If this is not found feasible then Government should move for the liquidation of both societies. |
| 18. | There should be a periodical review of the utilization of the Consumer Welfare Fund with a view to optimizing the use of these funds. |
| 19. | The Consumer Court's outreach needs to be strengthened. |
| 20. | The BIS should be made a professional body with a broad based board with adequate representation for scientific and technical persons from academic institutions. There is a case for giving it full autonomy. |
| 21. | The NTH, to start with, should be placed under the department and the merger of NTH and BIS settled on the basis of a detailed study of the functions and activities of both organizations. |
| 22. | In the department there is no case for having a Secretary as well as an Additional Secretary. The post of Joint Secretary should therefore be operated only at that level and not filled up by an Additional Secretary level officer. |
| 23. | The Desk Officer System should be introduced in this department. This along with induction of IT facilities should lead to a considerable downsizing of the support staff requirement in this department. |

**Position of Fiscal Deficit after the
Economic Reforms**

1137. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fiscal deficit of all the States and the Central Government has been reduced after the economic reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof since, 1990;

(c) whether the non-plan expenditure in the maintenance staff strength of Central Government is increasing on their wages since 1996-97;

(d) if so, the steps taken to reduce to non-plan expenditure since the 100 percent reduction in the staff strength of the Central could not be achieved since 1995-96; and

(e) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The gross fiscal deficit of Centre and States during 1990-91 to 2001-02 is as follows:

	Centre	States	Combined Gross fiscal deficit* (Centre and States)
1990-91	37606	18787	53580 (9.4)
1991-92	30844	18900	45850 (7.0)
1992-93	35909	20891	52404 (7.0)
1993-94	55257	20596	70952 (8.3)
1994-95	48030	27697	71639 (7.1)
1995-96	50253	31426	77671 (6.5)
1996-97	56242	37251	87244 (6.4)
1997-98	73204	44200	110743 (7.3)
1998-99	89560	74254	157053 (8.9)
1999-2000	104717	91480	184826 (9.4)
2000-2001 (RE)	111972	95277	199569 (9.1)
2001-2002 (BE)	116314	96073	203684 (8.2)

*Includes Gross Fiscal Deficit of Centre and States minus net lending from Centre to States.

Re : Revised Estimates

BE : Budget Estimates

Note: 1. The fiscal deficit of Centre excludes the transfer of States' share in small savings collection.

2. Figures in brackets are percentages to GDP at current market prices.

(c) The non-plan expenditure towards pay and allowances of the Central Government as per the Budget documents (Expenditure Budget-Volume 1) is as follows:

(Rs. crore)		
Year	Pay	Allowances (other than travel expenses)
1996-97	6599.75	12446.14
1997-98	17271.28	8658.75
1998-99	19440.49	9463.73
1999-2000	19306.85	12193.30
2000-01 (RE)	17929.62	11150.15
2001-02 (BE)	18387.19	12347.03

(d) and (e) It is Government's constant endeavour to contain non-plan, non-developmental expenditure. It is in this context that, along with other measures, instructions for austerity in Government expenditure have been issued from time to time. The austerity measures include ban on the creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned post, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and on entertainment/hospitality expenses etc.

[Translation]

'Smuggling of Narcotics'

1138. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in the smuggling of narcotics along Indo-Pak border after the bombardment on Afghanistan by America;

(b) if so, the extent of increase alongwith the reasons for increase if any; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the increase in the smuggling of the narcotics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Seizure of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances along Indo-Pak border, as reported by various drug law

enforcement agencies, do not indicate an overall increasing trend after the bombardment on Afghanistan by America.

(c) Government of India, has already taken a number of significant steps to prevent and put effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, training to officers, fencing of Indo-Pak border provided with flood lighting, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act, quarterly coordination meetings by NCB, holding of quarterly cross-border meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies as a part of the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers, holding of operational level meetings with Myanmar officials and providing two sniffer dogs and also training dog handlers of Myanmar.

Allocation for Handlooms Development Centres

1139. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for development of handlooms during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of handloom development centres operating in at present in each State; and

(c) the number of locations of handloom development centres opened in various States during the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The amount allocated for development of handlooms during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in lakh)			
Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
1998-99	8335.00	5805.00	14140.00
1999-2000	8169.00	4691.00	12860.00
2000-2001	10264.37	4292.53	14556.90
Total	26,768.37	14,788.53	41,556.90

(b) No. of Handloom Development centres operating at present in each State are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Handloom Dev. Centres
1.	Andhra Pradesh	397
2.	Assam	103
3.	Bihar	53
4.	Gujarat	7
5.	Haryana	1
6.	Himachal Pradesh	11
7.	J&K	3
8.	Karnataka	30
9.	Kerala	72
10.	Madhya Pradesh	28
11.	Maharashtra	20
12.	Nagaland	142
13.	Orissa	214
14.	Pondicherry	5
15.	Rajasthan	1
16.	Tamil Nadu	324
17.	Tripura	13
18.	U.P.	89
19.	West Bengal	197
	Total	1710

(c) No funds have been released by the Government of India during the year 2000-2001 for opening of Handloom development centres in the States as the scheme for setting up of Handloom Development centre was discontinued with effect from 1.4.1998.

Foreign Debt

1140. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign debt received by the Union Government from various countries as on 31st October, 2001 financial institutions-wise;

(b) the amount of loan and interest paid back to them as on 31st March 2001, country-wise;

(c) whether the foreign debt have touched the level of 100.35 billion dollars in March, 2001 as against \$ 98.25 billion dollar in March, 2000;

(d) if so, the reason for this increase; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the foreign debt of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The amount of foreign debt received on Government Account from various multilateral institutions and bilateral countries during 2000-01 are indicated in the table below:

Disbursement of external debt on Government Account

		(US \$ million)
		2000-01
I. Multilateral		2017.06
(a)	IDA	1063.42
(b)	IBRD	643.94
(c)	ADB	291.80
(d)	IFAD	8.79
(e)	Others	9.11
II. Bilateral		568.85
(a)	Japan	518.42
(b)	Germany	7.74
(c)	United States	0.00
(d)	France	14.16
(e)	Netherlands	0.00
(f)	Russian Federation	28.54
(g)	Others	0.00
III.	Total	2585.91

(b) The amount of principal and interest payment on Government Account external debt during 2000-01 is shown as under:

Debt service payments of external debt on Government Account during 2000-01

(US \$ million)

	Principal	Interest
	1	2
I. Multilateral	1331.64	619.58
(a) IDA	367.89	137.66
(b) IBRD	829.79	319.86
(c) ADB	117.16	159.24
(d) IFAD	5.44	2.16
(e) Others	11.36	0.67
II. Bilateral	819.97	346.00
(a) Japan	319.14	227.51
(b) Germany	111.89	27.12
(c) United States	139.11	38.29
(d) France	45.30	24.26

	1	2
(e) Netherlands	42.51	11.86
(f) Russian Federation	57.25	8.45
(g) Others	104.78	8.51
III. Total	215.61	965.58

The detailed country-wise and institution-wise information on debt receipts and debt service payments made by the Government of India as on March 31, 2001 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The total external debt of the country increased to US \$ 100.4 billion at end-March, 2001 from US \$ 98.3 billion at end-March, 2000.

(d) The increase in the external debt stock of the country is mainly due to issuance of US\$ 5.5 billion through India Millennium Deposits in 2000-01.

(e) Despite the nominal increase in debt stock, all the key external debt indicators for India continued to improve during 2000-01. This is mainly due to a prudent debt management policy of the Government, which focuses on high growth rate of exports, keeping the maturity structure as well as the total commercial debt under manageable limits, limiting short-term debt, retiring more expensive debts, and encourage non-debt creating financial flows.

Statement

Foreign Debt on Government Account up to March 31, 2001

(Millions of original currency)

Sl. No.	Country/Institution	Currency	Receipts	Debt Service Payment		Debt Outstanding
				Principal	Interest	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Abu Dhabi Fund	UAE Dirham	68.0	68.0	26.4	0.0
2.	Asian Development Bank	US Dollars	3188.1	508.0	997.8	2680.1
3.	Australia	US dollars	12.9	3.3	1.1	9.6
4.	Austria	Austrian Schilling	1672.8	1238.3	537.9	434.5
5.	Bahrain	British Pound Sterling	5.9	5.9	0.0	0.0
6.	Belgium	Belgian Franc	4958.4	3297.5	636.4	1660.9
7.	Canada	Canadian Dollar	924.3	455.5	70.5	468.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Denmark	Danish Kroner	1148.9	494.8	10.8	654.1
9.	Denmark	US Dollars	4.0	1.3	0.0	2.7
10.	E.E.C. (SAC)	British Pound Sterling	30.3	3.9	3.6	26.4
11.	France	Swiss Francs	5.8	5.8	0.8	0.0
12.	France	Deutsche Mark	11.0	11.0	7.2	0.0
13.	France	French Franc	11658.4	6669.0	5031.4	4989.3
14.	Germany	Deutsche Mark	11550.5	6928.0	3400.7	4622.6
15.	Hungary	Indian Rupee	122.6	122.6	21.5	0.0
16.	IBRD	US Dollars	13674.7	8020.6	8537.5	5654.2
17.	IDA	US Dollars	8416.1	2396.2	1302.4	6019.9
18.	IDA	Special Drawing Right	10606.4	457.8	694.9	10148.6
19.	IFAD	Special Drawing Right	207.2	37.7	22.2	169.4
20.	IMF Trust	Special Drawing Right	529.0	529.0	9.3	0.0
21.	Iran	US Dollars	505.2	505.2	196.3	0.0
22.	Iran	Special Drawing Right	438.5	438.5	66.1	0.0
23.	Iraq	US Dollars	182.7	182.7	6.3	0.0
24.	Italy	Deutsche Mark	144.2	43.3	24.7	100.9
25.	Italy	Italian Lira	33125.00	33125.0	9675.8	0.0
26.	Italy	US Dollars	161.2	81.4	29.9	79.8
27.	Japan	Japanese Yen	1387523.0	441052.0	439886.0	946472.0
28.	Kuwait Fund for Aran Eco. Dev.	Kuwaiti Dinar	81.9	67.4	34.3	14.4
29.	Netherlands	Dutch Guilder	2615.1	1513.5	922.3	1101.6
30.	OPEC	US Dollars	198.0	180.2	15.7	17.8
31.	Poland	Indian Rupee	366.4	366.4	65.7	0.0
32.	Qatar	British Pound Sterling	7.2	7.2	0.0	0.0
33.	Rep. Of Czech & Slovak	Indian Rupee	1564.8	1393.7	287.1	171.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
34.	Romania	Indian Rupee	53.3	53.3	0.0	0.0
35.	Russian Federation	Indian Rupee	31227.6	13667.7	4463.7	17559.9
36.	Russian Federation	US Dollars	38.2	0.0	0.4	38.2
37.	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal	626.2	589.9	166.4	36.3
38.	Spain	US Dollars	46.0	12.0	9.7	34.0
39.	Sweden	Swiss Francs	326.3	122.4	29.4	203.9
40.	Sweden	US Dollars	74.5	34.8	6.9	39.8
41.	Switzerland	Swiss Francs	282.6	260.3	142.9	22.4
42.	United Arab Emirates	US Dollars	70.0	70.0	20.7	0.0
43.	United Kingdom	British Pound Sterling	744.1	744.1	166.1	0.0
44.	United States of America	US Dollars	5079.1	3781.6	2110.0	1297.5
45.	Yugoslavia	Indian Rupee	267.0	267.0	40.3	0.0

[English]

Representation of SC/ST

1141. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in class I (Group A) Services stood only at 13.39 percent (SCs-10.38 percent and ST-3.21 percent) and in Class II (Group B) Services only at 14.41 percent (SCs-11.73 percent and STs-2.68 percent) as against 22.5 percent quota prescribed for them (15 percent for SCs and 7.5 percent) in respect of STs) as on 1.1.1998 under Central Government;

(b) if so, indicate total number of posts in (i) Class I (Group A) category and (ii) Class II (Group B) category and equivalents thereof under his Ministry; and

(c) the persons belonging to (i) General, (ii) SC, (iii) ST and (iv) OBC categories working against them including their respective percentage to such posts as ascertained in view of instructions as contained under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt (Res.) dated 2nd July, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. The representation of SCs and STs as on 1.1.1998 under Central Government in Group A Services was 14.24 percent (SCs-10.8% and STs-3.44%), and in Group B services it was 15.37% (SCs-12.35% and STs-3.02%).

(b) There were 216 number of Class I (Group A) and 420 Class II (Group B) category and equivalents posts in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

(c) The representation of persons belonging to the different categories in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is given as under:

Group/Category	A	B
General	174 (80.56%)	328 (78.10%)
SC	31 (14.35%)	70 (16.67%)
ST	8 (3.70%)	18 (4.29%)
OBC	3 (1.39%)	4 (0.95%)
Total	216	420

Debt Relief**Statement I**

1142. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of debt relief benefited by each of the States during 2000-2001 as a result of the performance oriented debt relief recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission;

(b) whether such a recommendation has any way helped the States chronically affected by high incidence of debt;

(c) if so, whether any in depth study has been conducted by the Government;

(d) if not, the reason for the same;

(e) the further step taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the debt burden of each of the States during each of last three years ending 2000-2001, capital repayment (both of Central Government loan and other loans) and interest payment as the proportion of State's own Revenue, State's total Revenue and State's GDP, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Guidelines on General Debt Relief based on Eleventh Finance Commission's recommendations to work out the debt-relief to States, have been circulated to State Accountants General and State Governments. As the Scheme operates with a time lag based on actual accounts, States have not yet been given any relief on the basis of Eleventh Finance Commission's recommendations.

(b) to (e) Debt relief to States is recommended by successive Finance Commissions after a holistic examination of the States' and the Center's finances. The Eleventh Finance Commission has made its recommendations on debt relief to the States for the period from 2000-01 to 2004-05. The recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission have since been accepted by the Government. Further recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission are aimed at fiscal reforms of the States. These reforms, if carried out, will result in debt reaching sustainable level by 2004-05.

(f) As per statement I, II & III.

State Government Debt outstanding as on 31st March*
(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	States	1999	2000	2001 (RE)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23685	29018	35980
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	647	763	975
3.	Assam	6620	7888	9414
4.	Bihar	25144	30142	35770
5.	Goa	1712	257	389
6.	Gujarat	19189	23384	30134
7.	Haryana	9476	11446	13346
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4996	6472	8046
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5249	6117	7017
10.	Karnataka	15409	18690	22403
11.	Kerala	15576	20130	23733
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19075	22918	26539
13.	Maharashtra	31176	38300	45675
14.	Manipur	838	1217	1329
15.	Meghalaya	714	877	1069
16.	Mizoram	777	1087	1266
17.	Nagaland	1192	1484	1749
18.	Orissa	14752	18102	21073
19.	Punjab	19871	48595	52984
20.	Rajasthan	20223	25753	30819
21.	Sikkim	504	676	726
22.	Tamil Nadu	19582	19624	19676
23.	Tripura	1396	1808	2196
24.	Uttar Pradesh	48053	57744	68572
25.	West Bengal	28807	35872	45790

*Excluding Ways & Means Advance and Reserve Funds/Deposits

Source: Finance Accounts & Budgets of States.

Statement II
Capital Repayments of States

(Rs. in crs.)

Sl.No	State	1998-99 (Actuals)				1999-2000 (Actuals)				2000-01 RE			
		Central Loans	Internal Debt*	Savings, PF, etc.	Total	Central Loans	Internal Debt*	Savings, PF, etc.	Total	Central Loans	Internal Debt*	Savings, PF, etc.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1140	456	458	2054	574	216	477	1267	720	166	534	1420
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14	9	50	73	16	2	28	46	18	3	48	68
3.	Assam	310	40	50	400	579	46	68	693	368	47	75	490
4.	Bihar	496	15	507	1017	559	1080	₹.₹.	₹.₹.	552	59	496	1106
5.	Goa	34	2	40	75	36	4	49	90	40	12	41	92
6.	Gujarat	447	97	287	831	503	125	383	1010	1095	141	382	1617
7.	Haryana	246	190	267	704	166	377	386	929	192	663	417	1272
8.	Himachal Pradesh	148	9	246	403	250	28	332	610	84	102	82	268
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	257	24	132	414	197	54	189	440	272	71	251	594
10.	Karnataka	298	107	371	776	344	147	474	965	419	97	532	1049
11.	Kerala	212	122	3720	4054	247	123	5859	6229	217	213	5702	6131
12.	Madhya Pradesh	349	90	920	1360	393	135	1015	1544	391	115	1109	1615
13.	Maharashtra	732	116	492	1340	818	199	692	1709	861	214	1037	2112
14.	Manipur	99	14	45	158	28	25	46	98	223	22	56	301
15.	Meghalaya	13	8	17	38	16	18	17	51	18	15	18	52
16.	Mizoram	81	10	18	109	57	8	27	91	12	10	28	50
17.	Nagaland	185	23	39	246	67	30	46	143	20	31	91	142
18.	Onssa	440	121	620	1181	245	141	629	1015	425	87	489	1001
19.	Punjab	1282	414	302	1998	1132	717	474	2322	632	1226	513	2371
20.	Rajasthan	348	155	521	1025	808	178	549	1534	463	186	876	1525
21.	Sikkim	28	5	10	43	11	3	17	31	26	6	43	75
22.	Tamil Nadu	409	110	1285	1804	471	132	1542	2145	521	164	1814	2499
23.	Tripura	22	13	100	135	25	17	124	166	29	20	148	196

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1000	714	800	2514	1122	706	978	2807	1803	1317	1223	4342
25.	West Bengal	499	119	219	837	587	175	267	1029	708	324	358	1390

*Excluding Ways & Means Advances

\$ Has not been furnished in the budget document.

Source: Finance Accounts & Budgets of States.

Statement III

Sl.No.	States	Interest Payments as % of Own Revenue Receipts			Interest Payments as % of Total Revenue Receipts			Interest Payments as % of GSDP		
		1998-99 Actual	1999-2000 Actual	2000-01 RE	1998-99 Actual	1999-2000 Actual	2000-01 RE	1998-99 Actual	1999-2000 Actual	2000-01 RE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	26.95	27.08	29.76	18.54	18.45	19.86	2.34	2.55	2.87
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	93.97	98.65	119.18	7.72	7.91	10.91	4.89	4.60	6.42
3.	Assam	36.30	57.23	51.60	11.55	19.74	14.50	2.13	3.39	3.21
4	Bihar*	63.02	53.02	63.47	25.95	22.75	20.85	3.64	3.97	2.99
5.	Goa	14.27	16.32	15.37	12.54	14.51	13.66	2.92	3.15	3.36
6.	Gujarat	21.79	25.34	28.78	17.75	20.20	21.37	2.15	2.61	2.90
7	Haryana	21.50	28.42	26.06	18.20	23.54	21.76	2.32	2.88	2.89
8.	Himachal Pradesh	64.05	35.63	94.94	21.54	16.08	26.61	5.02	5.28	7.10
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	92.34	85.92	86.58	14.74	15.32	13.57	5.29	6.18	5.72
10.	Karnataka	19.22	21.51	22.92	14.39	15.59	16.21	1.90	2.12	2.27
11.	Kerala	27.77	34.09	30.37	20.09	24.58	22.58	2.56	3.01	2.90
12.	Madhya Pradesh	26.63	25.88	33.21	16.17	16.20	17.43	2.02	2.12	2.14
13.	Maharashtra	20.66	23.04	21.90	16.90	19.33	18.45	1.76	2.03	2.07
14.	Manipur	146.59	159.76	165.27	10.18	12.33	12.37	3.61	4.62	5.25
15.	Meghalaya	49.66	51.22	57.41	8.34	10.14	10.58	2.41	3.00	3.61
16.	Mizoram	163.55	179.95	206.75	9.60	10.89	9.74	5.96	6.84	6.91
17.	Nagaland**	180.47	194.31	193.73	13.63	13.46	13.67	5.65	5.82	6.67
18.	Orissa	72.62	51.14	77.29	32.60	21.03	30.86	4.29	3.26	5.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
19.	Punjab	48.57	41.79	29.69	40.25	35.31	23.76	4.26	4.21	3.48
20.	Rajasthan	42.38	46.28	47.76	26.14	28.86	27.01	3.08	3.76	4.27
21.	Sikkim	5.00	6.32	18.38	3.64	4.49	7.44	6.74	7.46	8.18
22.	Tamil Nadu	19.68	22.09	21.43	14.88	16.61	16.31	1.78	2.06	2.04
23.	Tripura	109.01	104.09	112.33	11.08	12.88	12.30	3.69	4.46	4.83
24.	Uttar Pradesh	58.78	57.42	67.78	31.74	30.49	30.42	3.23	3.49	4.03
25.	West Bengal	57.18	73.29	71.08	31.43	40.83	35.78	2.55	3.13	3.57

1. R.E. Revised Estimates

2. GSDP- Gross State Domestic Product at Current Prices (1993-94 series) 1998-99=Quick Estimate, 1999-2000 (Advance Estimate) and 2000-01 (Projections)

3. GSDP Source- CSO and projections for 1998-99 in case of Goa and Sikkim, for 1999-2000 in case of Goa, M.P., Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim and for 2000-01 in case of all states except Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal.

4. Interest Payments and Revenue Receipts are compiled from Finance Accounts/Budget Documents of the State Governments

5. Own Revenue Receipts=Own Tax Revenue+Non-Tax Revenue

6. Total Revenue Receipts = Own Revenue Receipts + Transfer from Centre

*- 1990-00 (Revised Estimates)

**-1999-00 (State Government figures)

[Translation]

I.T. Rebate

1143. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Apatra Logon ko Chhoat se Karoron Ki Hani" appearing in 'Rashtriya Sahara' on 21 August, 2001;

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

(c) the persons/companies to whom tax rebate has been given for tax collection;

(d) whether any inquiry has been ordered by Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken against persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The news item cited refers to a Systems Appraisal report made by the Comptroller and Auditor General on the Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme. The observations made

in the report regarding revenue loss in certain specific cases, are being examined by the concerned Income-tax authorities.

(c) The Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme resulted in collection of taxes amounting to Rs. 738.74 crores and settlement of 33,918 disputes under the direct tax enactments and similarly collection of taxes amounting to Rs. 643.80 crores and settlement of 11,159 disputes under the indirect tax enactments pending before different adjudicating/appellant authorities or courts. In all, over 45,000 disputes were settled under the scheme, both under the direct tax enactments and indirect tax enactments.

(d) As the report is still under examination, no inquiry has been ordered by Government in this regard.

(e) and (f) In view of (d) above, does not arise.

Criteria for Disbursing Revenue to States

1144. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government adopts uniformity with all the States, while disbursing revenue to various States;

(b) if so, whether the most populated State and the least populated State pay equal taxes;

(c) if so, the reasons for the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The formula for devolution of Central taxes and duties to States is based on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, a copy of which was placed on the Table of the House on 27th July, 2000.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Economic Slow down in Manufacturing Sector

1145. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of economic slow down on the manufacturing sector;

(b) whether the World wide slow down has got any impact on such phenomenon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) As a consequence of the general slow down of the economy, there has also been a slow down in the manufacturing sector. As per the use based classification, this slow down is spread across all categories viz. basic, Intermediate goods and consumer goods and more pronounced in the capital goods sector which recorded negative growth in April-September 2001. A comparative statement giving changes in the overall industrial growth as per the use based classification during April-September 2000 and April-September 2001 is attached.

(b) World wide slow down has a limited impact on the manufacturing sector. This is because even though Indian exports at 9.3 per cent of GDP in 2000-01 were low, manufactured exports as a percentage of total exports at 77.9 per cent in 2000-2001 were high.

(c) Various fiscal and financial measures have already been announced by the Government in the Budget 2001-02 to boost industrial production, public and private investment including foreign investment. Subsequently in the midterm review of the credit policy announced in

October 2001, RBI has reduced bank rate by 0.5 percentage points from 7 to 6.5 per cent, CRR by 2 by 2 percentage points from 8 to 6 in phases and also reduced the interest rates for export credits.

