

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXXIV, Twelfth Session, 2003/1925 (Saka)]

No. 32, Friday, May 2, 2003/Vaisakha 12, 1925 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 583-587	5—36
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 588-602	36—55
Unstarred Question Nos. 5735-5964	55—305
STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1743 DATED 28.11.2002 REGARDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES BY IOCL	306
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	306—315
STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE	
Fifty-fourth to Sixtieth Reports	315
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS	
One Hundred-twelfth to One Hundred-Seventeenth Reports	315—316
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	316—318
MOTION RE: FIFTIETH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	318—319
STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER RE: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING INDO-PAK RELATIONS	319—322
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	319
Shri Shivraj V. Patil	320
BILL INTRODUCED	
Constitution (Ninety-sixth Amendment) Bill (Amendment of articles 81, 82, 170 and 330)	322
SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS	
RE: Reported 'Lathi Rally' organised by the Bihar Government in Patna leading to law and order problem in the State	334—339
INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003	345—395
Motion to consider	345
Shri Digvijay Singh	345—347

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Lakshman Singh	347—349
Shri Kharabela Swain	349—351
Shri Suresh Kurup	351—352
Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan	352—354
Clauses 2 to 5 and 1	394
Motion to Pass	394
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS INTRODUCED	
(i) Ban on Religious Conversion Bill	
Shri Chandrakant Khaire	395
(ii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Substitution for article 263)	
Shri Chandrakant Khaire	395
(iii) Disinvestment of Public Sector Enterprises (Scrutiny by Parliament) Bill	
Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal	396
(iv) Prevention of Video Piracy of Films Bill	
Shri Ramesh Chennithala	396—397
(v) Repatriates Welfare Fund Bill	
Shri Ramesh Chennithala	397
(vi) Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology Bill	
Shri Ramesh Chennithala	397—398
(vii) High Court of Tripura Bill	
Shri Khagen Das	398
CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL (Amendment of article 248, etc.)	
Motion to consider	398
Shri Anadi Sahu	399
Shri Ramesh Chennithala	402
Dr. V. Saroja	408
Shri I.D. Swami	409
Shri Suresh Kurup	414
CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL (Amendment of articles 81 and 170)	
	416—421, 434—436
Motion to consider	416
Shri G.M. Banatwalla	416

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Re: Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana	421—434
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya	421
Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot	425
Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan	425
Kunwar Akhilesh Singh	427
Shri Chandra Vijay Singh	428
Shri Ramesh Chennithala	429
Shri Lakshman Singh	429
Shri Punnu Lal Mohale	429
Shri Dharm Raj Singh Patel	430
Shri Ananth Kumar	430

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, May 2, 2003/Vaisakha 12, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident took place in Uttar Pradesh yesterday is a very serious matter...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, democracy is being murdered in Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

I have received three notices for Adjournment Motions from three Members. I have rejected all the three Adjournment Motions.

[Translation]

But Akhileshji should make his submission on the issue from his seat...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to speak in this regard...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are stifling the democracy. They are encouraging such activities. I have order of the court...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have the notice given by Kunwar Akhilesh Singh regarding suspension of Question Hour. Therefore, I want to ask him what does he want to say in this regard. You need not to be upset due to it. Please let me listen the question, I have not yet heard the question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: How can he say so? It is a very serious matter...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have rejected all the notices of Adjournment Motion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is a very serious matter. The office of Samajwadi Party has been vacated forcibly...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You all please sit down. How would I be able to listen to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singhji, do you not want to speak.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the State office of Youth organisation of Samajwadi Party "Samaj Niyojan Sabha" is situated in the capital of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow. That building was allotted by the Government itself...(Interruptions) despite, it has been vacated...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please raise this matter during Zero Hour.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will allow you to speak during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. I have the ruling of Allahabad High Court...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. Both of you are aware that your party office has been vacated forcibly. Your only recourse is legal action in this regard by filing a case of contempt of court. Legally, this is the only step that you can take. The House has no concern with this matter. Secondly, since the matter pertains to State Government, it can not be raised here. I have heard submission from both sides. This matter can not be raised here, even then I am going to allow you to speak during Zero Hour. You please speak on it during 'Zero Hour'. What will be the use of speaking in this way?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunathji, I have allowed you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is a murder of democracy...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your behaviour is improper. It is also detrimental to the democracy. Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a discussion should be allowed on it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you time to speak on it during Zero Hour...(Interruptions) At this moment you please sit down.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 'Lathi Rally' was organised in Bihar on 30th April...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you time for it during Zero Hour. Please raise this issue during Zero Hour.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. The office of Samajwadi party has been vacated forcibly...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Singh, I have told you to raise this issue during Zero Hour. I will allow you to speak on it at that time. Please resume your seat.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir my submission is different from it. Please allow me to speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has not given any notice in this regard. We have given notice regarding suspension of Question Hour. If you allow Alvi ji to speak, I will also speak just now...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing Alvi ji also.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a different submission.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you during Zero Hour.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to say that if a member gives a notice regarding suspension of Question Hour even for the theft occurred in his house and tries to interrupt the House like this, would you allow him...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Alvi ji I have not allowed Shri Suman ji and Kunwar Akhilesh Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seats peacefully. It is enough, now please let me work. Several important matters are there before the House. I do not understand why you behave like this. On one hand, you are talking of protecting the democracy, and on the other you do not allow to run the House peacefully and pose a threat to democracy. It is not a issue for which Question Hour should be suspended. It is a question of principles. You can raise your matter during Zero Hour or at any other time. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I go to Question Hour now. Q. 583 Shri V. Vetriselvan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vetriselvan, please ask your question now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record except what Shri V. Vetriselvan says.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Anti-Dumping Duties on Indian Steel