Statement

Growth rates based on Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for the aggregate and as per Use based classification

(per cent change over the corresponding month of the previous year)

(Base: 1993-94=100)

	April 2001	September 2000
General	2.3	5.7
Basic Goods	2.0	4.6
Capital Goods	-8.6	4.2
Intermediate Goods	3.1	5.2
Consumer Goods	5.5	8.0
Consumer durables	11.9	19.7
Consumer non-durables	3.1	4.3

Revenue from Tobacco Industry

1146. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total business of tobacco industry in the country;

(b) the extent to which the business of tobacco industry is likely to be affected by banning the smoking in public place;

(c) whether the Government will lose large revenue collection on this account; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government will make up the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The total consumption of tobacco and total consumer expenditure on tobacco products in 1999-2000 is estimated to be 441 million kilogram and Rs. 27 000 crore, respectively.

(b) It is difficult to quantify the extent to which tobacco industry is likely to be affected. However, there is expected to be a fall in tobacco consumption in general, and a shift to non-smoking products.

(c) The revenue collection (which is mainly from central excise duty) in respect of tobacco products has shown an upward trend in the first half of the current financial year, as compared to the corresponding period last year.

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

Amendment in the UTI Act, 1963

1147. SHRI SAHIB SINGH:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether (the Unit Trust of India have sent any proposal for restructuring its managerial, operational activities and also privatisation in the wake of UTI scam involving crores of small investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend the UTI Act in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Unit Trust of India (UTI) has not sent any proposal for restructuring its managerial and operational activities.

However, the Corporate Positioning Committee constituted by UTI under the chairmanship of Shri Y.H. Malegam in July, 2000 has submitted its report to the UTI in October, 2001. The Committee has recommended, *inter-alia*, that the structure of UTI should be in line with SEBI (Mutual Fund) Regulations. Accordingly, there would be (i) a sponsor, (ii) a Trustee Company, and (iii) An Asset management Company (AMC). Further, the Committee's report states that the sponsor should be a sponsoring company which could be owned upto 40% by the sponsoring institutions (*i.e.*, the institutions which presently hold the initial capital) and 60% by a strategic partner. The UTI should convert itself into an AMC which could be owned upto 40% by the sponsoring company and 60% by the public.

The Board of Trustees of the UTI have in its meeting held on 30th October, 2001 decided to make the report public to elicit the views of all stake holders.

(c) and (d) Appropriate action would be considered once the response of UTI Board of Trustees on the Corporate Positioning Committee is received by the Government.

Decline Growth Rate

1148. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of sharp decline in growth rate;

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

(c) whether the Government have identified main reasons responsible for decline in growth rate; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to accelerate growth during the current fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) As per the latest quarterly Estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) released by the Central Statistical Organisation, the overall growth in the real GDP during the first quarter (Q1) (April-June) of 2001-02 is estimated at 4.4 per cent, compared with 6.1 per cent in the Q1 of 2000-01. The deceleration in the growth of overall GDP in Q1 of the current financial year is attributed to a slowdown in the growth of GDP originating in the Industry (comprising mining & quarrying, manufacturing, electricity, gas & water supply and construction) from 6.9 per cent in Q1 of 2000-01 to 2.2 per cent in Q1 of 2001-02. Besides, growth originating from the services sector (comprising trade, hotels, transport & communications, financial services, community, social & personal services) also decelerated from 8.6 per cent in Q1 of 2000-01 to 6.8 per cent in Q1 of 2001-02. With a view to promoting growth, the broad strategy enunciated in the Budget for 2001-02 has emphasised speeding up of agricultural sector reforms and better management of the food economy; intensification of infrastructure investment, continued reform in the financial sector and capital markets, and deepening of structural reforms through removal of remaining controls constraining economic activity; human development through better educational opportunities and programmes of social security; stringent expenditure control of non-productive expenditure; acceleration of the privatization process and restructuring of public enterprises and; revenue enhancement through widening of the tax base and administration of a fair and equitable tax regime. The Budget for 2001-02 has also provided enhanced central plan outlays for key infrastructure sectors. Besides,

measures have been taken to stimulate domestic demand. These among others include reduction in interest rates on contractual savings, tax cuts through abolition of surcharge payable by corporates and non-corporates, further scaling down of peak customs tariff, major simplification in the excise duty regime; etc. These specific measures to stimulate demand in the backdrop of Budget strategy are expected to have a favourable impact on growth.

Black Money through Speed Post

1149. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that black money is being sent out of the country in the form of dollars through speed post;

(b) if so, the number of cases that have come to the notice of the Government and the amount involved therein during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some senior customs officers are involved in the racket; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Some cases of foreign currency being sent out of the country through speed post have been detected.

(b) 17 number of cases involving foreign currency worth Rs. 2.97 crores being sent out of the country through speed post/courier have been detected during the last 3 years and current year (upto October, 2001).

(c) and (d) Offices/residential premises of three Customs Officers were raided by CBI in connection with seizure of two Hong Kong bound parcels on 8th/9th June, 2001 containing US\$ 25,000/- each at Speed Post Centre, Gole Dakkhana, New Delhi. FIR has been filed against the three Officers who are presently under suspension.

De-Reservation of Reserved Posts

1150. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of vacancies/posts reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs are being 'de-reserved' and filled by others despite imposition of a ban on 'de-reservation' of vacancies reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs with effect from 01.04.1989 by DOPT OM No. 36012/6/88-Estt. (SCT) dated 25.04.1989;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the instances where vacancies/posts reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs have been de-reserved and filled by persons other than those for whom they were reserved since 01.04.1989 in his Ministry including all Public Sector Undertakings, autonomous/statutory bodies and attached as well as subordinate offices falling within its jurisdiction?

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

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta, for the year, 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta, for the year, 1999-2000.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4259/2001]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 12 of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993:—

(a) (i) Third Report of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98.

(ii) Action Taken Memorandum of the Recommendations made in the Third Report of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4260/2001]

- (b) (i) Fourth Report of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000.
- (ii) Action Taken Memorandum of the Recommendations made in the Fourth Report of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4261/2001]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 630(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2001, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 797(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4262/2001]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the NEPA Limited, Napanagar, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the NEPA Limited, Napanagar, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4263/2001]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Papers Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Papers Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4264/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 853(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 2001 specifying mandatory packaging of certain commodities in jute packaging materials, under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Jute Packaging materials (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4265/2001]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 982(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2001 directing all the manufacturers, importers, processors, traders of jute and jute textiles to mark/print/brand the items of jute and jute textiles mentioned in the notification issued under clause 4 of the Jute and Jute Textiles Control Order, 2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4266/2001]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4267/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Food Corporation of India for the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4268/2001]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Quality Council of India, New Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Quality Council of India, New Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4269/2001]

- (2) A copy of the Salt Cess (Amendment) Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 639(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th September, 2001 under sub-section 2(f) of Section 6 of the Salt Cess Act, 1953.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4270/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—
 - (i) G.S.R. 641(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Sodium Ferrocyanide, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 647(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Paracetamol, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China and Taiwan at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 648(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to give effect to the final order CEGAT modifying the final anti-dumping duty imposed on pure Terephthalic Acid, originating in or exported from Spain and Japan.

- (iv) G.S.R. 649(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on Acrylonitrile butadiene rubber, originating in or exported from Germany and Korea RP and imported into India, as recommended by the Designated Authority in the final findings in review.
- (v) G.S.R. 650(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the notification No. 74/2000-Cus., dated the 22nd May, 2000.
- (vi) G.S.R. 656(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Zinc Oxide, originating in or exported from Nepal at the rate recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (vii) G.S.R. 657(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on phosphoric Acid, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority with effect from the 10th May, 2001.
- (viii) G.S.R. 658(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the notification No. 47/2001-Cus., dated the 10th May, 2001.
- (ix) G.S.R. 691(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Sports shoes, non-leather sports footwear, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China and imported into India.
- (x) G.S.R. 692(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the notification No. 15/2001-Cus., dated the 9th February, 2001.
- (xi) G.S.R. 697(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to give effect to the final order of the Tribunal modifying the final anti-dumping duty on Oxo-Alcohols,

originating in or exported from Poland, South Korea, Indonesia, Saudia Arabia, Russia, Iran, USA and European Union.

- (xii) G.S.R. 763(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Analgin, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, at the rate recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 764(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the notification No. 38/2001-Cus., dated the 9th April, 2001.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 765(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the facility of "Project Import" status to Bombay-Manmad-Manglya (Indore) Pipeline project and LNG Terminal of Petronet LNG at Dahej.
- (xv) G.S.R. 766(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Biaxally oriented Poly Propylene Film, originating in or exported from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia Oman, Singapore and Thailand, at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 769(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on acrylic yarn, originating in or exported from Nepal, and imported into India.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4271/2001]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

- (i) G.S.R. 661(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the notification No. 5/2001-CE(NT), dated the 1st March, 2001.
- (ii) G.S.R. 683(E) and G.S.R. 684(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the notification Nos. 32/2001-CE and 39/2001-CE, dated the 28th June, 2001 and 31st July, 2001 respectively.

- (iii) G.S.R. 685(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt footwear of retail sale price not exceeding Rs. 125 per pair and rubberized coir mattresses from excise duty.
- (iv) G.S.R. 690(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the notification No. 64/95-CE, dated the 16th March, 1995.
- (v) G.S.R. 693(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25 September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt gold potassium cyanide used within the factory of production for the manufacture of gold jewellery from excise duty.
- (vi) G.S.R. 752(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the notification Nos. 8/2001-CE and 9/2001-CE, dated the 1st March, 2001.
- (vii) G.S.R. 776(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 108/95-CE, dated the 28th August, 1995.
- (viii) G.S.R. 777(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 32/99-CE, dated the 8th July, 1999.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4272/2001]

(3) a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) G.S.R. 636(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt Cinematographic Films, exposed but not developed and recorded Magnetic Film used for producing TV Serials from payment of basic and additional duties of Customs.
- (ii) G.S.R. 778(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 84/95-Cus., dated the 11th November, 1997.

- (iii) G.S.R. 813(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 17/2001-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4273/2001]

- (4) A copy of the Service Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 767(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2001, under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4274/2001]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for the year, 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for the year, 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4275/2001]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central for Policy Research, New Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4276/2001]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Acharyakul, Wardha, for the year, 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Acharyakul, Wardha, for the year, 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4277/2001]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development Economics, Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development Economics, Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development Economics, Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4278/2001]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4279/2001]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, for the year, 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, for the year, 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4280/2001]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4281/2001]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pratichi (India) Trust, Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pratichi (India) Trust, Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4282/2001]

(13) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st March, 2001, together with Auditor's Report thereon:—

- (i) Ambala Kurukshetra Gramin Bank, Ambala
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4283/2001]
- (ii) Alwar Bharatpur Anchalik Gramin Bank, Bharatpur
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4284/2001]
- (iii) Bhojpur Rohtas Gramin Bank, Arrah
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4285/2001]
- (iv) Kosi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Purnea
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4286/2001]
- (v) Cauvery Grameena Bank, Mysore
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4287/2001]
- (vi) Howrah Gramin Bank, Howrah
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4288/2001]
- (vii) Shivalik Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hoshiarpur
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4289/2001]
- (viii) Nimar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Khargone
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4290/2001]
- (ix) Baitarani Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Baripada
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4291/2001]
- (x) Indore Ujjain Gramin Bank, Ujjain
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4292/2001]
- (xi) Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bikaner
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4293/2001]
- (xii) Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ranchi
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4294/2001]
- (xiii) Kanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kanpur
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4295/2001]

- (xiv) Ganga Yamuna Gramin Bank, Dehradun
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4296/2001]
- (xv) Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hoshangabad
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4297/2001]
- (xvi) Sultanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sultanpur
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4298/2001]
- (xvii) Raigarh Sehore Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sehore
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4299/2001]
- (xviii) Nadia Gramin Bank, Krishnagar
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4300/2001]
- (xix) Chandrapur Gadchiroli Gramin Bank, Chandrapur
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4301/2001]
- (xx) Avadh Gramin Bank, Lucknow
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4302/2001]
- (xxi) Fatehpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Fatehpur
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4303/2001]
- (xxii) Raigarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Raigarh
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4304/2001]
- (xxiii) Gorakhpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gorakhpur
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4305/2001]
- (xxiv) Dhenkanal Gramya Bank, Dhenkanal
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4306/2001]
- (xxv) Bijapur Gramin Bank, Bijapur
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4307/2001]
- (xxvi) Marathwada Gramin Bank, Nanded
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4308/2001]
- (xxvii) Visveshvaraya Gramin Bank, Madhya
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4309/2001]

- (xxviii) Subansiri Gaonlia Bank, North Lakhimpur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4310/2001]
- (xxix) Surguja Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ambikapur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4311/2001]
- (xxx) Godavari Grameena Bank, Rajahmundry
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4312/2001]
- (xxxi) Kisan Gramin Bank, Budaun
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4313/2001]
- (xxxii) Pratapgarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Pratapgarh
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4314/2001]
- (xxxiii) Dungarpur Banaswara Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Dungarpur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4315/2001]
- (xxxiv) Raebareli Kshetiya Gramin Bank, Raebareli
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4316/2001]
- (xxxv) Giridih Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Giridiah
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4317/2001]
- (xxxvi) Jamnagar Rajkot Gramin Bank, Jamnagar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4318/2001]
- (xxxvii) Pithoragarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Pithoragarh
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4319/2001]
- (xxxviii) South Malabar Gramin Bank, Malappuram
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4320/2001]
- (xxxix) Damoh Panna Sagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Damoh
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4321/2001]
- (xl) Junagardh Amreli Gramin Bank, Junagardh
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4322/2001]
- (xli) Kashi Gramin Bank, Varanasi
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4323/2001]
- (xlii) Gomti Gramin Bank, Jaunpur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4324/2001]
- (xliii) Rewa Sidhi Gramin Bank, Rewa
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4325/2001]
- (xliv) Shahjahanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Shahjahanpur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4326/2001]
- (xlv) Bareilly Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bareilly
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4327/2001]
- (xlvi) Marudhar Kshetiya Gramin Bank, Churu
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4328/2001]
- (xlvii) Gurgaon Gramin Bank, Gurgaon
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4329/2001]
- (xlviii) Akola Gramin Bank, Akola
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4330/2001]
- (xlix) Manipur Rural Bank, Imphal
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4331/2001]
- (i) Chindwara Seoni Kshetiya Gramin Bank, Chindwara
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4332/2001]
- (ii) Vidur Gramin bank, Bijnore
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4333/2001]
- (iii) Kanakadurga Grameena Bank, Gudivada
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4334/2001]
- (liii) Hindon Gramin Bank, Ghaziabad
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4335/2001]
- (liv) Champaran Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Motihari
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4336/2001]
- (lv) Himachal Gramin Bank, Mandi
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4337/2001]

(lvi) Faridkot Bathinda Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Bathinda

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4338/2001]

(lvii) Krishna Grameena Bank, Gulberga

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4339/2001]

(lviii) Pinakini Grameena Bank, Nellore

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4340/2001]

(lix) Malwa Gramin Bank, Sangrur

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4341/2001]

(lx) Barabanki Gramin Bank, Barabanki

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4342/2001]

(lxi) Parvatiya Gramin Bank, Chamba

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4343/2001]

(lxii) Etah Gramin Bank, Etah

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4344/2001]

(lxiii) Sri Sathavahana Grameena Bank, Karimnagar

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4345/2001]

(lxiv) Gwalior Datia Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Datia

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4346/2001]

(lxv) Rayalseema Grameena Bank, Cuddapah

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4347/2001]

(lxvi) Hissar Sirsa Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hissar

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4348/2001]

(lxvii) Chaitanya Grameena Bank, Tenah

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4349/2001]

(lxviii) Palamau Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Palamau

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4350/2001]

(lxix) Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Darbhanga

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4351/2001]

(lxx) Sharda Gramin Bank, Satna

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4352/2001]

(lxxi) Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Narsinghpur

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4353/2001]

(lxxii) Basti Gramin Bank, Basti

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4354/2001]

(lxxiii) Shekhawati Gramin Bank, Sikar

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4355/2001]

(lxxiv) Bhandara Gramin Bank, Bhandara

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4356/2001]

(lxxv) Farrukhabad Gramin Bank, Farrukhabad

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4357/2001]

(lxxvi) Alaknanda Gramin Bank, Pauri Garhwal

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4358/2001]

(lxxvii) Etawah Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Etawah

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4359/2001]

(lxxviii) Kolar Gramin Bank, Kolar

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4360/2001]

(lxxix) Tulsi Gramin Bank, Banda

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4361/2001]

(lxxx) Siwan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Siwan

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4362/2001]

(lxxxi) Sahyadri Gramin Bank, Shimoga

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4363/2001]

(lxxxii) Murshidabad Gramin Bank, Murshidabad

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4364/2001]

(lxxxiii) Patilputra Gramin Bank, Patna

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4365/2001]

- (lxxxiv) Marwar Gramin Bank, Pali
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4366/2001*]
- (lxxxv) Kalahandi Anchalik Gramya Bank, Bhawanipatna
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4367/2001*]
- (lxxxvi) Nagaland Gramin Bank, Kohima
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4368/2001*]
- (lxxxvii) Mallabhum Gramin Bank, Bankura
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4369/2001*]
- (lxxxviii) Cuttack Gramya Bank, Cuttack
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4370/2001*]
- (lxxxix) Durg Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank, Rajnandgaon
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4371/2001*]
- (xc) Bilaspur Rajpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bilaspur
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4372/2001*]
- (xci) Gopalganj Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gopalganj
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4373/2001*]
- (xcii) Thane Gramin Bank, Thane
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4374/2001*]
- (xciii) Solapur Gramin Bank, Solapur
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4375/2001*]
- (xciv) Balasore Gramya Bank, Balasore
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4376/2001*]
- (xcv) Haryana Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhiwani
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4377/2001*]
- (xcvi) Mewar Aanchalik Gramin Bank, Udaipur
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4378/2001*]
- (xcvii) Rani Lakshmibai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jhansi
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4379/2001*]
- (xcviii) Nainital Almora Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Nainital
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4380/2001*]
- (xcix) Vaishali Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarpur
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4381/2001*]
- (c) Netravati Gramin Bank, Mangalore
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4382/2001*]
- (ci) Sn Saraswathi Grameena Bank, Adilabad
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4383/2001*]
- (cii) Surat Bharuch Gramin Bank, Bharuch
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4384/2001*]
- (ciii) Sagar Gramin Bank, Kolkota
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4385/2001*]
- (civ) Koraput Panchabati Grmya Bank, Koraput
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4386/2001*]
- (cv) Magadh Gramin Bank, Gaya
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4387/2001*]
- (cvi) Jamuna Gramin Bank, Agra
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4388/2001*]
- (cvii) Muzaffarnagar Keshtriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarnagar
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4389/2001*]
- (cviii) Saran Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chapra
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4390/2001*]
- (cix) Sangameshwara Grameena Bank, Mahbubnagar
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4391/2001*]
- (cx) Samyut Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Azamgarh
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4392/2001*]
- (cxi) Shalidol Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Shahdol
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4393/2001*]
- (cxii) Sri Raman Grameena Bank, Nizamabad
[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 4394/2001*]

- (cxiii) Lakshmi Gaonlia Bank, Golaghat
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4395/2001]
- (cxiv) Nalanda Gramin Bank, Biharsharif
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4396/2001]
- (cxv) Prathama Bank, Moradabad
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4397/2001]
- (cxvi) Shri Venkateshwara Grameena Bank, Chittoor
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4398/2001]
- (cxvii) Hadoti Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kota
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4399/2001]
- (cxviii) Chachar Gramin Bank, Silchar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4400/2001]
- (cxix) Panchmahal Vadodara Gramin Bank, Godhara
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4401/2001]
- (cxx) Manjira Gramin Bank, Sangareddy
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4402/2001]
- (cxxi) Kutch Gramin Bank, Bhuj
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4403/2001]
- (cxxii) Allahabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Allahabad
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4404/2001]
- (cxxiii) Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Madhubani
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4405/2001]
- (cxxiv) Tripura Gramin Bank, Agartala
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4406/2001]
- (cxxv) Aravali Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sawai Madhopur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4407/2001]
- (cxxvi) Gurdaspur Amritsar Kshetriya Gramin Vikas Bank, Gurdaspur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4408/2001]
- (cxxvii) Chitradurga Gramin Bank, Chitradurga
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4409/2001]
- (cxxviii) Yavatmal Gramin Bank, Yavatmal
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4410/2001]
- (cxxix) Rushikulya Gramya Bank, Berhampur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4411/2001]
- (cxxx) Pandyan Grama Bank, Virudhunagar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4412/2001]
- (cxxxii) North Malabar Gramin Bank, Mannur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4413/2001]
- (cxxxii) Chambal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Morena
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4414/2001]
- (cxxxiii) Devi Patan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gonda
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4415/2001]
- (cxxxiv) Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Tikamgarh
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4416/2001]
- (cxxxv) Sri Ganganagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sri Ganganagar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4417/2001]
- (cxxxvi) Nagarjuga Grameena Bank, Khammam
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4418/2001]
- (cxxxvii) Sree Anantha Grameena Bank, Anantpur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4419/2001]
- (cxxxviii) Bhilwara Ajmer Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhilwara
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4420/2001]
- (cxxxix) Kakathiya Grameena Bank, Hanamkonda
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4421/2001]
- (cxl) Dewas Shajapur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Dewas
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4422/2001]

- (cxli) Sabarkantha Gandhinagar Gramin Bank, Himatnagar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4423/2001]
- (cxlii) Malaprabha Grameena Bank, Dharwad
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4424/2001]
- (cxliii) Puri Gramya Bank, Puri
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4425/2001]
- (cxliv) Shivpuri Guna Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Shivpuri
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4426/2001]
- (cxlv) Vidisha Bhopal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Vidisha
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4427/2001]
- (cxlvi) Golconda Grameena Bank, Hyderabad
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4428/2001]
- (cxlvii) Surendra Nagar Bhavnagar Gramin Bank, Surendranagar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4429/2001]
- (cxlviii) Bundi Chittorgarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bundi
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4430/2001]
- (cxlix) Aligarh Gramin Bank, Aligarh
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4431/2001]
- (cl) Jhabua Dhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jhabua
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4432/2001]
- (cli) Kalpatharu Grameena Bank, Tumkur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4433/2001]
- (clii) Aurangabad Jalna Gramin Bank, Aurangabad
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4434/2001]
- (cliii) Sri Visakha Grameena Bank, Srikakulam
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4435/2001]
- (cliv) Ballia Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ballia
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4436/2001]
- (clv) Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank, Karbi Anglong
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4437/2001]
- (clvi) Buldhana Gramin Bank, Buldhana
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4438/2001]
- (clvii) Bhagirath Gramin Bank, Sitapur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4439/2001]
- (clviii) Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank, Dumka
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4440/2001]
- (clix) Jammu Rural Bank, Jammu
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4441/2001]
- (clx) Singhbhum Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chaibasa
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4442/2001]
- (clxi) Vallalar Grama Bank, Cuddalore
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4443/2001]
- (clxii) Chikmagalur Kodagu Grameena Bank, Chikmagalur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4444/2001]
- (clxiii) Begusarai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Begusarai
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4445/2001]
- (clxiv) Ka Bank Nogkyandong Ri Khase Jaintia, Shillong
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4446/2001]
- (clxv) Mayurakshi Gramin Bank, Birbhum
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4447/2001]
- (clxvi) Mizoram Rural Bank, Aizwal
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4448/2001]
- (clxvii) Tungapbhadra Gramin Bank, Bellary
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4449/2001]
- (clxviii) Mandla Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandla
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4450/2001]

- (clxix) Banaskantha Mehasana Gramin Bank, Patan
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4451/2001]
- (clxx) Valsad Dangs Gramin Bank, Valsad
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4452/2001]
- (clxxi) Vanda Grameena Bank, Kumta
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4453/2001]
- (clxxii) Bastar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jagdalpur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4454/2001]
- (clxxiii) Ratlam Mandsaur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandsaur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4455/2001]
- (clxxiv) Faizabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Faizabad
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4456/2001]
- (clxxv) Kapurthala Ferozpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kapurthala
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4457/2001]
- (clxxvi) Gaur Gramin Bank, Malda
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4458/2001]
- (clxxvii) Pragjyotish Gaonlia Bank, Nalbari
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4459/2001]
- (clxxviii) Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank, Pasighat
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4460/2001]
- (clxxix) Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank, Mainpuri
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4461/2001]
- (clxxx) Samastipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Samastipur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4462/2001]
- (clxxxi) Balangir Anchlik Gramya Bank, Bolangir
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4463/2001]
- (clxxxii) Bardhaman Gramin bank, Burdawan
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4464/2001]
- (clxxxiii) Hazaribagh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hazaribagh
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4465/2001]
- (clxxxiv) Ratnagiri Sindhudurga Gramin Bank, Ratnagiri
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4466/2001]
- (clxxxv) Bhagalpur Banka Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhagalpur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4467/2001]
- (clxxxvi) Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Monghyr.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4468/2001]
- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Small Industries Development Bank of India, Lucknow, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts, under sub-section (5) of section 30 of the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Small Industries Development Bank of India, Lucknow, for the year, 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4469/2001]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): I beg to lay on the Table—
- (1) A copy of the Tea Waste (Control) amendment October, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 629(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2001 issued under sub-sections (3) and (5) of section 30 of the Tea Act, 1953.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4470/2001]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Overseas Construction Council of India, Mumbai, for the year, 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Overseas Construction Council of India, Mumbai, for the year, 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4471/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): On behalf of Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of National Corporative Consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year, 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4472/2001]

12.02 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Eighth Report and Minutes

[*English*]

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (Kendrapara): I beg to present the Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) on action taken by Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Third, Fourth & Fifth Reports (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) and minutes relating thereto of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Eighteenth and Nineteenth Reports

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): I beg to present a copy each of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Reports (Hindi and English versions) on the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000 and the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2001, respectively, of the Standing Committee on Finance.

12.03 1/2 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Evidence

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the record of evidence given before the Standing Committee on Finance on the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000.

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 26th November, 2001, will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's List of Government Business.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:
 - (i) The Constitution (Ninety-second Amendment) Bill, 2001,
 - (ii) The Constitution (Ninety-third Amendment) Bill, 2001,
 - (iii) The Multi-State Cooperative Societies Bill, 2000.
 - (iv) The Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance Repeal Bill, 2001,
 - (v) The Indian Succession (Amendment) Bill, 2001 after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha.
3. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Passports (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 and consideration and passing of the Passports (Amendment) Bill, 2001 after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Speaker, Sir, before you take up the Submissions, I have a submission to make.

MR. SPEAKER: I already have a list with me.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Please hear me, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear you after this item.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next weeks agenda:—

- (i) Special debate on the problems of powerloom/handloom workers.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- “(i) Deterioration in the communal situation in the country leading harassment of minorities and even anti-minority violence in several parts of the country with Maharashtra witnessing a major anti-minority riot. There is a need for a Government statement and a discussion thereon.
- (ii) Failure of the Government to protect the Babri Masjid complex at Ayodhya and to maintain the *status quo* as ordered by the apex court and as is also evident from the recent intrusion in the prohibited area.”

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) The discussion on the need to put a check on the arbitrary rates of treatment being charged from the poor people in private nursing homes.
- (2) the discussion on the need to complete the irrigation project pending for many years in the entire country.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I like the following items may be included in next week's business:—

“(i) Indian Iron and Steel Company is premier steel making industry in the State of West Bengal. IISCO has been referred to BIFR as it has fallen sick due to non-implementation of modernisation programme. Government should take urgent step to revive IISCO as the livelihood of more than one lakh population is depending on it.

(ii) SSPL and Bengal Immunity Limited are two Central PSUs. Government of India should take urgent step to review two units as it has done in case of UPDPL and IDPL.”

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. It is submitted to the Union Government that the availability of necessary infrastructure like school building with laboratory and other useful and necessary facilities should be made mandatory for providing compulsory education to the children upto 18 years of age by making amendment in the existing law seeking to provide compulsory education to the children upto the age of 14 years,
2. The present existing amount of two crores being given to the Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for making recommendations for construction and development works should be increased to three crores out of which 25 lakhs for Public Relations, 25 lakhs for making available life saving drugs to the needy persons and for providing blood and treatment facilities to the poors should be provided.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, following subjects may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Discussion on the failure to make available the poor people in Madhya Pradesh, the benefits of Annapurna Scheme announced by the Prime Minister.
2. The need to hold discussion on immediately starting the construction of right side canal of the Avantibai (Bergi) dam on Narmada river.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikulam): I wish to make a small intervention.

MR. SPEAKER: At this time stage you cannot make an intervention. You can raise the matter separately.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. The need to accelerate the exploration work by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to identify new oil and Natural Gas reserves in Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner and Nagaur Basin of Western Rajasthan because the contiguous border area in Pakistan produces 10 percent of the total petroleum product of that country.
2. There are vast reserves of lignite in Rajasthan. The need to immediately clear the lignite based 250 MW Barsinghsar Power Project and other mining projects by the Union Ministry of Coal for the optimum utilisation and exploration of Lignite reserves.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, I request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that Central Haj Committee Bill, 2001 may be taken up in the current Session itself.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (i) Women Reservation Bill.
- (ii) Industrialisation in States where industrial development is lacking and the need to find more avenues of employment.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. In regard to the modernisation of the Gorakhpur unit of Indian Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. and setting up of a new plant by KRIBHCO.
2. The construction of a bridge over since Rapti on National Highway No. 28 is a long persuing demand. This demand should be sanctioned on priority basis in larger public interest.

12.11 hrs.

MOTION RE: TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 22nd November, 2001."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 22nd November, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up 'Zero Hour'. Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra will speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has been giving notice on the same subject for the last four days.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you will be given the chance to speak. Today I have received 40 Notices and all will be accommodated.

12.12 hrs.

RE: REPORTED ATROCITIES ON HINDUS IN BANGLADESH

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important issue in the House. Minorities especially the Hindus were subjected to intense atrocities in Bangladesh before the elections

there and after the arrival of four party coalition Government lead by Begum Khalida Jia. The supporters of the Government targetted the supporters of Sheikh Hasina and especially the Hindus.

I would like to read out what had been published in the Statesman.

[English]

"Sheikh Hasina who is now on a post election organisational tour of Southern district alleged that at least 500 Hindu women were raped and their houses and property were either looted or burnt down by the activists of Begum Khalida Zia coalition with Islamic fundamentalist organisation, Jamait-e-Islami."

Sir, a leading English daily, namely, the *Star Today* published a report that thousands of Hindu women were being tortured at Anantprashad village in Southern Bhola District before and after the election. The daily said that at least 200 women were raped in this village alone by local terrorists of BNP.

Another Report in *the Pioneer* said:

"Former Bangladesh Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina has asked the country's Hindu minority to retaliate against any further attacks by the supporters of the ruling party and its allies."

A *Jana Kantho* report says:

"In some cases repression on the Hindus surpassed the torture in 1971. During the 1971 Independence struggle that was backed by India more than 2,00,000 women were tortured and raped."

12.14 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I don't want to read out the contents of all the Bangladeshi newspapers before you. It had been reported in *Jansatta* that Shri Vidyabhushan Das, who returned from Bangladesh, is of the view that the outside world does not know the truth that the Bangladeshis are committing atrocities on the Hindus. He also told that the perpetrators have been targetting the property and the women of the Hindus and thousands of Hindu women has been raped out of which several are in hospitals (*Interruptions*) What objections do you have if I am sorry?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you disturbed? Please look at the Chair and speak.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I beg your pardon. Rokia Kabir the Chief of the 'Nari Pragati Sangh' there, who is a muslim, has said that the minority Hindu population is being subjected to various atrocities including the rape of adolescent girls by the supporters of the new Government. I don't want to read all the remaining news items before you, I want to say that.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Malhotraji, we have got a very lengthy list.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Consider the BNP Jamait-e-Islami slogan critical of Hindu friendly Sheikh Hasina. "Hare Krishna Hare Ram, Hasina's Father, Hindu Agar Bachna Chaho, Hindu Bharat Bhog Jai".

"Hasina's father was Hare Rama Hare Krishna, if Hindus want to survive, leave Bangladesh and go to India.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think that under the Nehru-Liyakat Pact, it was assured that the Hindus will be protected. In 1951 these were 30 percent Hindus in Bangladesh while today it has declined to 7-8 percent. Not thousand but lakhs of the immigrants from West Bengal have been infiltrating into West Bengal. The entire world including India has condemned the killings of innocent persons in Afghanistan in bombardment but more than 10 times persons have been killed in Bangladesh and thousands of women have been raped including the minors. Hence I want to say that the entire House should express the outrage and anguish of the entire country. This is not the question of any party. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am concluding in a minute.

I would like that we should forget our partisan interest on the lines of West Bengal where Congress, Trinmool Congress, BJP etc. registered their protests in the office of Bangladesh there.

Today it is the need of the hour that Shri Somnath Dada of C.P.M. who is sitting here and who always raises questions on most of the issue must raise his voice about the untoward incident that took place there. Congress party and other parties have raised their voices regarding

that incident. The refugees who have come from Bangladesh must be given the status of refugees and we must take up this issue with the UNO and demand that these refugees should get the same kind of treatment as is being meted out to the refugees of Afghanistan. What I want to say to you is that the whole country must raise its voice against this atrocious incident.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): We associate ourselves with Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): We also would like to associate ourselves with Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): I would like to convey our feelings to the House. First of all, I would like to inform the hon. Chief Whip of the BJP that I am not merely a Congress Member, I have also witnessed the tragedy. I came from Bangladesh and I was born in Bangladesh.

Secular India has a unique relationship with the people of Bangladesh and the Sovereign Republic of Bangladesh. These incidents have been widely reported in various newspapers in various forms and designs. I would like to inform the House through you that in one district of my own constituency, on 9th September night at 9 o'clock the Indian BSF, not the Pakistani Rifles, shot a Hindu family including a daughter and a son while they were coming from the border. The daughter died and the son is almost dead. This morning I got the report also.

The BSF Commandant and the staff are not taken to task till now. I am grateful to Shri Ajit Panja for he had also been there. Firstly, we do not want to communalise the situation. Secondly, while I express my deep concern, I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister himself had sent his personal representative, Shri Brijesh Mishra to Dhaka and have a dialogue to create harmony. If so, that outcome should be reported to Parliament without giving a different kind of a view at this hour The States of West Bengal, Tripura and Assam are on the border. We do not like this issue to get an inhuman treatment. This issue should not create a situation which might endanger our harmony. Sir, I also would like to inform...*(Interruptions)* Dr. Malhotra, I did not disturb you. Sir, this is not fair...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan. I am on my legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vaiko, this is 'Zero Hour'. Dr. Malhotra has raised a very serious matter. So, please do not waste the time of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan, will you please resume your seat? I am on my legs. Shri Vaiko, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Pandeya, I am on my legs. You must know the rules.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, are they condemning it or not?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Malhotra, you have raised a very serious and sensitive issue. The House is expected to behave in such a manner that we should not endanger the very fabric of our relationship with them. Therefore, everyone should confine to it to see that we do not harm that fabric.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Malhotra, you have stated your views. Within this framework, every Member has got his own view to be heard. So, please do not disturb like this. I am sorry to say this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Unequivocally, on behalf of the Congress Party, we condemn this incident emphatically and we will share only the official concern expressed by the Government and the Prime Minister in this regard and not any partisan line. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I would also like to convey to the Government that several hundreds and thousands of displaced Hindus and Muslims are accused everyday, prosecuted in Delhi as Bangladeshis and asked to get out of this country. This also should be stopped. They are tortured. I know why Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra took it up. What is your treatment to the Hindu refugees who are still living in Hindustan and being tortured? They have not been given the citizenship right...*(Interruptions)* Sir, they are here since forty years and this Government denies them their right. And till today, any Hindu who is working here, and who belonged to Bangladesh, is being tortured. They are being prosecuted.

Similar is the case in Mumbai and Delhi. Sir, why are they keeping quiet on that matter? I want to know on this point. So, let us not communalise the issue. I strongly feel that we should not communalise the issue...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I want to say that since 1991 and even before that till today more than 30 lakhs people have migrated here from Bangladesh. For quite sometime now, i.e., ever since the Government of Khalida Zia came to power, the majority community has been perpetrating atrocities on minority community.

Sir, now-a-days incidents of murders, looting and rape of Hindu women are taking place there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Shri Rasa Singh Rawat's speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: When there is a discussion about the Government of Bangladesh, you support that Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are not prepared to hear anybody

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anant Geete, you are the leader of your Party.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I regret that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Senior leaders are behaving like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Thousands of people belonging to minority community are being compelled to leave Bangladesh. ...*(Interruptions)* During the last few

days when Durga Punja was being celebrated, many 'pandals' meant for Puja were burnt followed by violent attacks. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you cannot speak when I am on my legs. This is the elementary rule.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Since the new Government has been elected in our neighbouring country, the Hindus, who are in minority are being attacked by the fanatic and fundamentalist forces and by the people belonging to majority community...*(Interruptions)* their houses are being burnt...*(Interruptions)*. Their daughters and daughter-in-law, are being molested and murdered...*(Interruptions)*. Thousands of people are being forced to flee from Bangladesh to take shelter in Tripura and West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)*. A newspaper and a book have been published by 'Salem Azad', who is a Bangladeshi writer ...*(Interruptions)*. In that book it has been mentioned that why the Hindus in Bangladesh are being compelled to leave that country. It is because of communal harassment, planned communal violence; misuse of properties, acquisition of religious properties and discrimination against Hindus in Government Service...*(Interruptions)*. That is why through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to safeguard the interests of Hindu minority community by having negotiations with the Khalida Zia Government in terms of the Nehru-Liyaqat agreement and by calling and telling the Ambassador of Bangladesh to take immediate action in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Malhotra expected that I should say something in this matter. I, very respectfully, associate with the observations that you have made from the Chair. It is a very sensitive matter. We have friendly relations with our neighbouring country. We should not say or do anything which may be misunderstood or which may create problems for those who are staying there. ...*(Interruptions)* I did not interrupt you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him say what he wants to say. Please hear him. Do not violate the rules. Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi, you are a respected Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Lakhs of people have come here. Thousands of women have been raped. They are rationalising it. What is this?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You do not allow him to speak. How can he rationalise it?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am not standing here only to please him. I want to say what I feel. They should not dictate to me what I shall say. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There must be respect for each other's view point. There should not be anything unparliamentary. There should not be anything which is going to affect the relationship between our two countries. There will be difference of opinion here and there. You must be in a position to understand each other.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Instead of making it a partisan matter, either the Prime Minister or the External Affairs Minister should have come here and made a statement if there is a such a concern. There is a duly elected and popular Government in West Bengal. They are fully aware of the problems because they are facing the problems, if any.

The Chief Minister has made a statement there. ...(Interruptions) Some people have no sense of shame. What can I do? Therefore, I request that we should not do anything or say anything which can create problems. The issues are human. Certain problems are there. We should solve them in a proper manner. Let us not show such an anger here. I cannot but say, as has rightly been pointed out, that their grievances were against the Khalida Zia Government. But when the Hasina Government was there, then they were taking up the causes of the Bangladeshi Hindus. When they were driven away from Mumbai and Delhi, not even one word was said, not even one tear was shed when they were deliberately removed. ...(Interruptions) What was he doing? Dr. Sengupta, today you are shedding tears. What happened in Mumbai? What happened in Delhi? What happened in other places? They were deliberately driving those people away. Now, you want to go back to the Government. They are taking up this issue.

I demand that we should maintain a proper balance. Of course, we are concerned with any untoward incident, if any, which happened there. Let the Government deal with it in a proper civilized and diplomatic manner...(Interruptions)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: We associate ourselves with the feelings expressed by Professor Vijay Kumar Malhotra. What has happened in Bangladesh is indeed a very

regrettable and a very serious thing because it has happened immediately after the elections. But, Sir, at the same time, I would like to sound a note of caution. Let us also note the fact that within Bangladesh itself, there has been a rising tide of protest against these atrocities — both from the Government and from the non-Government sources. Let us note the fact that the Prime Minister of Bangladesh herself said that this election was not fought on the basis of religion. Religion was not at all an issue. She has directed all the party M.Ps to go to their respective constituencies and do everything possible to stem these kinds of atrocities. It is a serious matter. But, I think, we should depend on the Prime Minister. He himself took it very seriously and sent Shri Brajesh Mishra to discuss with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. I am sure, that will have solved this matter. Already, one can see that things have started settling down. The Bangladesh Government have also announced that they would take back everybody who has been displaced and who has been made to take shelter in India. We should note that. Let us try to strengthen the hands of the right-thinking people, the voice of reason in Bangladesh itself. Let us not forget that the BNP also has a very large number of freedom fighters who cannot be described as communal in any sense. Unfortunately, because of the requirements of electoral politics, they had to take some support of some communal elements. That is what made them win this election. But let us also try to strengthen some of those elements who are trying to assert the voice of reason and to see that they are successful. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO (*Sivakasi*): Sir, I am on a different matter...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bangladesh...(Interruptions) Sir, you have given me permission to speak ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is going on in the House. You are a senior Member. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, if you interrupt, this matter would not be completed. Hence, I cannot call you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called Shri Vaiko.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anant Geete, Dr. Nitish Sengupta has already raised this sensitive issue. I cannot open the same matter again. We have already taken half-an-hour for this issue. I have to give the floor to his also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the Khalida Zia Government came to power in Bangladesh, atrocities and rapes are being committed on minorities and their women folk. Murders are being committed there in large number. In this context, I associate myself with the matter raised here by Shri Malhotraji during the Zero Hour. It would not be proper to brand it as communal only because it has been raised by Malhotraji.

Sir, whenever a matter regarding Bangladesh is raised in the House and whatever action has been taken in Mumbai or Delhi or anywhere else in India, it was always against foreign infiltrators, not against any minority community. Whatever is going on in Bangladesh is against minorities and humanity. Whatever action has been taken in Mumbai or Delhi, it has been taken against the infiltrators whether they belong to Bangladesh or Pakistan and not against any particular community as you are referring. In view of the atrocities being perpetrated in Bangladesh, stern action needs to be taken by the Indian Government against such atrocities. All the Members of this House should condemn such incidents with one voice and should not indulge in politicising the issues.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have called my name. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, but you have given the floor to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: I want to raise a different issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know that. You please resume your seat now. I would give you the floor. We have half-an-hour left.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: Hon. Members come in the morning itself to give notice to raise matters in the 'Zero Hour'. Most of the Members feel very unhappy because it has

become a practice with some of the Members of the House to raise certain issues during the 'Zero Hour'. It should not become a monopoly of some of the Members of the House to raise certain issues during the 'Zero Hour'.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All the Leaders, without any exception, have agreed to follow certain norms in the House but what is happening here is different. If that is the case, I cannot help it. Everybody has to cooperate with the Chair. Shri Vaiko, I am in agreement with you but unfortunately different things are happening here.

SHRI VAIKO: We have given notice to raise this issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is why I have called you but you have given the floor to him. That has created more problems for me now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a very important issue has been raised here. It would have been better if this issue has been discussed in some other manner. What is going on in Bangladesh has been raised here by quoting newspapers and Magazines, if such things are happening there then it is not good, such things should not happen there. Such an important issue is being discussed here and the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister are not present here to give replies. If these facts are not true and such types of rumours are spread in our society then there is an apprehension of breaking out of riots and escalation of tension. The second point is that this issue is concerned with our country as well as neighbouring country. Whenever an issue arises between our country and the neighbouring country, it is handled in a very delicate manner. Whatever we say here it has an impact not only on the neighbouring country but also on our country...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, such issues should not be raised in this manner. But they have raised and even quoted. So, we urge upon the Government, External Affairs Minister and the Prime Minister to look into the matter. We also request the Hon'ble Parliamentary Affairs Minister, who is also sitting here that if such an important issue has been raised here by an Hon. Member, then he should come forth with an statement regarding the factual position of the case. If the facts are incorrect, then we will say that the Hon. Member has not raised the matter in the interest of the country.

If it is right, then what action has been taken by the Government in this regard. But if such issues are avoided,

it will create hatred in our society and our relations with our neighbouring country will also get affected. Keeping this point in view, we should discuss this issue here. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to you that the Government may be asked to give a statement on this issue.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (*Vaishali*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs are not present here.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (*Deoria*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our former Hon'ble Speaker is not right to say this here because any matter can be raised by any Member during Zero Hour. Moreover, I would also like to say that we had to fight a lot under the leadership of Congress during its regime to deal with the same situation.

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we demand that the Prime Minister should make a statement regarding the recent developments in Indo-Bangladesh relations...(*Interruptions*) It is the duty of the Prime Minister to report to the House about the present situation prevailing and the action taken by the Government. We demand that the Prime Minister should make a statement on this matter. Since he has deputed his personal emissary to Dhaka to negotiate in the matter, we would only like to be enlightened as to what had happened ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue. ...(*Interruptions*) It is not the monopoly of some of the Members in this House to speak everyday. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: When refugees from Bangladesh come in India during the Congress regime, we sought a lot. Any incident which occurs in Bangladesh,

[*English*]

it is very much connected with our Sub-Continent and we cannot ignore it. There are people of Indian origin. Bangladesh was a part of India and, therefore, any happening in Bangladesh is a matter of national importance. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to say to the Chief Whip of the Congress Party and others in the Opposition that for the same kind of happening in 1971, for the same kind of influx of refugees into our country

we fought a war. So, it is not an ordinary matter and to give a communal colour to it is not correct. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, what is the response of the Government on this matter? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, it is not an ordinary matter. It is a very serious issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, will my hon. colleagues here permit me to raise another important issue?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (*Miryalguda*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would like to know whether the Government would like to respond about the developments in Bangladesh. Otherwise, all the statements made on the floor of the House will disturb the harmony between our two countries. ...(*Interruptions*) So, we would like to know the Government's stand on this matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is going to respond. When he is responding, do you not want to listen to him? Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we would like to know from the Minister whether the Government would make a statement on this issue.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs till his arrival in the House, is not aware of the matter to be raised during Zero Hour by members of ruling or opposition party leaving Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munshi as an exception.

Some Members inform about the subject earlier. As I have told, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi ji often inform about it. We do try that the concerned Minister is present at that time and give a reply.

I would like to say about the discussion which has just held in the House. Bangladesh is our neighbouring country and we want to have friendly relations with it. Friendly relations with our neighbours do not depend on the incumbent as Prime Minister there. We wanted friendship with earlier Prime Minister and also with present Prime Minister. As the hon'ble Member has said hon'ble Prime Minister sent national security adviser Shri Brijesh

Mishra there as his emissary to extend friendship with her at the time of formation of a new Government. He had a fruitful discussion with her.

We have been having some problems with Bangladesh continuously. At present, the Government of India have been making contact with the Government of Bangladesh and also is in contact with the Government of West Bengal. Recently, Chief Minister of West Bengal discussed the matter with the hon'ble Prime Minister and the Home Minister at the time of his visit. All have said that this is a very sensitive matter. Due to its sensitivity, it will not be proper to say some thing on my behalf because it can affect us as well as our neighbour. I will convey all your sentiments to the Prime Minister. Today, the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs are busy in having discussion with European Union. I will convey your sentiments to him. After that he can give a statement if he feels so or we can hold a discussion.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this matter should be taken seriously because figures have been quoted here and a lot of discussion has been held about rape case. We would like to know whether it is true or not?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is absolutely true and the Prime Minister has also endorsed it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We want to know about it on behalf of the Government. If it is not true, then tell so. I don't say whether it is true or not. I simply want to know whether it is true or not? ...*(Interruptions)* I am not asking to you. I know that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs does not have information about it but what information Government has in this regard? You can say that such matters should not be raised here, and if these have been raised, then facts may be laid in the House. I am not asking hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to speak. My point is that he should talk to the Minister of External Affairs and the Prime Minister and place the facts before this House.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The figures regarding rape of women are being termed as wrong...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Sir, all the men are talking about 'balatkar'. Are we allowed to speak? ...*(Interruptions)* Are we allowed to speak in this House? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anyway, now, do you want to say something?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, from the beginning, I have been asking to give me a chance. The victims of all this are women.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Perhaps you could not catch me or I could not catch you.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, nobody catches the eyes of women.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will be the last person to discriminate against the women.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Thank you. Women are not able to match their voices. That is our problem.