+
*583. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether several countries such as Canada, USA, France, Thailand, EU, Japan have imposed anti-dumping and other non-tariff barriers on the import of steel from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of such countries and rate of anti-dumping duties imposed by each country;

(c) the impact of such action on our steel industry;

(d) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the Governments of those countries and WTO;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;

(f) whether any of them has quashed the anti-dumping duties; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Countries viz. USA, Canada, European Union, South Africa and Thailand have initiated anti-dumping duty investigations against steel/steel products being imported/originated from India. Country-wise details of anti-dumping duties imposed since 1998 are as follows:

Country	Items	Range of anti-dumping duty
USA	1. Cut-to-length Carbon Steel Plates	1. 72.49%-revised to 42.39%
	2. Hot-rolled Steel Flat Products	2. 36.53% to 44.40%
	3. Cold Rolled Steel products	3. 153.65%
Canada	1. Stainless Steel Round Bars	1. 18.8% to 52.4%
	2. Hot-rolled Carbon Steel Plates	2. Margin of dumping ranges from 1.3% to 28.4%
	3. Hot-rolled Carbon Steel Sheets	3. Weighted average margin of dumping from 22.4 to 62.9%
European Union	1. Steel Stranded Ropes and Cables	1. 23.8% to 30.8% (Price Understanding given by Indian exporters)
	2. Stainless Steel Fine Wire (with a diameter of 1 mm or more)	2. upto 55.6%
	3. Flat Rolled Products of iron and non-alloy steel (HRC)	3. upto 11.5% (Price Undertaking given by Indian exporters)-
	4. Hot Rolled Flat products of Non-alloy steel (Quarto Plates)	Under New Commerce review up to 18.1%
South Africa	1. Paper Insulated Lead covered Electric Cables	4. 22.3% (Price understanding given by Indian exporter)
	2. Galvanized Steel Pipe	1. 2.14% to 65.47%
Thailand	1. Flat Hot Rolled Steel in Coils	2. 34.7%
		1. Provisional duty @ 60.88% and residual duty @ 66.14%

(c) Trade action by many countries on various steel items exported from India considerably lowered the exported of such items to these countries. The levies imposed on Indian steel exports by these countries increased the delivered price of Indian exports to the destination markets and adversely affected the volumes. However, adverse circumstances notwithstanding, the overall Indian steel exports have recovered largely due to the ability of the Indian steel exporters to find out alternate markets and diversify the export basket by shifting to more value added products.

(d) to (g) Under WTO provisions the Anti-dumping investigation is resorted to only when the exports are made at less than the normal value of the products and causes or threatens to cause material injury to an established domestic industry of the importing country. The response to the investigation has to be primarily by the exporters. However, the Government of India have taken up these matters bilaterally and also at the WTO wherever appropriate.