I am only saying that it is of great concern to all of us that something like this has happened in our neighbouring country. I think, communalising it is very wrong. It is a question of the minorities whether it is in Pakistan or in Bangladesh or in India. We are all seeking security for them. I think, the relations between countries are important particularly with Bangladesh. I am not undermining it. But the point is that we have to take a stand that minorities in all countries also have rights, including in Bangladesh.

I think, that the Government, as has been requested, should tell us what is happening. There is no point in coming to Parliament and shouting about the things. The women are involved and a number of them have been attacked. We know the problem. During festivals, in that country, the *Pandals* have been burnt during *Durga Puja*. These are things that do not make friendly relations. I think, concern has been expressed in the House, the Government should tell us how much of this true and if it is so, what the Government is doing to restore normal relations between the two countries. We do not want refugees coming in and going out. We do not want women being harassed at the border. We want peace in the sub-continent. So, please let us know the point of view of the Government.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, I have also given a notice on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is over now, let the hon. Minister reply please.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, I am also a Member of this House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know and that is why you are here.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, then why I am not allowed to speak...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This one matter has taken about 50 minutes.

Shri Chowdhary, your notice is regarding influx of Bangladeshi people in India. This subject is not related to this. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chowdhary, for the time being, please cooperate with the Chair. There are other matters to be discussed here. That subject is different, I will give you the floor later. Let the hon. Minister reply please.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a different matter and is not connected with this.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Now I am giving reply to hon'ble Shivraj ji. Margaret ji has also raised some issues. I agree with her. If atrocities are committed on Minorities in any part of the world. Whether it is India, Pakistan or Bangladesh, naturally it is a matter of concern and it is not a problem of one country alone. Sometimes, such type of incidents take place in many countries. Therefore, if atrocities are committed on minorities in India, everybody express concern which is quite natural. If it happens in Pakistan and Bangladesh it becomes matter of more concern. Hon'ble Member Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra have just mentioned about some figures and incidents. Margaret ji has also mentioned about the burning of some Pandals. Thus, these incidents have been mentioned by both sides.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Whatever mention is made by the hon'ble Members in the House, it is according to their information as Vijay ji has just given some figures and Margaret ji has told about burning of pandals etc. All these are on the basis of their personal information. I can not confirm or deny it on behalf of the Government. So far as the demand made by Shri Shivraj ji is concerned, I would like to tell the House that if they want to hold discussion on it in the House, it may be considered by B.A.C. and discussion can be held in the House. I will convey the demand made by Shri Shivraj ji to the hon'ble Prime Minister...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vaiko, please be brief.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): I have also given notice. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called Shri Vaiko, please do not waste the time of the House.

SHRI VAIKO: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, without giving notice, Members have taken one hour, we have been waiting for four days and you ask us to be brief...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. Please be brief.

12.54 hrs.

RE: BAN ON FISHING INCLUDING SHARK IN THE COASTAL AREAS OF TAMIL NADU

[*English*]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I draw the attention of the Government to a very serious issue which will adversely affect the livelihood of lakhs of fishermen in the coastal areas of the country.

The gazette notification dated July 11, 2001 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests is a bolt from the blue to the fishermen of the country, particularly, from the Southern States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and also other parts of the country

Through this notification, the Government has banned more or less sixty different items harvested from the sea under Schedule-I of the Act, prohibiting harvesting, processing, stocking and sale of shark and other sixty items completely. This is arbitrary and unjust because the Ministry did not consult either the fishermen or the States' Fisheries Departments or the Central scientific institutions on fishery.

The ban is unscientific. ...(*Interruptions*) This is not an issue to be taken up on partisan lines. You are interrupting without understanding the problem. ...(*Interruptions*) The Government will withdraw the ban; that is why we are bringing it to the notice of the Government. Are you not interested in the welfare of fishermen? Can you put your point and say for what reason the notification should be withdrawn? Please first listen to what I am going to say. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vaiko, do not get yourself entangled with any other Member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, sharks and other elasmobranchs are apex predators and a ban on their fishing will lead to an imbalance in the food chain. This will affect the total fish catches, as the availability of the smaller prey fishes will decline. ...(Interruptions)

Already, fishermen, for thousands of years, are fishing these items including shark, seahorse and corals. It is their main livelihood. ...(Interruptions) When they go to the turbulent sea, there is no guarantee whether they would come back to the shores. They are already risking their lives. For hundreds and hundreds of years, they have been doing this. So, it is totally unjust.

Moreover, is it possible to catch a particular type of fish in the net? This is ridiculous. Through the net, could the fishermen dictate that only certain kinds of fish should come to the net? Is it possible? Therefore, fishermen have come all along from Kanyakumari in my State and from Kerala to Jantar Mantar in Delhi for staging a demonstration. I therefore draw the attention of the Government to the serious problem so that the ban could be immediately lifted, the prohibition could be scrapped and the Government could withdraw the notification to protect the lives of the fishermen whose livelihood is fully dependent on this activity. This is a very grave issue, to which I draw the attention of the Government. The Government should immediately withdraw the notification.

Thank you. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call you later. There are two more hon. Members to speak on this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ramji Lalji, I have called him on the same matter on which you have given notice. You will be called after that.

[English]

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while thanking you for this opportunity, I would like to make it clear at the outset that I am emphasizing the demand made by the hon. Member, Shri Vaiko, who

spoke just before me drawing the attention of this august House to the plight of fishermen who are hard hit by two of the directions issued recently by the Union Government. About 60 kinds of fishes have been banned from being caught by Indian fishermen who live along coastal line of the country thereby affecting fishermen particularly those who live along the coastal area of many states bordering the ocean. Crores of people dependent on fishing occupation have been affected by these notifications issued by the Union Government. On April the first of this year, another notification was issued by the Union Agriculture Ministry giving a blanket permission to the fishing trawlers of MNCs and foreign countries to go about fishing in our waters. Fishing community are very sceptical about this move. When there is a ban on our Indian fishermen, the very same Union Government permits foreigners to go about fishing on our high seas. I would like to point out that this strange and inconsistent a move which is evidently contradictory gives rise to a doubt about the integrity behind the move of the Union Government. When the interest of foreigners are taken care of, the interest of our countrymen are ignored. There is a ban on catching sharks. If sharks are not caught as and when they strike, it would endanger the other varieties of fish. all the species of fishes that are becoming extinct should be identified by Marine Research Centre, both at Mandapam and Cochin. Without consulting researchers a unilateral move has been resorted to. This must be rescinded. The ban comes into effect within 12 nautical miles, which fall within the jurisdiction of the State Governments. But the Union Government has taken action without consulting all the State Governments, which have right over territorial water in the sea. Already Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have stoutly opposed the Centre's move. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to restrict the fishing trawlers of MNCs and foreign countries. Likewise the ban on fishing of 54 items must also be withdrawn.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mohan, please conclude now. I am calling Shri P.H. Pandian.

SHRI P. MOHAN: Just one minute please, Sir. Permission granted to MNCs must be withdrawn. The ban on certain fishing items must also be withdrawn and rationalised.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Mohan, nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Pandiyan.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Thank you, Sir.

There are, 50,000 fishermen in Tamil Nadu. ...(Interruptions)

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, I will come to that issue after this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: There are 50,000 fishermen's families in Tamil Nadu. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, he has given a notice.

...(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: The Ministry of Environment has, through an order dated 11.7.2001, banned fishing of 53 varieties of fish and 54 varieties of other sea animals under Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, citing flimsy reasons. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seat? He has given a notice. Shri Mohan, please resume your seat. I have given the floor to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri P.H. Pandian.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, this anti-fishermen order has adversely affected the livelihood of lakhs of fishermen all over India and also in Tamil Nadu.

Sir, my leader and the General Secretary of AIADMK, Puratchi Thalaivi, along with the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu have written letters to the Central Government to lift the ban. The ban is not lifted. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mohan, do not compel me to name you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: The livelihood of 50,000 families of fishermen will be at stake. If Indian fishermen are prohibited in territorial waters, then these fishes will flow to other countries. They have a right to fish. If they are not fished in Indian waters, they are not going to be stable in waters. They will move to other territorial waters and they will cross over the territory. For example, if the

fishes from the territorial waters of Andman Islands move away to the Thailand zone, then that country has a right to fish in that zone. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Do not allow the Indian fish to cross over. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, I want to say something on this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, about 50,000 families have thronged to Delhi. They are staging a demonstration here in Delhi. So, the Government should understand the sentiments of the fishermen all over India, particularly in Tamil Nadu. They must lift the ban. If this order is not withdrawn, the livelihood of about 50,000 families will be lost.

Sir, fishermen are all over India including Lakshadweep, your own Constituency. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, I am telling you that you are spoiling your case. I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, through you, I call upon the Government, on behalf of AIADMK, to withdraw this order. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Will you resume your seat? Shri Jose, I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will have to warn you. Please do not do this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, will you please resume your seat? Shri Ramji Lal Suman, will you please resume your seat? I will not call you if you interrupt like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please hear me patiently for a second. Shri Vaiko has raised a very important issue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have to raise a very important issue but you are not allowing me to speak on that issue...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is also a very important issue.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue being raised by me is also very important. I am patiently waiting for my turn. But, you are not allowing me to raise the issue. Earlier, when the Honourable Speaker was in the chair, he had assured me to give time very soon to raise the issue. But he has already left the House and now you are in the Chair. No fund is being sanctioned for Bihar for the last one year. This is a grave injustice to that State...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: What are you doing? Mr. Deputy Speaker wants to say something but you are not giving him the opportunity...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The order/notification issued by the Government

[English]

this is affecting everybody and I am also affected. They say do not catch 'shark'. Can you put the gate mentioning that not for 'shark'? Suppose, shark comes in the hook what will you do? What kind of a notification is it? I want the Government to take note of this order. About lakhs of people are affected by this order.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seats? The Parliamentary Affairs Minister has to say something.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am allowing all of you to associate with the subject.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is my duty to comment on any important statement made by an hon. Member. As issued raised by a Member

like Shri Vaiko, who supports National Democratic Alliance, carries more weight. It becomes more important when there is a direction from the Chair. So, by following your directions, I would talk to the Minister of Environment and Forests and...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Please ask the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It does not matter as both of them belong to Tamil Nadu. I would convey your sentiments to both the Ministers.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): The Environment and Forests Minister is from Tamil Nadu.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Jos, why don't you hear? You must have the hearing habit also.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Generally, the Chair maintains order in the House, but at times Ministers have to help the Chair in maintaining order in the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We may need your help also.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I shall certainly communicate your order to the concerned Ministry. Your reference regarding shark...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How will you catch shark? Would you write that 'not for shark'.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I pray that no shark is trapped in the fishing net.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Notification is needed not the prayer.

[English]

BEGUM NOOR BANO (Rampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very serious matter of deletion of names from the Uttar Pradesh voters' list. Names of lakhs of Muslims have been deleted in the entire State.

13.08 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair]

For instance, in the Constituency called Thakurdwara, names of 15,800 Muslim voters were deleted and 21,000 fictitious names were included. This happened in

December, 2000. On the 23rd of December, 2000, I had filed a complaint with the Election Commission and they had directed the Government to test check this complaint. Eleven PCS officers, including the SDM, were asked to test check this. Under pressure from the BJP Government in the State, they said that all these things were all right and there was nothing wrong with the voters' list...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a false allegation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He can speak. The Government will give reply. Please sit down.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): The Supreme Court has given its verdict please go through it.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you going to allow us to finish? The hon. Speaker has admitted her and she is making a statement.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): The Election Commission has brought the Uttar Pradesh Government in to the dock. The D.M., S.D.M. and other officers have suspended. This Government is deleting the names of original voters from the Voter-list and trying to add new names. ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let him speak.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The Election Commission has made an allegation...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you interrupting, please let him speak. Whether she could not speak?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: He should lodge his complaint with the Election Commission ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: They will not allow the lady Members to speak...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must listen to her. She has given the notices. Please sit down.

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Madam, she is a Member of the House. She should be allowed to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

BEGUM NOOR BANO: Madam, on 5th September, we filed another complaint to the Election Commission and taking that in view they have sent a team of their officers from Delhi to check it out there in Thakurdwara. They found that all the complaints were hundred per cent correct; 15,800 names of the Muslim voters were deleted 21,000 names of fictitious voters were included in this. That comes to 36,800 voters. This happened in one Assembly constituency. On that, they took an action and they suspended four officers—the D.M., the S.D.M., the Tehsildar and the Naib Tehsildar. After that they again asked for house-to-house checking. Now the teachers are making list of voters.

What is happening now again is that the teachers are being pressurised to delete the names. It is happening all over Uttar Pradesh not only in this one Assembly constituency but it is happening in another Assembly constituency of my parliamentary constituency called Swar. The problem is that if this sort of a thing is happening, that means lakhs of names are deleted. This report is coming from all the Assembly constituencies of Uttar Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Hon. Chairman, Sir, the Election Commission is investigating the matter...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The Election Commission has investigated the matter and found the charges true and it has brought the Uttar Pradesh Government into the docks...(*Interruptions*) This government having failed in Uttar Pradesh, is trying to change the voter-list forcibly for securing victory in elections...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him speak and you may please sit down...

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Speaker has given her permission to speak, so you please sit down. Express your view afterwards.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you obstructing a lady Member from speaking? Please let her speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. The hon. Speaker has allowed it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Begum Noor Bano.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

BEGUM NOOR BANO: If it is so, it means that the fundamental rights of a citizen are being violated. Through the Chair, I would like to request the Government to look into the matter so that the citizen are not deprived of their fundamental rights and the names of genuine voters are not deleted from the voter list.

Secondly, we have been informed that the persons without identity-card can not exercise their right to vote. The election I.D. cards have not been distributed to all the voters but the persons who got their cards in 1995 say that they have made corrections in their registers. I want to tell the House about my case.

My name was in that voter list itself, but I have no I.D. card. It means that neither I nor the members of my family can cast their votes. There are thousands of person like us. The I.D. card has become so important.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should write to the Election Commission about it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, they are taking away the rights of the people by deleting their names from the electoral rolls...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

BEGUM NOOR BANO: The Government is under pressure.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): This is a very serious matter. Samajwadi Party had expressed its concern over this issue first and it had also told the Election Commission about this. BJP did not want in Uttar Pradesh that votes be cast in favour of the opposition parties and therefore it is being done by deleting their names...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Uttar Pradesh Government may be dismissed and President's rule may be imposed there, only then free and fair elections can be hold there...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, you now take your seat.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Uttar Pradesh Government has failed on every front, so it is being used as last weapon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The UP is over, now Uttaranchal is being talked about. Let them speak also.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The BJP Government is cutting the votes of the minority voters.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me. This is an issue of the Election Commission which you have raised,

[English]

you will have to refer it to the Election Commission that a proper process is evolved and it is implemented.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The Supreme Court has also issued order on it.

BEGUM NOOR BANO: The Government must see that the fundamental right of the citizens, the right to vote is maintained.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Supreme Court has also passed orders in this regard...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, the judgment has come, it is to be implemented.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: In the Ayodhya Vidhan Sabha constituency the names of 82,000 new voters have been added, which are fake.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Akhileshji, you sit down, this is not proper. Narayan Dutt Tiwariji wants to speak something, let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No notice has been given in this regard.

BEGUM NOOR BANO: If 36,000 voters are added or deleted from a Vidhan Sabha constituency, the chances of winning of the MLA of that constituency get bleaked...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. You have already finished. Now, Shri Tiwariji will speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: BJP wants to win the election on the basis of fake voters. This is a very serious question...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already associated with it. You have said everything that you had to say.

[Translation]

All of you cannot speak simultaneously. Let one member speak.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): I have also given notice but I have not got an opportunity till now...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats. Otherwise, I will adjourn the House and none of you will be called.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: On the issue of deletion of names of the minority voters of Vidhan Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh by the Thakurs, the Supreme Court passed clear orders on it but the U.P. Government did not implement it...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is not there. You sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please sit down. Let me speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, I am asking you to please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, I am asking you to please sit down.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Akhileshji, you have given notice on a different subject. Your name is here. You can be called for, and Raghuvansh ji, your name is also here, but your notice has been admitted in the Calling Attention notice.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): I have also given notice but I am not being called...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The manner being adopted in the House is a serious matter...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam, please give me a chance. I have also to raise a very important matter...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri N.D. Tiwariji speaks very little in the House. Let him speak for two minutes. I had called him first but he has not yet got a chance...(Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI (Nainital): Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards an important issue that lakhs of refugees from Bangladesh are there in Uttar Pradesh and now in the newly constituted Uttaranchal State who have not been given right to citizenship till now. Lakhs of our Bengali brethren who have come over to India, recently hold a rally in Rudrapur to express their anguish over the issue that why they have not been given the right to citizenship till now and also that the lakhs of people of Mandal or Nawshudra class in Bangladesh and East Bengal have not been declared as scheduled caste till now. At least ten lakh such people are there in the Behraich, Gonda, Pilibhit, Rampur, Bareilly, Bijnaur, Basti, Lakhimpur, Khiri and Udham Singh Nagar districts of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. There are lakhs of Bengalis in Dineshpur Shakerigarh, Rudrapur also. They should be given citizenship rights. Also, those who are scheduled caste should be given scheduled caste status. This issue is lying pending with a Parliamentary Committee. This is a very important problem. Usually I do not raise questions like this but this one is very serious because it relates to lakhs of people who are deprived of citizenship rights. I urge upon the Government to make a statement in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Madam, I fully agree with Shri N.D. Tiwari...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Madam, Notices have been given for Zero Hour. Are you taking them on priority? Otherwise, it is useless to give notices in such a situation...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are wasting time of the House, and half an hour of time has lost. If you sit calmly, I can call all of you after every two minutes...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Madam, I want to raise a matter of utmost importance in this House. Many a nursing homes and private hospitals have become the robbing places. Generally people take their serious patients to private nursing homes or to private hospitals to avoid crowd and disorder in Government hospital, where they are robbed bitterly. Many a times it crosses the limit of inhumanity. Several cases have come to notice in which operations are conducted unnecessarily only to get money and after operation the wounds are not stitched properly.

In Bhopal, cases of selling new born children in a nursing home come to notice. According to a report

published in a newspaper, a driver named Chhote Lal was admitted in a nursing home in NOIDA for the treatment of his fractured leg. He was charged one lakh twenty five thousand rupees and when he could not pay 38 thousand rupees, he was not permitted to discharge. Even in some cases dead bodies are not handed over until the money is paid in full.

It is a very important matter. Through you, I want to say to the Government that a code of conduct should be framed for the nursing homes to run the same and also to determine their rates. Hospitals like Apollo had grabbed the land worth crores of rupees at throw away prices on the term that poor will be treated free of cost and some beds will be reserved for them. But the beds for poor were not reserved. Number of beds should be reserved in these hospitals for the treatment of poor.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Advocates of 25 districts on Western U.P. are on strike for the last four months. The Government of U.P. requested the Union Government to set up a commission to find out a place in Western U.P. for establishing Allahabad High Court bench to get cheaper justice as number of pending cases has increased in Allahabad High Court. Jaswant Commission was constituted in 1981 for this purpose and it worked hard for three years the commission presented its report, which is with me. As per the report, Agra has been found most suitable place for establishing High Court Bench. The most important issue is the strike by Advocates for the last four years. Every problem can be solved through dialogue. Whether it is Meerut or Agra, all the advocates have requested to solve this problem. Bench of Allahabad High Court can be established in Agra or a circuit bench in Meerut. But it must be arranged for the cheaper justice to people. For the information of the House, there are 8.5 lakh pending cases in Allahabad High Court. Bench of Allahabad High Court should be in Agra and if circuit Bench is established in Meerut, then there is no objection...*(Interruptions)* Through you, I would like to convey that Government is not taking any action. On 25 September, advocates were lathicharged in the rally of Prime Minister. Whether there is a Government in India, because Government is not solving the problem of farmers. It is a very serious matter. Through you, I would like to request the Government to solve the problems being faced by advocates, at the earliest.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alvi, you have associated with him.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: After making such a hue and cry I will not only associate, but I will speak also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no please only associate. The subject is same.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I want to submit that a poor man from Saharanpur in Western U.P. goes to Allahabad only to fight his case. We should provide cheaper Justice to the people...*(Interruptions)* In Western U.P. Advocates of 24 districts are on strike for the last four years and no advocate is economically well off. There are many advocates who are economically weak. That is why I insist that there must be a Bench of High Court in Western U.P. If the sub-Bench of the Allahabad High Court is set up in my constituency Amroha, I will arrange to provide the land to the Government free of cost. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): The landslides have become a very common phenomenon in Kerala. Recently, in Trivandrum there had been a big landslide killing about 40 people, out of which 13 people belonged to my constituency. A scientific study has to be made in this regard. I would also like to say that the compensation or the amount given by the Centre to the State is very important. Kerala did not get anything out of the Clarity Relief Fund from the Centre. If there is any defect in the memorandum which has been submitted, that must be rectified so that the people of Kerala do not suffer.

Therefore, my submission to the Government through you is that the amount due to Kerala in this regard must be disbursed, the people of Kerala must be saved and a study be made in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Madam, I want to submit in brief. The Rajasthan has the largest areas amongst all the Indian States. It is a hilly and deserted area and there are no rivers. Rajasthan gets only one percent water of the Indian rivers. In view of this I request that Government should increase its grants for Rajasthan. Hon'ble Finance Minister is sitting here, I request him to provide more grants to Rajasthan on the basis of Gadgil formulae. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Madam, my name is also there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is the same subject. You associate with him.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Madam, Cricket match is going on...*(Interruptions)* ICC have declared it unofficial...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please sit down.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Please give me a chance to speak on this subject later on...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now please sit down. It has been discussed in the House yesterday. House had full discussion on this subject yesterday.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: If B.C.C.I. desires, the meeting can be held. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion on cricket has been held and the game is going on.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Madam, you are requested to give me only two minutes to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb him. Let the hon. Member speak.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Madam, the rubber growers and the coconut cultivators are facing a lot of problem in the State of Kerala. The hon. Finance Minister is here in the House. The State Government of Kerala as also all the Members of Parliament from Kerala repeatedly requested the Finance Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you disturbing him? He is speaking something important.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: All the Members of Parliament representing the State of Kerala requested the hon. Finance Minister to increase the import duty on Palmolene. We requested the Government to enhance the import duty upto 300 per cent but unfortunately it has been reduced by 10 per cent. Cheap quality of Palmolene is being imported from Malaysia and as a result our farmers are suffering. I do not know why the Finance Ministry is sleeping over the matter. The Ministry has been continuously reducing the import duty. So, I request the hon. Finance Minister to save the coconut growers of Kerala.

Similarly, Minimum Support Price for rubber has been declared.

The tyre manufacturers are not taking rubber. The Government of India should intervene so that the tyre manufacturers purchase rubber from the growers. The STC should intervene in the market so that rubber is procured. Madam, the hon. Finance Minister is here. He should address the problem and save growers of the State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.30 p.m.

13.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *In the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Sir, today the unofficial match between South Africa and India is being played and what was feared has happened. We had said that there should be pressure from the Government and a special meeting of the Board should have been called so that it could be declared an official match.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rawale ji, take your seat, it is not Zero Hour. Zero Hour has finished.

[English]

Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, no action is being taken against players like Pollock, Mcgrath etc. but action is being taken against our young players like Sehwaag and Harbhajan Singh.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please sit down, why you are disturbing the House now. You are wasting the time of the House unnecessarily.

14.36 hrs.

[English]

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-Eighth Report

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

14.37 hrs.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI KARAMCHARIS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2001*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I propose**

"that the Bill to further amend the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993 be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I propose that the Bill to further amend the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993 for increasing the term of the Commission for Safai Karamcharis be taken into consideration. The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis was constituted on 12 August, 1994 under the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993 for three years. Initially, this Act was in force till 31 March, 1997 which was extended upto 31 March, 2002 by the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Amendment Act, 1997. The present Commission was reconstituted in February,

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 23.11.2001.

**Moved with the recommendation of the President.

2001 and its term under sub-section (4) of Section 1 is till 31 March, 2002. The term of the present Commission will be for a period of less than two years. This will not be adequate for achieving the objects of the Commission and for doing proper work. Hence, the proposal for increasing the term of the Commission till 29th February, 2002 for three years by amending the sub-section (4) of section 1 of the Act.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I present this Bill for the consideration of the House and request that it be passed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the National Commission for Safai Karamachris Act, 1993, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill is the real Antyodaya. People doing dirty deeds are called superior while people doing sanitation work are called the lowest and are considered inferior. Their population is around eight crores in the country which includes around six lakh and twenty five thousand employees who do the dusting, cleaning and sanitation work in the municipality area etc. But their condition is very bad. We protested under rule 72 on 20th also. But they are not going to listen to our suggestion. They speak like enemies of Dalits and work against Dalits. Hon. Shri Buta Singhji had called a very large conference of Safai Karamacharis on 21st at Ramlila ground.

It is a great coincidence that this protest took place on 20th and their conference was held on 21st and today on 23rd this Bill has been brought out. I want to ask as to why it is extended in piecemeal? In 1994 it was extended till 1997, then from 1997 to 2001, then till 2002 and now they want to extend it till 2004. Do you think that their condition can improve in three four years due to the Commission? We, therefore, demand that like all other Commissions a permanent Commission should be constituted for them since it is a question of the backward people of the society whom Mahatma Gandhiji gave the name of the last person. The person doing the sanitation work is an important person of the society. See his condition, how much he is being exploited. This question of six lakh people is in record but still the broom work is got done through the poor people and at some places they are paid 250 rupees and at other 500 rupees. Atrocity is being perpetrated on them. They are forced to

do work. We, therefore, demand that like other Commissions this Commission should also be made permanent so that the Safai Karamchans can get justice. Their condition is worst in India and even some people among the dalits consider the Safai Karamchans as untouchable. Therefore, when this class of society will become free from exploitation and will progress, then only India can claim equal footing with the other countries of the world and say that it is also a civilised and developed country where there is no exploitation, there is no justice and atrocity against dalits which was there for thousands of years and this is what is called social justice. But they are not aware of the social justice. They know how to divide, how to spread riots and sometimes they go inside the prohibited area. They do foolish acts but they have no scheme for the development and progress of India and the people doing manual labour.

They have made legislations but they extend the term of the Commission so miserly that it goes unnoticed. Is this community less important? Therefore, I want that a permanent Commission should be there for this. There are many previous legislations too. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have always fought for the labourers and you must be knowing that it is written in the Contract Act that they will not be kept on contract but they are making a legislation to keep them in Contract Act so that they may be exploited by the contractor and Safai Karamchari should go in labour supply. We are against this and want to caution the Government that they have brought the Bill and want to get it passed but they should assure that they will make it a permanent Commission like other Commissions. Those employees who are suffering like bonded labour should get freedom from exploitation. We request the Government that there should be proper arrangement for their children, their education, living and medicine and they should get respect in the society and be considered as an important community. It is good if the Government, do it otherwise we are against this Bill. Hon'ble Minister is a good person but BJP first made him the Labour Minister and then brought him here You should work courageously for the dalit and the exploited communities otherwise we are afraid that BJP will not leave you here also. Who has a say in the BJP, we know this too. Therefore, you should work bravely for the Dalit community, though you will face difficulties and high people will become against you also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, they are narrow minded people who do not wish to abolish untouchability till now. Only such people dominate that party. Thus, you are facing a lot of difficulties. Hon. Minister we understand this thing. Hence, it is necessary that we should remain alert otherwise nothing will be achieved. With these words, I conclude.

DR. (SHRIMATI) ANITA ARYA (Karol Bagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (Amendment) Bill, 2001. First of all, I would like to thank hon'ble Prime Minister and hon'ble Minister who have set-up a National Commission for Safai Karamcharis and introduced a Bill in the House today to make certain amendments in that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, inspite of the rapid advancements made by many States in the country, the practice to remove excreta and refuse manually still prevails in our country. Both the Central Government and the State Governments are very much concerned about this practice and the Central Government have launched two major schemes for the upliftment and welfare of the Safai Karamcharis. The first scheme is the National Scheme for the Safai Karamcharis to liberate them and their dependents from this filthy job and also to rehabilitate them. The other scheme is for the children of the people engaged in this filthy work to provide them education upto matriculation level and also award them scholarships. The Central Government is very much concerned about providing education to the children of Safai Karamcharis.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the statistics of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis, the total number of Safai Karamcharis is 5,77,228 approximately. Out of these, 3,50,059 Safai Karamcharis have been rehabilitated and 1,36,681 Safai Karamcharis have been imparted training by the Central Government. The number of Safai Karamcharis is controversial even today. According to the recent figures, the number of Safai Karamcharis is about 6 lakhs. The present Commission was set up on 16.2.2001. The Commission has sought a clarification from the Central Government whether the present figures are correct or not. If these are correct, it should be so communicated and if these are not correct, the correct figures should be supplied to the Commission. But the Central Government so far has not been able to apprise the Commission of the exact position with regard to the number of Safai Karamcharis.

Sir, I would like to request that the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis should be given powers as are enjoyed by the Civil Courts. The extension of the term of this Commission is also necessary because the Safai Karamcharis belong to the most sensitive class of the society and their upliftment and welfare is most essential. Therefore, it is necessary to extend the term of this Commission. This Commission monitors the schemes being implemented by the State Governments for the Safai Karamcharis. Besides, it undertakes tours to the entire country for carrying out inspections and presents the reports thereof to the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Central Government which has shown a concern over the interests and rights of the Safai Karamcharis of the country and presented a Bill for the extension of the term of this Commission. In the recent past on 15 August, 2001, the present Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had announced residential facilities for them under the 'Malin Basti Balmiki Awas Yojana.'

I would like to congratulate him and at the same time I would request the hon'ble Minister that the duration of this Commission may be extended permanently because a lot of work is still left to be done for the upliftment of Safai Karamcharis. The duration of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis should be made permanent for their welfare and to make them free from the feeling of inferiority that they are the lowest class in the society.

With these words, I thank you very much.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate my hon'ble colleague, an old friend of mine, a great scholar among the people of depressed classes, our present Minister, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya ji for this Bill. I believe that he is holding this department as per his choice. I am aware of his feelings. He is a dedicated person and now it is hoped that some justice will be meted out by the Government to the people belonging to the depressed classes particularly those who belong to the sanitary class. I was hoping that the newly appointed Chairperson of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis, Dr. Anita Arya, who has just spoken, would apprise the House with some authority about the internal position of the Commission. But the way she had expressed her views about the Commission, it seems that Dr. Antia Arya has not yet been able to understand the Commission fully. The position as on date is that Dr. Arya has assumed the charge of Chairperson but even the staff which has already been appointed, is yet to be delayed fully. Dr. Jatiyaji, the employees of the Commission have not got their salary for the last eight months. Was it not expected that the Chairperson would have apprised us of the factual position of the Commission? Earlier she did not get the office and transport and even the seating space was hardly made available to her...*(Interruptions)*

DR. (SHRIMATI) ANITA ARYA: Everybody has got the transport. If the staff is not appointed how can they still get salary from us?

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: The assistants, PAs, who are working with the Members...*(Interruptions)*

DR. (SHRIMATI) ANITA ARYA: They are engaged privately. They have not been deployed as yet.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: You can see it very clearly from here itself as to what a joke it is that there is no staff for the last eight months. I want to say with full sincerity that staff has been working in the office of the hon'ble chairperson for the last eight months while she is saying that the staff has not been deployed as yet. How has she been working for the last eight months? Are they Safai Karamcharis, who come and clean her office? Dr. Jatiyaji, that reveals what kind of treatment is being meted out to the Commission by the Government. I would revert to the issue of Safai Karamcharis later on. I regret that the poor knowledge shown by our hon'ble Chairperson about the commission goes to prove that the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill, 1993 rightly stipulates that the Commission should have only such persons as its Chairpersons and Vice-Chairperson who are somehow familiar with the job of Safai Karamcharis and who have worked for and with them at some or the other stage. It stands proved today that Dr. Arya is completely unaware of the job of Safai Karamcharis and about their system of work. Therefore, according to the Act of 1993, she is legally unqualified and she has no right whatsoever to continue as the Chairperson of the Commission. It would be better that she may relinquish her office of her own accord and Dr. Jatiya should offer this post to a person who has the experience and who is aware of the job and profession of Safai Karamcharis and who is aware of their life-style. I don't say it, the Act says it. It is mentioned in section 4 of the Act:

[English]

"The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson should be among persons of eminence connected with the socio-economic development of the Safai Karamcharis."

[Translation]

It is laid down in the Act. She has no knowledge. She has never worked with the Safai Karamcharis nor in any organisation related to them. I can understand today that the manner in which she has given the introduction, shows that she is not fit to hold this post and Dr. Jatiyaji, you please appoint such person to this post, we are not talking about the party but of a person who is familiar with the Safai Karamcharis. I would like to add that this Commission for Safai Karamcharis was constituted on 12th August, 1993 in this Parliament and this Act gathered dust for one year and members were not appointed to it. The Act was passed and the then Prime Minister had to

mention this on that issue, I am not talking about any party, the Congress was in power at that time. The Prime Minister belonging to the Congress party had spoken before the Ministers of the country on 3rd February, 1996. I want to repeat his words. Shri P.V. Narshimharao had said that so far as Safai Karamcharis are concerned, though a Commission has been set-up for them, but sometimes I get disturbed to think that I had to struggle hard for about one and a half year for the constitution of this Commission. Such is the mentality of the bureaucracy of the country that even the Prime Minister had to struggle hard for one and a half year, he kept on fighting but the Commission was not constituted. And now when it has indeed been constituted, I came to know that the Chairperson and Members of the Commission have not been provided the facility of office building and accommodation for a long time. They did not receive these for one year, while your officials have not got the pay of eight months only. Therefore, I am not talking about your person. This kind of negligence, this indifference has been shown towards the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis right from the beginning and it has been like that since its inception. In between, a time also came, when the term of this Commission was upto the year 2002, but the then hon'ble Minister, Maneka Gandhi ji had wound up it two years ago and told the press that they just don't need this Commission at all.

There is no need of a Commission for Safai Karamcharis and when members of all the Political Parties including the hon. Speaker wrote to and met the Prime Minister Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee to explain the position in this regard, the latter was perturbed to note as to how legally constituted Commission could be disbanded prematurely. When we gave him in writing, he was kind enough to constitute the Commission which is now in existence. Speaking in regard to this Commission Narsimha Rao ji further says that he would like us to share his agony because the problems that he faced in appointing the said Commission was unprecedented.

14.59 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

Shri Jatiyaji, in this background I would like to say that Maneka Gandhi had disbanded the said Commission before hand when two more years were still remaining against the tenure of the Commission and got its office closed and repatriated all the staff. Vehicles were handed over, Staff repatriated, office closed and after all that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has appointed the present Commission which is working now. Not only the Chairman but also every individual Member of the said Commission

[Sardar Buta Singh]

praised me and said that it was due to my efforts that the Commission was revived. However, this Commission has neither an office and nor the staff.

15.00 hrs.

Later on staff were provided to the Commission anyhow, but the staff members are now working without salary. In principle, I support the Bill that has been introduced today because there is a ray of hope in it. Jatiya Saheb, from your approach it appears that through this Bill the system would be revitalised at least by 2004 and the interests of Safai Karamcharis would be served to some extent.

It may be recalled that after getting independence and after our own Government was formed with the President and the Prime Minister assuming their offices, the greatman-Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi went to stay in Valmiki temple situated at Panchkuiya. When the media persons asked Babu as to why he chose to stay in the locality of Safai Karamcharis when he was such a high person that even the President and the Prime Minister were appointed on his advice. At this, what he said was a historic reply. He said that he was happy to know that India had got independence, but a large segment of our society are still slaves. Those brothers and sisters who are engaged in cleaning work and who pick up filth constitute this segment. When the people of entire nation are asleep, our these men come out to clean the roads and drains. These people are still slaves. He said, he would launch a new movement from that place of valmiki for the emancipation of those people. Everybody is aware of the 'will' that Mahatma Gandhi had bequeathed. He wrote that though he did not believe in the philosophy of rebirth, yet if perchance God ordains and he is reborn, he would like to be born in the family of the lowest caste so that he could be able to realise as to how the people of that category are forced to live in inhuman conditions like animals living beside filthy drains without facilities like water, health and electricity. This is how he wanted his dream to be realised.

Jatiyaji is now going to be instrumental in extending the period of the said Commission to ensure the welfare of the people of that community. We are happy that the hon. Prime Minister has helped us to get rid of Maneka Gandhi who is anti-dalits and anti-Safai Karamcharis and has given this portfolio to a man who is well aware of the problems of those people. What is mentioned about Safai Karamcharis in the section 10 of the 1993 Act is very important.

[English]

"The Central Government shall consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting the Safai Karamcharis."

[Translation]

It means whenever the Government desires to bring about any change in the policy concerning Safai Karamcharis and labourers, the Members of this Commission ought to be called and consulted. However, it is a matter of regret that there is no mention at all in this regard in the announcement made by our Finance Minister regarding amendments which are likely to be made in the Labour Act. The Government or the Prime Minister never wrote any letter to this Commission or to the national Union of those people to know their views. I have heard that the Prime Minister had constituted a national council comprising of eminent personalities who advised the Prime Minister to bring amendments in the Labour Laws. Shri Ratan Tata, Shri Nusali Wadia, Shri P.K. Mittal and Shri Kumarmanglam Birla were among them. A Council was constituted comprising of those people and they were asked as how to bring about amendments in the Labour Laws.

I would like to ask as to what the capitalists and the industrialists can know about the labourers. I would have been convinced had the Prime Minister included some trade union leader or the Chairman of SC & ST Commission or of Backward Class Commission or of Human Rights Commission or of Safai Karamchari Commission, then I think whatever these Commission are, be it of the backward classes or of Minorities, Scheduled Castes or of Safai Karamcharis Commission, then I think it would have reflected the willingness of the Government in the real sense of the Word. The amendment should be made with such dedication that it might ensure the welfare of the entire country and pave the way for social welfare and economic progress of the Country, but I am sorry to point out that on the suggestion of the Committee, the Government of India amended section 10 of the Contract Labour Act. Under the above section of the Act, the places where works are ongoing permanently, which are called as Premier works and which are classified as perennial works according to the present Contract Labour Act, are not covered under the Contract. But the works which are seasonal, temporary and of casual nature are different. you are an eminent trade union leader of our country and as such you know all about it but the class that has been severally hit under the Act are the Safai Karamcharies. The work of Safai is of Perennial nature, Safai work is carried out round the clock, for all the 30 days and round the year *i.e.* everytime and as such it cannot be got done on contract basis under the existing Contract Act. There is a provision in the Contract Act that if any perennial work is required to be given on contract basis, then the State Government will have to declare that service as an emergency service for sometime and that work can be assigned on contract

basis for a maximum period of five years but I am sorry to say that in Tamil Nadu, Chennai Corporation, your Corporation, D.M.K. Government imposed emergency on the Safai work that was a permanent work and assigned that work to a Singapore Company namely CGEA...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, he is misleading the House. We are giving some opportunity to the Scavenger community...(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Let me complete first. He has the right to reply...(Interruptions) Sir, you have to know who is the owner of the firm and what relations he has got with one of the Central Cabinet Ministers of India...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Chennai Corporation, dominated by category A citizens of India assigned the Safai work to a Singapore firm for five years as if the solid work of our Madras brethrens has got fragrance and not the smell and the people will come from Singapore to lift that...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, he is misleading the House...(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: I am not yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him finish it. When you get a chance, you can reply then.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is expressing his view. You can speak when you get your chance.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: I am saying something, which is before the Supreme Court of India.

[Translation]

That firm has stated that they cannot do. Now good looking people will come from France in its place for sweeping the streets of Chennai. Perhaps, people would not come from France, only the contractor will come from there, the same safaikarmacharis who are paid a salary of Rs. 5000/- plus leave, medical, housing and cleaning allowances will be engaged on a lower salary of Rs. 1200/- without any peaks and will be treated as bonded

.... and will be even fired at the sweet will of the contractor.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the Chennai Corporation has published an affidavit in a magazine stating that the Safaikaramcharis are quite foulmouthed, therefore, they should be excluded from the list. They are being excluded from the list. They are being excluded from the provision of the Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1988 so that the contractor, if he so wishes, could throw them out and these poor people could not file a case for untouchability under the provisions of this Act in the police station. Safaikaramcharis are being engaged under the contract labour Act in Mumbai, Mangalore, Chennai and Delhi and as stated by Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji, the rally organised in Ramlila ground of Delhi was not attended by the safaikaramcharies alone, it has against the Industrial Disputes Act and Contract Labour Act as well.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. We have to pass it by 3.30 p.m. There are more Members to speak on this Bill.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: I know that. I will conclude my speech quickly. What I am saying is relevant and it is not detrimental to crores and crores of people. Thirty-five crore working class of India are going to be penalised by these amendments which have been moved by this Government. Therefore, the matter is very serious. It is of national importance. Of course, the main target is the Safai Karamcharis.

Sir, I would like to make a humble submission to Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya. I will send you a detailed report I have already sent a report to the hon. Prime Minister. I will submit a copy to you. You become the Messiah of the working classes and save the Safai Karamcharis from the draconian amendments that are being introduced in the Parliament.

[Translation]

These have been given a new look, what should have been done by the Parliament, the law that should have been passed in the House, before all this, an N.G.O took the orders from the Supreme Court under a PIL and the Government shows its inability saying that the Supreme Court has delivered the verdict. Our right of reservation has been emasculated. This amendment has not been introduced in the House and the order of the Supreme Court. We are grateful to hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji who has made efforts to make amendments in the Constitution and to restore reservation for us But

[Sardar Buta Singh]

the same has not been done so far. Grass injustice is being done to labourers. Other hon'ble Members have said that this Commission should be made a permanent body. This is not being done for the first time. Extension was given in 1997 and 2000 also. The then Minister Shri Ramuwalia had given an assurance in this very House that they would make this Commission permanent. We have tolerated whatever Maneka Gandhi has done but we expect Dr. Satyanarayan jatiya to complete the work left unfinished by Ramuwalia ji. We are not concerned with the Commission. But Dr. Anita Arya should work for 24 hours for the welfare of Safai Karamcharis. Only then we will say that powers should be given to this Commission and full respect should be given to its members. This Commission should be kept at par with other Commissions. It should be given powers similar to that of the Court and the Human Rights Commission to enable its members to work smoothly.

With these words, I support this Bill and hope that Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya ji will take appropriate action on the issues raised in the House.

[English]

*SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU (Jhargram): Hon'ble Mr. Chairman Sir, I support the Bill. The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis was constituted on the 12th of August 1994 as a body at the national level. I am sorry to say that the Safai Karamcharis are the most hated people, poorest of the poor and most oppressed in the society. People hate them. So, to constitute a Commission for them is indeed the most important historical incident. Sir, I feel that people who have motivated them, have made them aware of their rights, have inspired them to fight for their rights, have provided leadership in their agitation to achieve their rights deserve congratulations and admiration. After going through the report of the Commission I came to know that there was a dharna for 43 days at Boat Club in Delhi. Lakhs of Safai Karamcharis from all over India attended that dharna. It was a successful dharna. The ultimate result of the dharna was the Constitution of the Commission. But almost seven years have passed after the Commission was set up. Of course reports like the 1st Report, the 2nd Report have been submitted but so far nothing has been achieved for the benefit of these people. The Government have failed to do something, something to change their miserable condition. There is a controversy about the definition of Safai Karamcharis. But I feel the purpose of constituting the Commission was to look after the grievances of the Safai karamcharis—people who are engaged in doing the filthy work of carrying night soils and garbage. The purpose was to empower the Commission to investigate the matters relating to implementation of the programmes and schemes for their welfare. The aim of setting up the

Commission was to liberate these people and their families from the inhuman work of carrying human excreta even in this so called civilized age. These people are called *Jamadars* and *Methor* in Bengali and they are looked down upon in the society. But we forget that they do the noble job in the society. They clean the area, clean latrines, dustbins and carry them on their head and thus keep the area clean. But what do they get in return of their noble deeds? They get only hatred, oppression and have been labeled as *achhut* or untouchables. They are hated repulsed even by *adivasi* Scheduled Castes who are themselves suppressed by upper castes. But they have the Safai Karamcharis for the work they do.

I would like to request the Government to think seriously about the condition of these people and take some welfare measures to ameliorate their condition. The place they inhabit lack the basic facilities like electricity, drinking water or cleanliness. It is a paradox that those who are engaged in cleaning the city live in such conditions. If people visit their areas, they will feel that they have come to hell itself. They do not have medical facility. Their children have no access to education. Are not they human beings? Even after 54 years of independence, they have to face these hurdles. How long they have to continue like this? Today I will put this question before the House. I ask this august House as to how long these people should have to continue to carry the night soil on their heads. All of us must think over it. This is the age of high technology. Science has progressed very much. Can't we think of some other means so that these people don't have to do the dirty work manually? Why they have to touch and carry human excreta? If this can be done by some simple machine why we make them do this dirty work. Why can't we provide them some other occupation? They must be given some other jobs so that they can live with honour and dignity. I do not know if there has been any survey about the number of Safai Karamcharis in the whole country. I feel that there should be a survey to know the exact number of the people who are engaged in this profession. There should be a time bound programme so that we can bring some change in their lives, in their occupation.

I would also request the Government to look into the contract system prevailing in their job. They are employed by the contractors and the contractors misuse their power and derive benefit out of it. These people do not get their due share. Some upper caste people also misuse them by giving them less money and take the major share. I request the Government to take appropriate measures so as to stop this kind of manipulation. We have to act in an organized way so that we can give the benefits to these people who have been suffering since long due to injustice. I remember Swami Vivekananda's famous speech at Chicago in the Conference of Religions. He said, "Illiterate Indians, poor Indians and *chandal* Indians are my blood and brothers."

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I support the move to extend the tenure of the National Safai Karamchari Commission for another three years. I also want that this Commission should be made permanent as has been proposed by hon'ble Shri Buta Singh ji and all Members also feel so. I would like to make a humble request to hon'ble Jatiya Saheb that it is not important as to what is the tenure of this Commission but important is as to what powers the Commission has got and also whether the Commission is serving those for whom it has been set up. It is not important whether the Commission's tenure is one day or one month or ten years, more important is whether or not the Commission has got any utility. I would like to make this submission. I would also like to give more powers to the Commission.

Mr. Chairman Sir, please excuse me. There was time when only such persons were nominated to the Rajya Sabha and Legislative Assembly who had expert qualification in some specific areas of art and culture. But in today's politics only those persons are nominated to these bodies who have lost elections and are to be accommodated. Same way it is happening in the Commission. It is now less important whether the person is qualified or not. What is important is whether the person to be nominated is loyal to the party or not. ...It is not important whether the person understands the functioning of the Commission or not. If the person nominated in the commission is not expert than the Commission can not function effectively. Dr. Anita Arya is excused. She belongs to Agra, I had old association with her father Shri Kundan Lal ji. What was the need to appoint her as Chairman, she could have been accommodated elsewhere. Therefore, unless the Commission is given powers, it can not do any significant work. In fact the Commissions are being sacrificed at the alter of politics.

Second request I would like to make is that the Government have enacted the law to ban the carrying of night soil on head. The Government may give any figure but the reality is just contrary. Recently, a statement appeared on behalf of Shri Mange Lal Arya ji who has been the Chairman and he has stated therein that there is no substance in all this.

And the Safai Karamcharis Commission has not done its work effectively. As far as the practice of scavenging is concerned, there are certain dry latrines and there the Safai Karamcharis also have to carry the night soil on their heads.

Talks have been held about the Safai Karamcharis Emancipation Rehabilitation Scheme. It has been said that under the above scheme jobs would be provided

with investment of Rupees Twenty Thousands but it is quite meaningless. If they have to be made self dependent, then the S.T.D. booths, petrol pumps, L.P.G. agencies would have to be allotted to them and the contracts for stalls, trolley, car parking etc. would have to be awarded to them. So long as they are not given priority in these things, they would not be able to become self dependent. The Safai Karamcharis are in dire straits. You will not be able to understand the circumstances under which they work in rural areas. I am talking about Uttar Pradesh especially. The salary is paid to them by the local body but it is not been paid to them for even 40-42 months together. This makes their condition all the more worse. The source of income of the local bodies is the local tax but it does not serve their purpose. So long as the role of the State Governments is not decided and they are not paid their salaries by the State Governments till then their plight will continue to remain the same. Therefore, you should make the said Commission more effective. Jatiya Sahib, you have to play a greater role in this regard. You claim that you are a true devotee of Rama and so you had gone there but you should not forget that if there was any person who had worked towards making and proving Rama as Maryada Purshottam, that was Balmiki ji. Had Balmiki ji not written Ramayan, then Lord Rama would have not become the Maryada Purshotam. You own a special responsibility. You must make constant efforts for the welfare of these employees.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA Mr. Chairman, Sir, honourable members have expressed their concern towards the Dalits and especially towards the Safai Karamcharis through amendment Bill on the Rashtriya Safai Karamchari Aayog. In this discussion, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Dr. Anita Arya, Shri Buta Singh, Shri Rupchand Murmu and Dr. Ramjilal Suman have expressed their views. Views have been expressed in the House towards the dalits especially the Safai Karamcharis from time to time. It is the responsibility of the Government to work towards this direction because social justice means that there should be no discrimination between one person and the other. Work is worship and social equality is the birth right of the mankind. One of the views that have been expressed to establish social equality and social justice, was, as to how we can make this Commission more effective and how we can make it fully equipped with resources so that it may achieve its goal. Keeping all these things in view we will try that the Government take such measures that these people get due regard and prestige in the society. Actually no work is a menial job.

After the Independence, it has been mentioned in the Article 17 of the Constitution that untouchability will not be acceptable in any form. The Scheme which the

[Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya]

Government have formulated to restore respect and honour towards the Safai Karamcharis, it will try its best to give them full advantage under the scheme. I am grateful to those hon. Members who have given important suggestions on the issue. I shall welcome them whenever they want to have talks on this issue. We will take every measure to restore the honour and prestige of this section of society. And it is my request that this bill be passed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Hon. Chairman Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.31 hrs.

[English]

MOTION RE: NINETEENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Nineteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 22nd November, 2001."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Nineteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 22nd November, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

15.32 hrs.

PROVISION OF COMMUNICATION FACILITIES IN EVERY VILLAGE BILL*

[English]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the facilities of telephone and post and telegraph office in all the villages of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the facilities of telephone and post and telegraph office in all the villages of the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I introduce the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up Private Members' business.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10.8.2001.

15.33 hrs.

**SLUMS AND JHUGGI-JHOPRI AREAS
(BASIC AMENITIES AND CLEARANCE) BILL***

[English]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the basic minimum amenities of water, electricity, sanitation and health facilities in slums and Jhuggi-Jhopri clusters and for the clearance of such areas in larger public interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the basic minimum amenities of water, electricity, sanitation and health facilities in slums and Jhuggi-Jhopri clusters and for the clearance of such areas in larger public interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I introduce the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

UNIFORM EDUCATION BILL*

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for free and uniform education throughout the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for free and uniform education throughout the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 23.11.2001.

15.35 hrs.

PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT BILL*

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a scheme for eradication of unemployment from the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for a scheme for eradication of unemployment from the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

CROP INSURANCE BILL*

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for insurance of crops and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for insurance of crops and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of New Article 21A)

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 23.11.2001.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

GIRLS (FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION) BILL*

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for free and compulsory education to every girl child whose parents are living below poverty line.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for free and compulsory education to every girl child whose parents are living below poverty line."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.39 hrs.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (REGULATION) BILL*

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of voluntary organisations and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of voluntary organisations and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.39 1/2 hrs.

INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL* (Amendment of Section 375)

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860."

The motion was adopted.

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.40 hrs.

CINEMATOGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL* (Amendment of Section 5B)

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted.

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10.8.2001.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 23.11.2001.

15.40 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Insertion of New Articles 22A and 22B)

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.41 hrs.

**CUSTODIAL CRIMES (PREVENTION,
PROTECTION AND COMPENSATION) BILL***

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for prevention of and protection against custodial crimes for compensation in cases of custodial offences, for appointment of Vigilance Commissioner and District Vigilance Commissioners for custodial offences and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for prevention of and protection against custodial crimes for compensation in cases of custodial offences, for appointment of Vigilance Commissioner and District Vigilance Commissioners for custodial offences and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.42 hrs.

**SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED
TRIBES (RESERVATION IN SERVICES)
BILL—contd.**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up item no. 42 of the List of Business: Further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Pravin Rashtrapal on the 27th July. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, who was on his legs last time, may continue his speech.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon. Chairman, Sir, when the debate was going on this bill in the last session, I had said that the spirit behind the bill moved by Shri Pravin Rashtrapal was very good. The weaker sections of our society, members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes should be brought at par with social equality. Our Constitution is also committed to social equality and justice and which has been clearly mentioned in the preamble of our Constitution.

We feel that untouchability is a curse on our society. As per the reservation policy, there is a provision of 15 per cent reservation for the SCs and 7.5 per cent for the STs. The matter of other backward classes was also raised and thereafter as per the recommendations of the Mandal Commission 27 per cent reservation was provided to them in Central Services as a result of which the total reservation works out to approximately 50 per cent. There is also a provision for reservation for Ex-servicemen. Reservation is also provided to the handicapped persons. A demand is also being raised now for providing reservation to women and minorities. There cannot be two opinion that right to equality as envisaged in our Constitution should be complied with so as to bring the weaker, backward and downtrodden sections of society at par with others. Keeping these feelings in view, there is a provision of reservation for all services be it Central or state services and the candidates of concerned community are selected for the posts reserved for them. But the Supreme Court gave its rulings in the recent past relating to reservation. I need not repeat these rulings. All the hon. Members know about it. There was a case of one Indira Sahni V/s Union of India in which it has been stated that reservation would not be provided for the posts which entails speciality such as engineering, medical, defence services etc. Again in the case of one Ajit Singh, the Supreme Court gave the rulings that the candidates of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes promoted by virtue of the reservation quota will not be

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 23.11.2001.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

eligible for getting seniority from the date of their promotion till the senior candidates of general category are promoted. On the basis of these rulings Shri Rastrapal ji draw the conclusion that the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes employees do not have fundamental right to promotion. I think that it is everybody's fundamental right but our social system or social equality or rules and regulation or rules for reservation should be as such to provide them justice. The architect of our Constitution Dr. Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar made a lot of efforts for the upliftment of weaker sections of society and as I said earlier, Suman ji who has just left the House was talking about Balmiki ji who wrote epic like Ramayana and established Rama as Maryada Purashottam Ram all over the world.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Balmikiji was given great honour by calling him a great saint. Similarly, Ved Vyas ji who was the son of a Fisherman wrote Mahabharata and therefore, he was called a saint. And this has been the tradition of our country and it is mentioned in the Vedas neither anyone is big nor small. Lord Srikrishna has said in the Gita that he created four varnas on the basis of their virtues and work. According to which we are Sudras by birth. That is to say we know nothing. But as we get social samskar, education samskar, family samskar, samskar of the nature, a man gets refined and he gets ability and skills and on the basis of which somebody becomes an Engineer or a Doctor or a Minister or a General or a Colonel in the Army.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has always been equality in our society but I am forced to say it with regret that some vested interests destroyed the social fabric in order to maintain their superiority. And they suppressed some sections of society which were educationally backward and they also ushurred their rights and the present Government has decided to continue the system of reservation as provided in the Constitution to bring them on the path of progress and to put an end to atrocities and crimes committed against them from the time immemorial. Our erstwhile governments, be it the Gujaral or the Deve Gowda Government which enjoyed the outside support of the Congress, some decisions were taken by these Governments which created hurdles in way of promotion of the reserved category employees or filling up the backlog posts meant for them. But our Minister of State for personnel, Vasundhara Raje who is present here has brought in the Constitution amendment bill under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister in order to remove hurdles created by the Supreme Court's decisions. But the Members of the Congress who call them the champions and protector of the backward classes left no stone unturned to sabotage the interest of these people from reservation point of view.

Sir, I therefore, want to congratulate the NDA Government which has tried to remove the hurdles and difficulties coming in the way of reservation through a constitution bill. I would like to tell you one more thing "Self evident truth needs no proof".

Sir, one more constitutional amendment bill is to be introduced on the coming Tuesday which will take care of problems towards which Shri Rastrapal ji has drawn attention through this bill and we will get the bill passed to be introduced on Tuesday so that the Members of SCs and STs community are not deprived of their rights and the benefit of provision for reservation in promotions is continued and streamlining the process for filling up the backlog vacancies meant for them.

Shri Pravin Rashtrapal ji has made this bill so complicated with his verbose language and has created a disillusionment among the members of these communities which is not going to benefit the people of these sections but it will rather create a feeling of rebellion in the society and which will ultimately divide the society, I feel that no wise person would like to alienate these sections of society. I feel that we will have to inculcate a sense of affection and harmony in the society in tune with the feelings of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and Swami Dayanand Saraswati and we will have to inculcate such national feelings which are not detrimental to the interests of the country. But there are so many anti-social elements in our country who are misguiding some people and who meant to draw political mileage from it and try to play dirty politics.

They want to create hurdles in actual progress by posing legal niceties at every step. It has been mentioned therein that in the era of globalisation of economy, private investment has been allowed in the Government undertakings. It has been stated in the Bill as to and in what manner the Government will interfere in private services and autonomous bodies. They have mentioned that provisions for reservation should be made there also. Many other such things have also been written there. I personally do not agree to all those matters but as far as the question of reservation is concerned, or the question of constitutional rights is concerned, the rights and reservation given to our countrymen should not be curtailed and the same should continue without fail and if people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not found eligible for any post and there is some backlog then it should be filled only by the members of the SCs and STs categories. This much I want to say to the persons belonging to those categories. I also urge upon the Government to remove all impediments coming in the way. But if we try to appease only a particular section of society and thereby among other sections of

society or we try to widen such chasm then there will be a threat of breaking of social fabric. Therefore, now when the whole world is coming closer, the level of awareness in society and nation is increasing, at this juncture it is our duty to make some efforts to strengthen the social fabric, create environment for social justice, equality and social harmony so that every section of society should work unitedly for overall development and progress of India. With these words I conclude.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we want to integrate the country then this caste system should be abolished...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak when you get a chance. It is not that at any moment you can stand up and start speaking.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): The caste is not determined by birth, instead it is determined by deeds. There are four Varnas—Brahma, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra.

Our ancestors had framed separate rules for all the four varnas, similarly there are different festivals also for them. Like there is Raksha Bandhan for Brahmins, Deepwali for Vaishyas, Dussehra for Kshatriyas and Holi, Dulhandi for Shudras. When there is an attack on Brahmins then rest of three varnas would try to protect them. There is nothing new in this bill, emotionally it is all right but every one wants to get benefit of reservation whether he is Brahmin, or Kayastha or Shrivastava, they want to get the benefits of reservation to get into State Legislature or Lok Sabha and get good position in jobs. At present, every caste wants to get the benefits of reservation by all means whether they belong to forward castes or backward castes.

I am to request that provisions for reservation should remain there, I do not have any objection but a provision has been made in this bill to provide reservation to people in private sector also. But the Supreme Court has given a decision that in medical sector or other specialised services no reservation should be given. The hon'ble Member who has brought forward this amendment bill, I am not saying about him but I support Vasundharaji. Hon'ble Rasa Singhji has told all sorts of things here in this regard. I would like to add this much that reservation is not necessary in every sector. Reservation in Government jobs is enshrined in the Constitution and a period of ten years was scheduled for this purpose but so many years have passed but even after so many years today...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale, allow him to speak. Please do not interrupt him. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Ramdas ji. Please sit down, I am your disciple. I am a perfect devotee of Lord Rama. You are devotee of only name of Lord Rama...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Reservation for seats of Lok Sabha and State Legislature is for the period of 10 years — it has been provided in the Constitution...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can you speak without my permission?

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Provisions for reservation have been made in the Constitution, that you have got. The reservation should be one time affair. It should not be provided in the promotions. If reservation is given only in the promotions then the people belonging to general category will not be able to get jobs. Therefore, our demand is to give reservation on economic criteria. If reservation is given in promotions repeatedly then it will dismay the people of forward castes. Thus I hope that you will not accept this bill, whoever has moved this Bill. I neither support nor oppose it. Certainly I am in favour of reservation but that should be given to poor people on economic grounds and that too for one time only. If benefit of reservation is given repeatedly to a person then it will create problem for persons belonging to other castes and lead to disharmony among different castes. Therefore, my request is that the Member who has brought this Bill should bring forth the Bill with this amendment. That will help in the passage of the Bill. Otherwise it will be very difficult to pass it.

I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

*Not Recorded.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

I got an opportunity to join the discussion on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Bill, 2000 moved by the Hon'ble member Shri Pravin Rastrapal. There is a provision of reservation in services for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes in our Constitution. The provision is still continuing. We have celebrated the Golden Jubilee of our independence but the seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes are still vacant and there is a backlog in this regard. This issue has always been raised and discussed in this House but no solution has come out. Shri Rashtrapalji has brought this Bill in this connection. Through this Bill, he has stressed the need of introducing the principles of special opportunity by strengthening the reservation provisions.

16.00 hrs.

I would like to tell, through you, that the provision of reservation for the people of Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes has been continuing for the fifty years and this provision was to bring them at par by giving special opportunities but the period of reservation is being extended because parity has not been maintained under the principle of special opportunity. There is still a backlog in filling up the vacancies. There is no such law where action can be taken against the officials who have done some laxity in implementing the principles of special opportunity. I would like to thank the N.D.A. Government because it acted promptly on the verdict of Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding reservation in promotion for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in services and acted in right way by bringing amendments in the Constitution and thus protected the interests of these people. But I would like to say that the backlog of vacancies reserved for the people of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes could not be filled up even after golden jubilee year of our independence because there is no such law which could make compulsion to do so. Therefore, I request that the provision of reservations to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes may be incorporated in the ninth schedule of the Constitution. This Government has protected the interests of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes by providing reservation in promotion to them. If any law is passed regarding the backlog of vacancies, it is certain that their interests will be protected.

The work of the census 2001 is over in the country. The provision of reservation had been made in the context of the population. Today the population has increased to

much. The provision of reservation for the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes, provided under the article 16(4) of the Constitution was based on the educational and social backwardness of these people and also on the basis of population. Therefore, the limit of reservation should also be increased on the basis of increased population. A very good objective has been given in the memorandum of this Bill. We provide reservation and accept the principles of special opportunities. Constitution Committee constituted under the chairmanship of Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar, who framed the Constitution, made provision of reservation in it for the people of scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and poor people of other backward classes, who was educationally and socially backward.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time extended for this Bill was forty-five minutes and it is over now. Shall we extend the time for this Bill by another forty-five minutes?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, the time has been further extended by forty-five minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: But this work has not been completed even after elapse 50 years of our independence. Shri Rashtrapalji has moved this Bill. I thank him for this. In 1991 new economic policy was brought in the country during the regime of Congress party. It has adversely affected reservation system and due to which the number of jobs are decreasing. Today this Government is commencing the second phase by extending the new economic policy. This has resulted the cut in the number of vacancies and the people are not getting any job.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to urge, through you, that it should be considered to bring a new Constitution amendment Bill again by interpreting the article of the Constitution in which provision of reservation for the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes under principle of special opportunity has been made. In this Bill the same percentage of reservation in services may be stipulated in private sector and multinational companies. This thing has been mentioned in this bill and we support this.

I would like to draw the attention of Shri Rasa Singh Rawat ji for his comments in which he has questioned about the implementation of reservation in private sector

in this connection. I would like to say that Labour Act is being enforced in private sectors. This pattern, which is passed in this Parliament and which control the private sector is being implemented in private sector. Why can't we implement the same by making the principle of reservation a law and passing the constitution amendment Bill? If you honestly want to bring the scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and other backward classes at par by giving special opportunities you will have to go one more step further and provide reservation in private sector and in multinational companies.

There is no reservation in Judicial services. This Government, under the Leadership of hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee is doing well. It is my request to you to change the appointment procedure being followed in Judicial Services. This is such an issue and we want to bring it to the notice of the Government that there is discrimination in this regards. In some States some castes belong to SC category and in some States the same castes belong to ST category. But in some States, they are neither in SC category nor in ST and in some States the population of these castes is so less that they can not raise their voice and thus they do not get justice.

I come from Bihar State. There is one Dhanuk caste, whose population is very less but this caste comes under SC category in U.P. and Haryana. Our colleague Shri Sushil Kumar Indora, belongs to the same caste but in Bihar the 'Dhanuk' caste comes under other backward class. Similarly Tatme Amat, Nonya, Beldar and Kahar castes are below the status of S.C. in various places but these castes have been placed under the other backward class categories. These castes are in S.C. category in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. That is why I want to draw the attention of the Government that hon'ble Minister should keep in mind while replying whether there will be parity or not in these cases. Whether the Government would consider to place these castes in SC category in Bihar which are already under SC category in U.P. and Haryana. Dhanuk, Tatma, Beldar, Amat, Nonya, Kahar are the castes of SC categories and it is necessary to consider seriously to keep them under SC categories. Similarly Luhar and Barhai castes are under ST category in many States. Their demand for including them in ST category in the remaining States is so weak that their demands are not being met. It is our request that these castes should be brought in ST category. It is also requested to ensure reservation in services in private sector and you can streamline the work of reservation by bringing the issue of reservation in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. I also demand that the remaining castes of other States, particularly of Bihar and Jharkhand, may be included in castes which comes under SC and ST.

Beside I would like to say one things more. Special provision should be made for the poor people, may be of any category and the Government should bring a separate Bill for these people in this House.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am really grateful to you for giving me time to speak on the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Services) Bill, 2000 moved in the House.

Sir, 53 years have passed since the freedom of the country. While drafting the Constitution Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar had decided that a provision may be made to provide reservation to the downtrodden and poor people in services and otherwise to bring them at par with others. For this purpose, advertisements for services with reservation were being published from 1950 to 1980-82 but the Officers used to give in writing that suitable candidates with requisite qualification were not found to fill up the posts. This caused continuous increase in backlog vacancies. Thereafter, Janata Party came into power and they also made efforts to fill up the backlog vacancies by launching special drive for dalits. Thereafter, Supreme Court banned special drive launched to fill up the vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes. There is a provision in the Constitution for reservation as a fundamental right but the people belonging to Scheduled Castes are not getting its benefit. Moreover, a ban has also been imposed on the provision regarding promotion. I hope that Hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government will move two Bills on Tuesday in respect of these categories so that dalits may be benefited. The need of the hour is to fill up the backlog vacancies. Now it is the compulsion of the Government and the circumstances are such as all the industries are being privatised. It will be a disadvantage to the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and they will not be able to get the benefit of reservation. If a survey is conducted in this regard, you will find that the vacancies ranging from class I to class IV have not yet been filled up.

16.14 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

There are several big industries. By moving this Bill with certain amendments, the Government should direct to the private sector to implement the provision of reservation to SC/ST as per the guidelines of Government of India otherwise they will not be issued licenses. This will cause benefit to them. There are so many people of Scheduled Castes who have been deprived of job. They

[Shri Sheesh Ram Singh Ravi]

are still jobless even after passing High School, Intermediate and B.A. They are suffering with the problems of bread and shelter. Some provision like unemployment allowance should be made for them. It may also be provided that landless agricultural labourers will be given old age pension compulsorily after attaining the age of 60 years whether they are male or female. Every person of the country, belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe should be given a pension of atleast Rs. 500 per month after attaining the age of 60 years then only we can do justice to the people living below poverty line. The students of primary and junior schools, who have not been provided even proper seats, appear in the examination with those who are studying in convent schools. There is a lot of difference between the education being provided to both of them.

Sir, a provision should be made to hold separate examinations to clear their backlog. Moreover, the question papers for these examinations should be got prepared by the teachers of the Inter College, Primary and Junior Schools running in rural areas. But the reality is that the question papers are often prepared by the teachers of Universities situated in the cities like Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and other metropolitan cities. In India 80 percent of the population live in the villages. The people living in cities have a little knowledge about village life. In my childhood, I used to go to another village for getting school education because the school was situated in that village and which was five kilometer away from my village. Not only this, I used to cross a rivulet to go to school. Even today, in the villages, crores of students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes have to go upto four kilometers away on foot to reach the school. Still, there are no proper facilities for them. Most of these students know Hindi but their question papers are prepared by the teachers of Universities and convent schools of Delhi, Mumbai and Calcutta and famous universities. Therefore, when these poor students appear in the examination alongwith the students of convent schools, they find themselves unable to compete with them. That is why, they are found unable to fill up the vacancies reserved for them but in reality they are not incapable. We daily talk about the development of Hindi. We also find in newspapers about celebrating sometimes Hindi Day or sometimes Hindi Week. But the fact is that two crores of English knowing people are dominating this country. My submission is that the pattern of education and examination and also question papers for the students of Scheduled Castes living in the villages and small clusters should be according to their level. Separate examination should be held for them and an initiative should be taken to launch a special recruitment drive by the Lok Sabha so that the departments of Central and

State Governments can collectively launch special recruitment drive for the candidates of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Sometimes, efforts are made to deprive an I.A.S. Officer from promotion by writing adverse remarks in his confidential report. Not only this, I have personally seen in the police department and in Block Development offices that step motherly treatment is given to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But irony is that the welfare schemes like Indira Awas, I.R.D. and J.R.Y. meant for the people of SCs and STs, is given to those who do not belong to these castes. If the Government really wants to do welfare and bring them at par with other categories, it should give opportunity to the people of SCs and STs in these schemes. Whenever I visit my constituency, it is told that if Rs. 20 thousand are sanctioned under Indira Awas Yojna, Rupees five thousand are taken as bribe by the concerned Government employees. Thus exploitation is being done in the name of SC/ST. We, the Members of Parliament should, therefore, take responsibility to stop such practice. We will have to launch some special drive for that.

Any society or person can not be called healthy unless its all parts are completely healthy. Therefore, if we want to keep India fully prosperous, we will have to make all the categories of the society prosperous. Then only, India can be called fully prosperous. Thus, we will have to provide adequate opportunities to the people in the society living in small towns and clusters of the country and bring them at par with others.

Two Bills were brought forward last time. These are really a good step in this direction and their provisions should be implemented. Now, our hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji is taking keen interest in the programmes being run for the Scheduled Casts and Schedule Tribes. He was in the Government in 1980 and 1990 when Bills regarding reservation were passed and now he is Prime Minister at the time of passing this Bill in 2000. I believe that the poor and dalits of entire country will be at par with others in his leadership because he is a person who fights for the cause of the poor. People say that in my childhood, hon'ble Jagjiwan Ram ji had discussed this matter with Shri Atal ji, Atal ji then told him that his cook belonged to Scheduled Caste. Hon'ble Atal ji has such noble views. Therefore, the Government should try to pass a Bill in favour of the SCs and STs with whole heartedly so that the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes could be assured. Legal action should be taken to penalize those officers who show laxity in implementing rules. Unless we enact such an extremely stringent law we cannot bring the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes at par with other categories of people.

We are thinking in terms of making India as world leader in 21s century. We must take the Dalits, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes along with us in that march. A separate bill should be drafted and passed to revive their promotions which are held up at present. In addition to it, the House should ensure that the High Courts and the Supreme Court may not grant stay in matters concerning Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is wrong to give a stay in matters concerning their jobs.

The Government is implementing many schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They should be strictly implemented. A Government Bill should be drafted and passed by incorporating more beneficial provisions in the bill moved by the hon. Member. The people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are waiting for such a bill. They have hopes from the alliance Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. They think that the Government will do good to them. For many years hurdles were being created in their promotions. They have taken a sigh of relief after formation of our Government. So, a Government bill should be brought forward and passed as early as possible for this purpose and a campaign should be launched to fill up the backlog of their vacancies. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I have stood up in support of this Bill and it should be passed. There is enough justification for passing of this Bill as I am given to understand that it is not trying to seek any more reservation. What it requires is that the Central Government must pass an Act that protects the existing reservation. There is a tendency among various sections of the society to challenge the reservation on one pretext or another. Not only that, there are various courts which give injunctions. As a result of that, the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes suffer a lot.

I just wanted to draw your attention especially to the Scheduled Tribe communities. They constitute seven-and-a-half per cent of the population of this country. I do not have much experience and knowledge about the Scheduled Tribe communities in other parts of the country. But certainly working for almost 20-25 years in the entire State of Gujarat, I would like to mention that nearly 15 per cent of the population belonging to Scheduled Tribe lives in Gujarat. The tribal communities all over the country are almost in a siege from various sides. They have been deprived of opportunities relating to development. Take, for example, various forest laws whether it is the

Forest Conservation Act, the Wildlife Protection Act, the Cattle Trespass Act or any other Act that regulates the forests. The main Forest Act does not allow any development activities in the tribal areas of this country. They cannot take up any employment on the basis of raw materials which, in fact, are defined as forest produce under the Forest Act.

If you look at building of dams in the entire country, those dams have been built in the tribal areas. In Gujarat alone, there are nearly 6,00,000 people who have been displaced for building various dams since 1947. As a result, the people have to change their habitat from one area to another area. There is a paucity of irrigation facilities in this region which has resulted in a large-scale migration from the tribal areas to the cities. The education facilities are very rare in various parts of the country. In my State alone, take the cases of girls going from Standards I to VII. Here is almost a 74 per cent drop-out. In the case of boys, it is almost 64 per cent.

The educational facilities in higher education and middle education are again in a shambles. The attitude of the State Governments is more or less providing ways rather than development in these areas. As a result, if you take the entire families which are living below the poverty line, you would see that the tribal communities constituted large number of families which are living below poverty line. This is another strategy by having reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. By protecting it, one of the strategies, in fact, is to uplift these communities and to assure jobs for these communities, especially to those families who wish to spend their money to send their children to schools and to bring them up. When there are a fewer chances of getting a job in these families they get disheartened.

I would also like to draw your attention to a very important issue that a very little has been done for these communities as far as financial allocation and financial spending in this country are concerned

I have analysed the Budgets of the Government of Gujarat and the Central Government. You will be surprised to know that on primary education, the Governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra together spend more than the Government of India. Out of Rs. 5,000 crore, half of it, nearly Rs. 1,500 crore is spent in providing mid-day meals to the children from I to VII Standards. If you further look at the Budet Head 2202, or the Money Spent on General Education, it is a very good accounting system that we have adopted. We can come to know how much money a State Government has spent on general education and that it has to be accounted into this Head. It goes further again in sub-major heads, minor heads, and so on. You

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

can know exactly which Government is spending how much and on which head.

After analysing the Budget, we found that the Government of Gujarat, out of the total Budget on general education, was spending only 2.3 per cent in the tribal areas; on technical education, it was merely three per cent and not more. I have taken Plan and Non-Plan Expenditure together.

You take any case, whether it is minor irrigation, major irrigation or whether it is development of agriculture in this region, whether it is the whole SC/ST welfare activities, which is being done in other various major heads. If the total quantum of money which has been allocated itself is low, and if a large chunk of the amount remains either unspent or less spent, the community suffers a lot.

This Bill provides, as a part of the strategy, to all those people who are deprived of such facilities in the development, at least, to get a job either in Government or semi-Government. I think, it will be a step forward on our part if we can certainly direct all those private institutions to provide reservation to SC/ST in their establishments.

I am in support of this and I strongly believe that the Government must come out in protecting the jobs for SC/ST, which are reserved for them in this country. I support the Bill.

[Translation]

DR. (SHRIMATI) ANITA ARYA (Karol Bagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Constitution aims at social and economic justice and honour as well as equality of opportunity to every citizen. It is the policy of Central Government to provide honour and equality to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the Private Member's bill introduced in Lok Sabha is concerned, I demand that the Government should introduce a new bill in Parliament by including some other points regarding the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The backlog of vacancies meant for SCs and STs should be filled up. They should be given promotion in service. The Government should launch a special drive for the welfare of SCs and STs as their number is very large. I demand that the Government should provide for reservation in Public Sector Undertakings and other organizations also. Action should be initiated against those Government officers who discriminate in recruitment for posts under reservation. The deficiencies in the new roster should be

removed. I demand that the Government should present in Parliament the action taken report of the Government on the recommendations of the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In addition to it, there should be provision for reservation in private sector as well as multinational companies. I demand that the Government should introduce a new bill in Parliament keeping in mind the interests of the SCs and STs. Today the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are facing injustice in every sphere, therefore, an effective law needs to be enacted so that they may not have to face discrimination anywhere.

I reiterate that a new bill should be introduced in the House by adding provisions of welfare for the SCs and STs in this Private Member's Bill. The Government have introduced a bill on this subject in the past and a new bill about SCs and STs is to be introduced in Parliament on coming Tuesday. I am neither in favour nor against this Bill, instead, I demand a new bill. I conclude with this.

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada): Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, the bill introduced in Parliament is certainly a subject of discussion. The mover of the bill Bhai Pravin Rashtrapal ji has made a meaningful effort. The most important issue is that the works which should have been done for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes during the last several decades, could not be done. What could not be done during the last fifty years, looks impossible to be accomplished during the next two to four or five years. The Government has made an honest and meaningful endeavour. I would like to first congratulate the Government for having changed the name of the Welfare Department as the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The word 'welfare' reflected sense of pity. Therefore the Government has named it as the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment which truly shows the will of the Government. The Government deserves congratulations for having changed the name of the Ministry of Welfare as the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It shows how sincere the Government is in taking a meaningful initiative. Secondly, the financial corporation set up for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes has been bifurcated into separate corporations for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. A series of continuous reforms is taking place. Reservation has been extended for ten years. These steps taken by the Government show that it really wants to improve the lot of the SCs and the STs and that it will not rest content with discussion only. I want an extensive discussion on this issue. The discussion should not be aimed at merely exposing the Government or to halt the steps being taken for their betterment, but it should be aimed at initiating a discussion as to how to check the diminishing job opportunities.

The job opportunities for the SCs, the STs and the OBCs are diminishing due to privatization, liberalization and globalization currently going on. The condition is not any better for the general categories. How can we talk of reservation when there are no jobs? We have to think over as to how to create job opportunities. Creation of jobs will help all the categories. We want that the Government must pay attention to the issue of creating jobs and skill upgradation of the jobs which are becoming extinct. The need of the hour is to provide employment to the unemployed and it is also necessary to provide job opportunities for the educated unemployed persons. This Government has always made an honest endeavour in that direction. It is reflected from the actions of the Ministries of Labour, Social Justice and the Department of Personnel. We have to see to it as to how to bring about participation of the people belonging to the weaker sections of the society, in the private sector where job opportunities exist.

In the developed countries of the world something affirmative is being done. America is the biggest model of the world. Many protective measures have been taken in America. Our Government have also made efforts keeping these things in view. In the private sector, corporate social responsibility is talked about through Companies Act. What should be the social responsibility of these companies for whom corporate social responsibility is being talked about. This has been done in Belgium and Denmark. We want that this should be considered. Jobs are not there and reservation in services is ending—so give reservation—this does not appear to be proper to say this just for political gain. This is, no doubt, an important subject but the context is not proper. We would like that the Government and non-Government organisations, the media people, the social institutions—all should think out as to how these weaker sections can be benefitted.

We thank the Government again for their efforts for the upliftment of these weaker sections of the society in a short period. This reflects the commitment of the Government. We hope and believe that the Government will also bring another bill for the dalits and weaker sections of society in order to generate employment opportunity for the unemployed youth. Let's come forward for this and only when this becomes a subject of discussion, we shall be able to provide employment not only to the dalits but also to the other weaker sections of society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of concern for all as to how these sections can be socially benefitted, how the interests of these section can be safeguarded. Besides this, I would also like to say that there is zero participation

of these sections in the private sector companies, judiciary and media etc. How to increase the participation of these sections in these areas, how to ensure their participation and welfare, we will have to think over it, too.

Sir, there are certain references in the present bill which are not proper. I would like to say that the time to move this bill and its reference — both are improper. Though, they have made a good effort, but after going through the bill and talking to the Government I have come to the conclusion that this should be withdrawn and after certain amendments in it, the Government should bring in a comprehensive bill in the House. If such a bill is moved in the House I will give all support in getting it passed. So, I oppose this bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since the time allotted for this bill has exhausted, will the House agree to extend the time for discussion on this bill by half an hour?

With the consent of the House time for discussion on this bill is extended for a further half an hour.

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing a Private Member Bill to provide for reservation to SC's and ST's in private sector. I am not for or against this bill but would like to say this much to my Government that such a bill should be moved by the Government itself due deliberations and amendments. It is a fact that reservation has helped some people of the backward and downtrodden classes of the country to some extent and they have got an opportunity to rise. I believe they would get more facilities and opportunity for betterment in life through reservation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, along with SC's and ST's the people belonging to OBC's should also be given reservation. I emphasize it because the percentage of SC and ST population in the whole India is the same as that of OBC. Besides, the backward and oppressed class people should also be given facilities. If we are giving reservation to some people, we should give it to all such downtrodden and oppressed classes also so that they could get an opportunity to improve. We should include OBC's also along with SC's and ST's.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hail from Jharkhand. There are a number of private sector industries, but the local people do not get employment there. They have to work as labourers. Even the educated ones are unemployed. They are deprived of the benefits of reservation. A new Government has been constituted in Jharkhand Reservation was the hottest topic there. Government has given 70% reservation there, but we are not going to benefit from it fully as long as we do not extend

[Shrimati Abha Mahto]

reservation in the private sector also. Industries are there but they do not provide reservation. So our brothers and sisters have to work as labourers. Even those who are educated do not get good employment. The qualified boys are going without job. They run from pillar to post but they do not get employment. So reservation must be given in the private sector.

I would like the Government to bring in a comprehensive bill after making suitable amendments in this bill which is all inclusive and which provides for development of all.

In the end, I would like to say one more thing that the Mahto caste was in the reserved category scheduled tribe as per 1932 position, but for no apparent reasons the Government declared the Mahto caste as non-scheduled tribe. So I request the Government to treat Mahto caste as scheduled tribe in the revised bill and the same may be implemented in the whole country. With these words I conclude and thank you for giving me opportunity to speak.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Sir, I want to thank the hon. Member of Parliament, Shri Rashtrapal for having moved the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Services) Bill, 2000 for the consideration of this august House. The consideration of this Bill has witnessed very stimulating debate and many hon. Members have given their valuable opinions. I take this opportunity to thank all those Members for their very enthusiastic participation in this debate.

The Government has been fully alive to the need to protect the interests of the depressed classes and to further the agenda of social change through positive discrimination that is basically the corner stone of the Constitution of India.

The Prime Minister made a statement in the Lok Sabha on the 18th of March, 1999 and he assured the House at that time, of the Government's resolve to review the Office Memoranda which were issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) between January and August, 1997. In order to fulfil the promise that was made by the Prime Minister with the support of

this House and that of the other House, the Constitution was amended twice and we incorporated Article 16(4)(b) and the proviso to Article 335, through the Constitution (Eighty-first) Amendment Act, 2000 and the Constitution (Eighty-second) Amendment Act, 2000 respectively. As a follow up to these, the adverse effects of the OMs dated 29th August, 1997 and 22nd July, 1997 have been rectified through the subsequent issue of Office Memoranda which were dated 20th July, 2000 and 3rd October, 2000. The backlog vacancies have been excluded from the 50 per cent ceiling that was applicable earlier and concessions to members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotion in services in and postings under the Government have been allowed by relaxing the qualifying marks and standards of evaluation.

Special Recruitment Drives to fill up the backlog vacancies which had been discontinued in 1997, have again been sought to be reintroduced in the various Ministries and Departments and the Department of DoPT is shortly going to issue instructions to this effect. Members of the House were justifiably agitated over the OM which was dated 30th January, 1997 which lays down a catch up principle allowing general candidates to regain seniority over reserved candidates who may have been given accelerating promotions. This OM was issued because of the judgment of the Supreme Court in the Ajit Singh-I and Vir Pal Singh Chauhan's cases. The Government sought legal opinion, consulted wide cross sections of members, but despite the fact that the catch up principle had been reiterated by the Supreme Court in the Ajit Singh-II case, the Government decided to amend the Constitution to allow members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to retain their seniority on accelerated promotions.

The Constitution (Ninety-second) Amendment Bill is now before this august House and I would request that the Members pass the Bill as soon as possible so that we can restore the right to seniority on promotion to SC/ST employees. With the passing of this Bill, three of the five Office Memoranda of the DoPT which were issued in 1997 during the tenure of the UF Government and which caused so much of anguish among the members of the depressed classes would have been reserved.

The Office Memorandum dated 13th August, 1997 merely carries forward the system of reservation in promotions beyond the 15th November, 1997 in pursuance of article 16(4)(A) of the Constitution. But for this OM, the reservation for SCs and STs would have lapsed with effect from the 15th of November, 1997. The Office Memorandum dated the 2nd July, 1997, concerned with the replacement of Vacancy-based rosters with posted-

based rosters, has been given detailed consideration by the Apex Court in its judgment dated 16th September, 1999. The full implications of this judgement are now being examined in consultation with the law officers of the Government for taking appropriate action.

The hon. Members are aware that the reservation policy in Government service has been in operation since 1947. On 1st January, 1999 the representation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Government service was 17.99 per cent and 6.15 per cent respectively. Various relaxations like relaxation of age limit by five years in the case of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, complete ban on de-reservation of vacancies in case of direct recruitment, provision for carrying forward of vacancies for three recruitment years, relaxation concessions of lessen standard of evaluation in qualifying marks are already available to the members of Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe. There is a provision to appoint liaison officers in all the Ministries and Departments to ensure that the proper implementation of the reservation policy takes place. There is also provision to keep at least one member of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and OBCs in specialised selection board. The policy as laid down from time to time, in regard to reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes has been carried forward with renewed enthusiasm during the regime of the Government as I have also mentioned earlier.

Many of the provisions which are included in the present Bill seek to change the present policy and procedures for reservations for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in services and posts under the Government. Some of the proposals would run counter to various judgements of the Supreme Court in recent cases on interpretation of the provisions of the Constitution. These judgments, as per article 141 of the Constitution, are binding and, therefore, inclusion of such provisions without enabling constitutional amendment may render these legally unsustainable. The Bill also seeks to overcome the clash of these provisions of the Supreme Court rulings by inclusion of a blanket immunity against jurisdiction of any court. In earlier cases relating to Supreme Court rulings, Government had to resort to amendments to the Constitution to pave way for setting aside the orders of the Supreme Court since mere legislation would not suffice. I would be more prudent, therefore in the legal and constitutional scheme of things to bring about necessary constitutional amendments rather than bring such legislation before Parliament.

I would like to inform the House that a petition challenging the 76th amendment which places Tamil Nadu Reservation Act in the Ninth Schedule has been taken up for active hearing by the Supreme Court and it would

be premature to provide similar protection to a reservation Bill such as the one under consideration.

Many of the provisions of the Bill already stand implemented. The provision of filling up backlog vacancies without clubbing the current vacancies, making provision for relaxation of qualifying marks and standards of evaluation in promotion, the provision of disallowing de-reservation in direct recruitment have all been given effect through various Office Memoranda. Executive instructions on reservation issued by the Department of Personnel and Training derive authority from article 16(4) of the Constitution and also come within the meaning of law. The legal validity of these instructions has specifically been upheld by the Supreme Court in the Indira Sawhney case and furthermore no legal deficiency has been apprehended in implementing or enforcing the policy.

Non-compliance with the policy is tantamount to misconduct and this makes the delinquent officers liable to disciplinary action under the Conduct Rules. Executive instructions also have the advantage of flexibility to meet the emerging needs and such flexibility cannot always be provided by a legislative enactment.

It has been suggested that the comprehensive legislation would not be proper for, firstly, because it will be complex and cumbersome and, secondly, if any provision of the legislation is struck down, the question about the severability of its remaining parts would arise.

There are some issues, Sir, which have been raised apart from these by other hon. Members and I would quickly like to just go through them. Hon. Members Shri Pravin Rashtrapal, Sardar Buta Singh, Shri Ramdas Athawale and Shri Nawal Kishore Rai raised the point that reservation quota for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes should be increased in proportion to their population as per the latest Census. At the moment, the Apex Court has held that the power which was conferred by clause (4) of article 16 should be exercised in a fair manner and within reasonable limits and should see that the reservation does not exceed 50 per cent. Presently this reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and OBCs is already 49.5 and 50 per cent in cases of direct recruitment.

17.00 hrs.

Under the circumstances, the percentage of reservation as per their population is neither contemplated under article 16(4) of the Constitution nor is it feasible because this would make the total reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and OBCs go over the 50 per cent mark.

[Shrimati Vasundhara Raje]

Sir, Shri Buta Singh and Shri Rashtrapal also raised the point that the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was not consulted when the five circulars on reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were issued by the DoPT in 1997. Here, at the beginning I would like to clarify that these OMs were issued at the time when the United Front Government was in power at the Centre, and so the acts of omission and commission in this regard cannot really be attributed to the present Government. However, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was consulted before the OMs dated 2.7.97 and 13.8.1997 were issued.

Sir, Dr. Raghuvans Prasad Singh, Shri Varakala Radhakrishnan, Shri Ramdas, Shri Sukhdeo Paswan and Shri Nawal Kishore Rai said that there should be reservation in Judiciary and a National Judicial Commission should be set up. As per the articles 233, 234 and 235 of the Constitution, all matters relating to appointment, promotion and posting of persons in district and subordinate Judiciaries is actually within the purview of the respective State Governments and their High Courts. There is no reservation provided in the Constitution of India in respect of any class, category or person for appointment as judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court. In any case, the setting up of the National Judicial Commission would come under the purview of the Ministry of Law.

Sir, Shri Ramdas Athawale raised the point the State Governments have not been informed about the withdrawal of two OMs and that the other three OMs should also be withdrawn. These OMs only deal with the reservation in Central Government jobs and whenever any State Government has asked for clarifications, we have never hesitated to give it.

Sir, Shri Sukhdeo Paswan said that there should be reservation for persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Rajya Sabha and the State Legislative Councils like in the Lok Sabha and in the State Legislative Assemblies. Here, the Constitution does not provide for any reservation for persons belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in the Rajya Sabha and in the *Vidhan Parishads*.

Sir, Dr. Raghuvans Prasad Singh spoke about the law on reservation containing provisions for violating the reservation policy and that it should be included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution as has been done by the State Governments. I have already mentioned about this in the points that I have stated before.

Sir, Shri Varakala Radhakrishnan said that there is a move to identify a creamy layer amongst the persons

belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe and that this should not be done. I would like to submit that the basic concept of the creamy layer is confined only to the persons belonging to the OBC category and there is no proposal or move at the moment to bring in a concept of creamy layer amongst the persons belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe.

Sir, Shri Pravin Rashtrapal said that there should be a special recruitment drive for people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. Yes, the Department of Personnel and Training proposes to issue fresh instructions to start a special drive for filling up these backlog vacancies.

Sir, there were two other points that were raised here. One of the points was raised by Shri Ramji Lal Suman. He said that a Bill on reservation that was drafted in 1996 seems to have got lost somewhere. In this context I would like to say that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, which was earlier known as the Ministry of Welfare, considered a proposal to bring a Bill on Reservation. It was examined in consultation with the Department of Personnel and Training. We gave our views and subsequently that proposed Bill was dropped.

Sir, Shri Rashtrapal said that he was informed in the month of October, 2000 that one circular would be withdrawn and in the month of May, I said to him that it was being examined. I checked up the facts and found that we informed the hon. Member, through a letter dated 23/10/2000, that the review of the OM dated 2.7.97 was at an advanced stage of consideration and that is all that was said.

I would also like to thank all those Members including Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Shrimati Jas Kaur Meena, Shri Bhargava, Shri Nawal Kishore Rai, Shri Sheesh Ram Singh Ravi, Dr. Anita Arya, Dr. Sanjay Paswan, Shri Madusudan Mistri and Shrimati Abha Mahto, who have taken part in this very interesting debate, that is taking place, for a large period of time.

Sir, the present Government has amply demonstrated its determination to fulfil the agenda of the NDA which is basically to safeguard the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and the backward classes through appropriate, legal, executive and societal efforts.

I would just remind the House that although most of the Supreme Court's judgements have been pronounced between 1992 and 1998, it is after this Government came into power, that effective steps to mitigate the hardships

of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes employees have been taken. We have not just produced Papers, Resolutions and made empty promises. But we do believe in getting the things done, and for the future also, we remain committed to undertake all necessary actions to promote fair and just causes of the backward classes.

In view of this resolve, our past performance, and keeping in mind that most of the provisions of the proposed Bill are either implemented or are receiving serious attention at all levels in the Government, I would request the hon. Member to withdraw this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: What happened about reservation in private sectors?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am simply disappointed by the reply of the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister should appreciate that the Government is a permanent process. But they are not taking responsibility of what happened in the year 1996-97. At that time though there was the United Front Government, it was the bureaucracy which did not consult the National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Here the hon. Minister replied that "It was your United Front Government at that time. This Government is not responsible for all this."

Sir, I never expected this type of reply from the hon. Minister of DoPT. Whoever might be the Minister or whichever might be the Government, it was a mistake committed by the DoPT, and the Government is a continuing process.

It is required under article 339(a) that whenever serious matters concerning Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are involved, the Government must consult the National Commission on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes because this Commission is also appointed under the Constitution of India.

The Government had committed a mistake. This Parliament would like to know as to what actions the Government is proposing to take against those erring officers who had not sent this file to the National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

before taking adverse decisions against the interests of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe employees.

Sir, the Hon. Minister should appreciate that my Bill is regarding the services of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in Government services, and I want a Reservation Act. It has nothing to do with the DoPT Circular.

With due respect to many Members of Parliament, I am very sorry to say that they also do not know what the Bill is. Many hon. Members spoke about the political reservations. This Bill has nothing to do with the political reservations. Anyway, there also—because a reference was made—I just want to call for the pamphlet published by the present Government. This is published by the Planning Commission. It is on 'The Indicator of the Scheduled Castes, the Indicator of the Scheduled Tribes and the Indicator in the field of women in India.'

According to this pamphlet — forget about the Central Government Offices or the State Government offices where the reservation is not being implemented — even this Lok Sabha is not implementing the reservation in the number of seats. If there are 543 seats in the Lok Sabha, the Scheduled Castes must get 81 seats, which is 15 per cent of its total 543 numbers. If my arithmetic is not incorrect, 15 per cent of 543 will be 81.

In the present Parliament, we have got only 79 Members from that category. Where are those other three seats? Now, we do not have the UF Government. We now have a Government headed by a very very super man, the most respected man, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Why are we not giving 81 seats to the people belonging to Scheduled Caste?

This Bill is not to give political reservation. This Bill is only to have all provisions concerning reservation in Government services at the time of recruitment, at the time of promotion, etc. I want that all these provisions should be clubbed together and put in one single Act so that they are protected from the invasion of judiciary and that they are also protected from the anti-Scheduled Caste and anti-Scheduled Tribe intention of the Government officers. When a police officer is not performing his duty, he is punished. When a police officer is doing a good work, he is immediately given a cash prize. In the State Government or sometimes in the Central Government also, such persons are rewarded.

Similarly, we have officers working in DoPT of the Central Government or in any other office like Income Tax, Customs, Central Excise, etc. I will restrict them to Central Government offices only. If they do not implement

[Shri Pravin Rashtrapal]

the provisions of reservation under article 335 or 333 read with article read with article 16(4)(A) or article 16(4), what punishment you are going to give to them? If this Bill is converted into an Act, it will enable the Central Government to take action against those bureaucrats who are not implementing the Constitution of India. It is only in regard to that. I think, we are unnecessarily mixing it up with what you are doing regard to DoPT circulars. Even in regard to that, how many years' delay is there? We are sitting here for the last two years. This Government came into being in the month of October 1999. Today we are in December 2001. Out of five DoPT circulars, you have withdrawn only two; and you are likely to withdraw one more, which is regarding seniority. But you refuse to withdraw the circular regarding roster.

You have written a letter to one of the Members of Parliament, which was in Hindi; I read it only today. Today, you have stated that the matter is under consultation. I have got a copy of the letter written by you to the Member of Rajya Sabha, Shri Raju Parmar in reply to the mention made by him in the month of August. If the DoPT circular regarding roster is converted from vacancy based to post based, the court may not approve — this is what you say. Now, I just want to know and the august House also wants to know who is supreme in this matter? Who is supreme as far as the Constitution of India is concerned? Who will decide as to what percentage of reservation should be given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? Who will decide how that reservation should be given? May I know whether the court will decide or the Indian Parliament will decide? Today you are apprehending that if this Bill is enacted, it will not be approved by the Court. Why is it so? We have past experiences where even the Supreme Court judgements were reversed by this Parliament. I would like to know from you, again you may tell me, who is supreme as far as interpretation of Constitution is concerned, as far as the intention of the legislature is concerned, as far as the intention of the Father of the Constitution is concerned, as far as the intention of the Constituent Assembly, which is formed at the time of independence, is concerned. The Constituent Assembly followed by the First Parliament wanted that there should be reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, not only in recruitment, but also in promotion.

I want to know how any court in this country including the Supreme Court can interfere in this matter. I want to know only this much. But we are simply afraid of the courts. Instead of Parliament or the Executive taking decisions, now the courts decide matters, and you are simply to obey the directions, whether it is in regard to CNG affair or whether it is the affair relating to smoking,

etc. In that case, what for we have elections and what for we are here? Let there be Government, and the courts, in that case. That is the fundamental thing.

As I said earlier, the Minister is again misdirecting the Parliament by giving the total number of Scheduled Caste employees in the Government services. The hon. Minister has informed the House that the total number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees in the Central Government are 17 per cent. Reservation in Government service is according to various groups, namely, Group 'A', Group 'B', Group 'C' and Group 'D', but the Minister has clubbed sweepers and peons with Directors and other officers and given the total figure. Why has she not given the group-wise figure? What is the percentage of IAS or IPS officers in this country? If she does not have it, I have got the figure with the help of the Planning Commission. I will give her the latest figure.

I have already told you that the Members of Parliament are short by three. All over the country the total number of Members of Legislative Assemblies is about 4072. Population of Scheduled Castes is 15 per cent. This is according to the last census. Present census figures are still awaited. Now, it must be more than 20 per cent. The Scheduled Caste MLAs are only 13.8 per cent. What happens to the balance 1.2 per cent? Why it is not exactly 15 per cent of the population? The total number of IAS officers in this country is 5159 but the officers belonging to Scheduled Castes is only 548, that is 10.6 per cent. The total number of IPS officers in the country is 3301 and the Scheduled Caste officers are only 408. This comes to about 12.4 per cent.

In the case of Scheduled Tribes, Members of Parliament are 41, MLA only 5.39 per cent. Total Scheduled Tribe IAS officers are 258 which comes to about 4.9 per cent. The Scheduled Tribes population today is not less than 8 per cent. The official figures say it as 7.5 per cent. If the latest census is taken into account it will be more than 8 per cent because the BJP Government in Gujarat has already increased the percentage of Scheduled Tribes on the basis of population. It is only 258, that is 4.9 per cent. The number of Scheduled Tribe IPS officers is 239, that is 7.2 per cent. So, the position in IPS is better. These are the figures of October 2000, given by the Planning Commission. Why is the DoPT not giving these figures to the hon. Minister? Why did the Department inform the Parliament that 17 per cent Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees are there in Central Government? I agree that hundred per cent sweepers belong to the Scheduled Caste community but that figure should not be clubbed with other categories. I am

extremely sorry to say that the hon. Minister of DoPT is mis-informing and mis-directing the Parliament by giving incorrect figures. She should not defend the Department like this.

Almost all the Members have supported my view. Today also, two or three Members have said that they are neither opposing and nor supporting the Bill. That is also good. Most of the Members wish the Government to bring this Bill with little amendments here and there. One of the Members spoke as if this Bill seeks to give reservation in private establishments. This Bill is not for bringing reservation in private service. If you see the definition of 'Establishment', it is very interesting. Let me tell you that this Bill has not been prepared by the ordinary persons. Along with me, this Bill has been prepared by the topmost people belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community, which includes Supreme Court judges, retired bureaucrats and top politicians who are all concerned about the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. What is the most interesting thing is the definition of 'Establishment'.

One of the Members asked, what is the use of implementing this Bill. My esteemed colleague Shri Kharabela Swain said that the Scheduled Castes should become competent and that they should deserve and come on merit. This is the advice given to us today. He has also said that when the Scheduled Caste people become IAs officers they marry the girls belonging to other communities. I do not know what is his worry. Mahatma Gandhi in his last days said that he would not attend any marriage ceremonies which were not inter-caste.

Are we not for intercast marriage? It is a progressive step. My friend, Shri Ramdas also married to a non-Scheduled Caste girl. Can you ban anybody? In fact, it is a loss to my society. But if a non-Scheduled Caste girl selects an IAS officer belonging to Scheduled Caste, I think, nobody should object it. I think that is not the issue to be discussed today. But the definition of establishment is very interesting. It says:

"The establishment means any office under the control of the appropriate Government. The Parliament of India, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Election Commission, Union Public Service Commission, all local bodies, and other authorities within the territory of India and under the control of appropriate Government public sector banks, public sector undertakings, statutory authorities, autonomous bodies and authorities constituted under the Act of Parliament."

How the courts came into being? Have they come from heavens? The courts came into being because of the Government of India. Who is providing them facilities? Who is spending money for the courts in this country? Similarly, autonomous bodies, all corporations, registered firms, and industrial houses which are running their industries are created by the Government. We provide them land, electricity, water, and all other facilities. The responsibility of this Government increases because it is this Government which has started disinvestment of public sector undertakings. There was reservation in public sector undertakings. Now, you are disinvesting.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: You should thank the Government that they are removing your problems.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I thank the hon. Minister for the misunderstanding he has spread about my bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Please do not interrupt me. I will thank the hon. Minister and the Government of India as also the hon. Prime Minister if a Bill based on my Bill is introduced. They can make suitable amendments. I know the Bill in the same form cannot be accepted. The Bill with the suitable amendments can be introduced by the Government. I want that assurance from the Government. Otherwise, I am not going to sit.

I want to verify one thing from the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: 15 minutes time is further extended because time allotted for this bill has exhausted.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I want one clarification. We have been informed that the Bill which was introduced in 1996 has been dropped. I want to know whether it was introduced in Parliament. The Bill prepared by the Minister who spoke in favour of my Bill said that the Bill was prepared in consultation with the National Commission on Scheduled Castes. It was approved by all the wings of the Government. It has not come before this Parliament. You give the correct information as to what happened to that Bill.

[Shri Pravin Rashtrapal]

Another thing which I want to remind you is that when this Parliament started, this Government led by the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee called a three-day seminar of Members of Parliament belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. It was addressed by the hon. Prime Minister and by the then Minister of Law, Shri Ram Jethmalani. The Minister of Social Justice remained there for three days. We all participated. A committee of eight members was constituted and 30 points concerning Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were taken up. Then the Ministry of Social Justice informed me and all others that this reservation Bill should be passed, and the matter is pending with the Department of Personnel. Now, you are not giving any reply as to what action you have taken on the note which was sent to your Department by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): What the Government did is giving results.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Do not mix up. It is there in my speech. I can go through the record and tell the Minister where it is. I have received a reply from the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment that this particular agenda was sent to the Ministry of Personnel. What have you done with the demand of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Members of Parliament belonging to all Parties? It was not just from the Congress MPs alone.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: What were you doing when you were in power for so many years? What did you do in fifty years?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: What we did, you cannot do even in a hundred years...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rasa Singh Rawat ji, you take your seat.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: You do not know what the Bill is and you are asking me what the Congress Party has done. It was Congress which had brought reservation. Who was in power in 1950?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you indulging in interruptions? Do not interrupt.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you should control them. I want to know who was in power in the first Parliament. Who was ruling the country during the time of the Constituent assembly when the Constitution was drafted? Who was in majority at that time?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: And who divided the country?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I am extremely sorry if you do not want to listen to the facts. You are anti reservation, you are anti poor, you are anti Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not indulge in interruptions. Now conclude please. You have only thirty minutes. Now you must conclude. Do not indulge in interruptions.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: When they were talking, I had not spoken in between.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Why are you going beyond the subject?

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: In short, the Minister is answerable to the Parliament as to what has happened. I also would like to know whether the BJP as a party is demanding the Reservation Act or not. If the BJP has demanded reservation for the Party in its manifesto, then how can they oppose the demand for a Reservation Act for the Central Government? Eight State Governments have passed Reservation Acts. There is nothing new. You can drop what you do not like. You can add that you approve. I just would like to see that a Reservation Act is passed by the Central Government to protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people who are in service and also who are likely to be inducted into service so that their interests are not jeopardised at the hands of the anti Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes officers and at the hands of anti Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes judiciary in this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

I want an assurance from the hon. Minister that if not this particular Bill, a similar Bill with suitable amendments will be introduced by the Government. Then only I will withdraw this Bill. Otherwise, let it be voted out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing your Bill or not?

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I am not withdrawing my Bill. However, if there is an assurance from the Government, I will withdraw it. Otherwise I will not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anything from the Government's side?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I just would like to make two things very clear. I stand by whatever I have just said on the subject. I raised it with the same intention when Shri Pravin Rastrapal had informed me in October 2000 that some circular would be withdrawn.

He mentioned that, in that letter, I had said that the matter was under examination. I wish to say it very clearly over here that it was at the advance stage of consideration. I would like to say that the matter concerning the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is of great concern to all Governments before and even now. I do not think that our wrangling in this fashion would benefit the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We are committed to the upliftment of those people and we will do the very best that we can. We have proved it in the last two years as we have already passed two Constitution (Amendment) Bills and we are going in for the third one also. Our concern cannot be mistaken and I stand by all that I have said just now.

You asked one more question about Shri Ramji Lal Suran's Bill. I would like to say that it was not introduced in Parliament. But I am afraid that it is something which took place in 1996 and I cannot take the responsibility for that. But, whether it is the Government before or after, I am completely sure of the fact that everybody is concerned of the plight of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. So, I would appreciate if all of us get together and work together for their upliftment. It is not the question of a Congress Government or a BJP Government in power. We are coming with a Constitution (Amendment) Bill and we will do our very best in whatever we can to see that the upliftment pattern is kept up.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: The Constitution Amendment Bill which you are mentioning is only for seniority alongwith promotion. I am not talking about that. I want to know whether the Reservation Act would be introduced by the Government with suitable amendments or not. If it is so, I will withdraw my Bill. Otherwise, let it go for voting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 'Let it go' means you are not going to withdraw.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I am not going to withdraw it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question is:

"That the Bill to provide for reservation in services for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in establishments under the Central and State Government and in private sector and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was negatived.

17.33 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Substitution of New Schedule
for Seventh Schedule)

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): I beg to move.

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman Sir, I express my gratitude for this golden opportunity conferred upon me today in this august House of Parliament. Sir, I would ever remember today, Friday, the 23rd November, 2001 and I would cherish this day as a day of remembrance in my public life because I have the honour to belong to a movement called the Dravidian Movement.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Is it necessary to mention Dravidian Movement?

SHRI VAIKO: It is necessary. You have to listen from the Marxian ideology. It is because we do not change our views like you.

Sir, therefore, it is the cardinal principle to which we are wedded to. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, you may kindly listen and understand what I am going to tell here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vaiko, please address the Chair.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10.8.2001.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: But why should you bring in Dravidian Movement here?

SHRI VAIKO: Is the very pronouncement of Dravidan an anathema to you? You are Dravidian. Do not forget that. You are an Indian and at the same time, a Dravidian too.

So, Sir, I have the honour of belonging to a Movement which was brought to the forefront by our great lamented *Angnar Anna* who founded the DMK Party.

Sir, this Bill will throw light on a major subject which is dealt in Schedule VII of the Constitution of India. I already pointed out that I cherish this opportunity. The cardinal principle of my Party, the Marumalarchi DMK, is decentralisation, giving more powers to the States, and having a true federal country. So, we are for real federation. There were days when the late lamented *Aringar Anna* demanded a separate country. It was called *Dravidastan* or *Dravida Nadu*, to which my friend, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan may be allergic. But it is part of history.

Until Chinese invasion — who were applauded by my Marxist friends when the cannons of Chinese rode in the Himalayan peaks — Anna gave up the idea of a separate State. At the same time, when he became the Chief Minister of the State of Tamil Nadu, he stressed the point that the reasons or causes for which he demanded a separate State do continue.

Sir, preamble to the Constitution of India reads like this:

"We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. In our Constituent Assembly this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do hereby adopted, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution."

This very concept itself is against truth. It is because the Constituent Assembly did not really represent the population of the country. Mr. K.C. Wheare, in his *Modern Constitution* mentions this. Let me quote:

"In India the people enact the Constitution in our Constituent Assembly. But the Assembly was composed of representation elected by a minority of the people of India and the Constitution itself was never submitted to the people directly."

Until 1733, there was no such things as Central Government so far as the British Empire was concerned. People are advocating for a strong Centre. I hear the voices of many political parties for a strong Centre and a strong India. We are for a strong India and I would like to stress and emphasise this point in no uncertain terms that we are for the unity and integrity of India. On this question, our *bona fides* are clear, and whether we belong to MDMK, or DMK or ADMK or Telugu Desam or National Conference or Akali Dal, or any other regional party are second to none.

We are for the unity and integrity of the country. But before the British came, was there really a united India? I would like to crave the indulgence of the hon. colleagues, belonging to various political affiliations, both from the Opposition Benches and the Treasury Benches, without any ill-will towards anybody, without any bitterness, without any rancour and without any partisan approach, as a student of history, I would like to put forth the views before the House. Let them lend their ears and weigh in their hearts as to what I am going to put forth here because I belonged to a party which demanded a separate country from this landscape. We demanded a separate country. We have given up that demand hundred per cent. Today, we are not for any separate country. We are for a united India. But at the same time, we should not forget the fact that there are many religious groups, languages and cultures. Some of my friends may not agree but I think the Marxist friends would definitely agree to my perception that it is a multi-national State. There are many nationalities in the country. Today any citizen of India can walk with pride, raise his head high in the streets of any Capital of the world because he belongs to a democracy, the tallest democracy and a democracy which is 100 times better than the United States of America. The words 'unity and diversity' are coined by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. With these diverse, plural, ethnic, linguistic and religious groups, five decades have passed; Governments have come and gone. But today we stand as the tallest democracy.

My point was this. Was there a united India before the British came? People say that there should be a strong Centre. Mauryan Empire was there with a strong Centre. Could they survive forever? Then, Gupta Empire came. Some of the historians had glorified the Gupta Empire as the golden age. There was a strong Centre. Did they survive the fall? Later, Chengez Khan was there; the Mughal empire was there.

I do remember and recall the words of Shri Sanjeeva Reddy, who was the President of India. In one of the speeches as the President of India, he said that neither during the days of Ashoka nor during the days of

Aurangzeb, this landscape was united. The *lathis* of the British; the guns of the British united this country. There were three Presidencies, namely, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. Centralisation, with all powers at the Centre, was at its peak when Lord Curzon was there. Then, Lord Morley was the Secretary of State for India in London during the British Empire when Lord Minto was the Viceroy here. Lord Morley appointed a Royal Commission. That was the first step towards decentralisation. Reforms of Montego-Chemlsford of 1919 introduced "Federalism in embryo".

These are the words of Granville Austin. He has made a thorough research on the Indian Constitution. In one of the Constituent Assembly debates, Shri K. Santhanam said:

"The small dose of provincial autonomy injected into the Indian political system by the Montague Chelmsford Reforms created a strong appetite in the country for a substantial expansion of the area of provincial self-Government. We may take it that in 10 years or 15 years time, the entire Concurrent List would automatically become the Central List."

Sir, in the year 1999, when we had a Conference on 'State Autonomy' at the birth place of Arignar Anna, Kancheepuram, the present Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani was kind enough to come to that Conference and in his speech, he clarified this point. He said that decentralisation is the need of the hour. So, he is also for a strong Centre, but at the same time he feels that decentralisation should take place in the country. I think, my hon. friends will also throw some light on this Bill as to what they feel and what they think about the need for decentralisation and particularly about the Seventh Schedule.

Sir, earlier there was a discussion on a Private Member's Resolution on this subject, but according to my little memory,—I have gone through the books in the Library—this is the first time that a discussion on a Private Member's Bill is taking place on reallocation of items of the Union List, the State List and the Concurrent List under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

Sir, to put it in a nutshell, in my Bill, I have listed four items which are to be lifted from the Union List and added on to the State List. The first one is, Entry No. 84 relating to duties of excise on tobacco and other goods manufactured or produced in India except (a) alcoholic liquors for human consumption, (b) opium, Indian hemp and other narcotic drugs and narcotics, but including medicinal and toilet preparations containing alcohol or any substance included in sub-paragraph (b) of this entry. The second one is, Entry No. 87 relating to estate duty in respect of property other than agricultural land. The

third one is, Entry No. 88 relating to duties in respect of succession to property other than agricultural land the fourth one is very important and that is, Entry No. 97 relating to any other matter not enumerated in List II or List III including any tax not mentioned in either of those Lists. This is called residuary powers.

Sir, when we speak about Federal Constitution, we always refer to the United States of America, Australia, Canada and, to some extent, Ireland. As far as the Constitution of the United States of America is concerned, residuary powers have gone towards the State. In Australia also, they have gone to the States, but in the case of Canada, residuary powers are vested with the Centre.

In India, this debate over the allocation of residuary powers became very significant because there were two lobbies. One powerful lobby was demanding that the residuary powers should be vested with the States. There was another very powerful lobby. I do not want to give any communal colour. Those who are interested in knowing about that, they can go into the pages of history and see who were demanding for the States and who were demanding for the Union.

There was a powerful group demanding that these powers should be vested with the Union List. Then, what had happened? The founding fathers of the Constitution very cleverly created a new device, that is, the Concurrent List. So, they divided all the items in their knowledge into the Union List, the State List and the Concurrent List. They did not want to give any room for any problem. They carefully put:

"Any other matter not enumerated in List II or List III including any tax not mentioned in either of those Lists."

According to the present Constitution, this is Entry No. 97 in the Union List.

I have given this Amendment. This should be vested with the State List. They may not agree. But this is the forum for debate, discussion and putting forth different points of view. Therefore, I wish that these 10 items should be deleted from the Concurrent List and added to the State List:

1. Transfer of property other than agricultural land; registration of deeds and documents. (Entry No. 6).
2. Actionable wrongs. (Entry No. 8).
3. Education including technical education, medical education and universities, subject to the provisions of entries 63, 64, 65 and 66 of List-I; vocational and technical training of labour."

[Shri Vaiko]

'Educational' is very important. I will dwell on it because it has become a very controversial subject. This should be vested into the State List. Previously, it was with the State List. During the days of Emergency, according to the 42nd amendment, this was taken away from the State List and handed over to the Concurrent List. It was a glaring encroachment on democracy when the voice of the Opposition was stifled. Many of them were languishing into the dark dungeons of the prison. Most of the Members of Parliament also were there. The 42nd amendment simply wished away this item from the State List to the Concurrent List.

I am pained. In the name of bringing everything under one umbrella, if you want to Sanskritise it, if you want to bring *Vedas* or any other concept, if you want to thrust it upon the people of India all over the country under this umbrella of education, we are totally opposed to that. Even 'astrology' is being discussed. That is one of the important items of the curriculum for schools and colleges. As a rationalist, I am totally opposed to it. Therefore, education is important...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland): But you support the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: That is a different matter. We agree to disagree on certain issues.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): As a rationalist, you are supporting 'saffronisation'.

SHRI VAIKO: No, no. I am always with this black scarf. Some of my friends, who believed in astrology and superstitious things, came to me and advised me: "Dear Vaiko, you change this black colour to yellow or blue or some other colour. You can capture power." I told them: 'No'

No, I will not change my colour. I will not change my ideology. I am consistent on certain principals and issues. So, we now deviate the subject.

'Charities and Charitable Institutions, Charitable Religious Endowment and Religious Institutions', now is in the Concurrent List. It should be taken to the State List.

'No. 5, Vital Statistic including registration of birth and death - entry No. 30. No. 6, ports, other than those declared by or under law made by Parliament or existing law to be major,' be called minor ports.

'No. 7, Archaeological sites and remains other than those declared by or under law made by Parliament to

be of national importance - entry No. 40'. This also has to be vested with the State List.

'No. 8, Custody, management and disposal of property including agricultural land declared by law to be evacuee property. - entry No. 41.

No. 9, Acquisition and requisitioning of property.-entry No. 42.

No. 10, Stamp duties other than duties or fees collected by means of judicial stamps, but not including rates of stamp duty.'

Sir, what are the items for the States? This is a ridiculous list. What powers the States have got? They have more or less become the go-getting partners of the country. Most of the time they have to be here with a begging bowl as if they are going to get some doles from the Centre. These were the words expressed by Shri Hanumanthia. These were the words of the Shri Virendra Patil, the then Congress Chief Minister of Karnataka, 'We are treated even not like Municipalities.' These were the words of the Chief Ministers.

What are the item that have been given to the States?

'Pounds and the prevention of cattle trespass.

Protection of rural animals and birds.

Markets and fairs.

Treasure trove.

Weights and measures except establishment of standards.

Betting and gambling.

Pilgrimages.

Burials and burial grounds...'

It is worth mentioning. These are the items in the State List.

'Preservation and protection and improvement of stock and prevention of animal diseases; veterinary training and practice.

Relief of the disabled and unemployed.

Charities and charitable institutions.

Vital Statistics including registration of birth and death.

Minor ports.

Mechanically propelled vehicles.'

Sir, most of the items to which the States have been entrusted are mostly responsibility based. They are not any powers but the Central Government has played with the fate of the State Governments all these years.

Even in the first general election, in my State, at that time, it was composite Madras, when the flag of Pandit Nehru was flying sky high, actually Congress lost the election. Only through the backdoor with the help of the Governor, Congress captured power. So, all these years, we inherited the legacy from the British colonial regime and fought for their having the Governors under the control of the Viceroy.

These Governors acted to suit the needs of the party in power at the Centre. So, the first mischief took place in Madras Presidency. Congress was put to power. From that date onwards, how many times the State Governments have been dismissed? Is it a healthy trend in our democracy?

We have to continue and march very fast along with other countries for centuries ahead. Therefore, a strong federal set up is the need of the hour.

18.00 hrs.

Then only, Sir, the unity and integrity of the country could be protected. What had happened even in my State? When DMK was ruling, my AIADMK friends demanded the dismissal of DMK Government. I stoutly opposed it. Of course, I have to settle my scores politically with DMK but in principle I opposed the demand of the

dismissal of DMK Government. Similarly, I am opposing AIADMK politically. That is different. But if there is a demand to dismiss AIADMK Government, I will be the first man on the floor of this House to oppose the demand. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: What about the unity of the Dravidian Parties?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO: You are not able to unite the Communists for a long time. Particularly in Kerala, even your Marxist Party is in doldrums. First of all, you have to build the unity of your Party in your State. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

SHRI VAIKO: Therefore, Sir, all these years the Union Government had played with the fate of the State Governments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vaiko, you can continue your speech next time.

SHRI VAIKO: Okay, Sir. I have given the preamble for my Bill. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 26th November, 2001.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, November 26, 2001/Agrahayana 5, 1923 (Saka).

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