At India's request a panel was established under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the WTO for examining India's claims in the dispute relating to imposition by the US of anti-dumping duty to the extent of 72.49% on imports of cut-to-length steel plates from India. The Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) requested the US to bring its measure into conformity with the obligations under the WTO. On 7th February 2003, the US has issued the notice of determination under Section 129 of the Uruguay Round Agreement Act purporting to implement the rulings and recommendations of the DSB in this dispute. Under the revised determination the anti-dumping duty has now been reduced to 42.39%.

SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: As we can see from the reply, a number of countries have imposed rate of anti-dumping duties on import of Indian steel. Even USA has imposed 153.65 per cent anti-dumping duty on cold rolled steel products. As a result, our steel industry has been adversely affected. Our steel export volume has gone down. Exporters have incurred huge losses. Associations of steel manufacturers have made a number of requests to the Government to save the industry by taking appropriate action. However, not much has been done in this regard.

So, I would like to know from the hon Minister up to what extent our steel export volume has declined to these countries.

I want to know up to what extent, there is loss of revenue to the country and what steps the Government are taking to help the steel industry to make up their losses?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised the issue that the exports of steel have come down. Here, I would like to point out the fact that at the moment the total production of steel in the country is going up from 30.64 million tonnes in 2001-02, it has gone up to 32.92 million tonnes. At the same time, since last year, that is, 2001-02, to this year, till March, 2003, the growth has been 36.8 per cent, that is, from 2.70 million tonnes, the exports have gone upto 3.7 million tonnes.

Sir, here, I would like to state that in spite of the fact that in the countries mentioned, in the Answer and the countries in question, there has been a decline in the exports of those items on which anti-dumping duties and countervailing duties have been imposed. Here, if you see the overall exports to USA, between April and November 2001, it has gone up from 221 million US dollars to 424.25 million US dollars, that is, a growth of 91 per cent. Similarly, from Canada between April and November 2001, it has gone upto from 19.55 million US dollars to 23.99 million US dollars, which is a hike of 22.71 per cent. Similar is the situation for China where it has gone up from 10.47 million US dollars to 161.03 million US dollars. The percentage growth is 1,438 times.

Here, the question which the hon. Member has asked is whether the exports have gone down. I may also state that we have also to look for newer markets. The new markets which we are focussing on today are the countries of South-East Asia.

The fact that the steel exports have come down is not true. Necessary steps are being taken by the Government. Now, as far as steps taken by the Government are concerned, we would like to indicate here that one of the steps which he has mentioned is the imposition of anti-dumping duties. Sir, when an anti-dumping duty is imposed, it is not for the State to directly intervene; it is basically for the exporters to go for it. However, in certain situations, Government also takes up the initiatives, as it happened in the case of export of cut-to-length steel plates to USA. The Ministry of Commerce, along with the Ministry of Steel, went along and made representations there and we succeeded in reducing the duty. The duty was reduced from 72 per cent to 42 per cent on this particular item. So, efforts have been made.

Similarly, when countervailing duties are imposed, the Government goes and makes some submissions that there are no subsidies, and we have succeeded. Even in the USA, when safeguard measures were introduced and most of the countries were affected by the safeguard duties being imposed, India was one of the few countries which succeeded in getting that. No safeguard duties are imposed except for one particular item which is flanges and pipes. So, overall, the steps have always been taken to see that whatever anti-dumping duties or countervailing duties imposed, the Government takes initiatives. We are always trying to boost as far as exports are concerned.

SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the reply, the foreign countries are imposing these anti-dumping duties since 1998. Since then, only one case has been settled by WTO Dispute Panel. What about other cases? The hon. Minister had said nothing about this. Sir, apart from steel, several other Indian products are facing similar problems, but the Government has not taken up the matter with the concerned authorities. While these countries are dumping their cheap products in India, in Indian market, our Government is imposing very low anti-dumping duties.

So, I want to know what steps the Government have taken to take up this matter with the concerned Governments and also with the WTO in respect of other cases and what was the outcome of the same. I want to know what rate of anti-dumping duties are fixed by WTO and why the Government of India is not adopting the tit-for-tat formula.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vetriselvan, you can ask only one question. Otherwise the hon. Minister should reply only to one question. No other question should be replied to.

SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Sir, this is very very important.

MR. SPEAKER: You will get reply for only one question.

SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Sir, what further steps the Government is taking to ensure that our products like steel do not face such high rate of tariff barriers in foreign countries?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, it is not only that duties have been imposed on our exports but we also have imposed anti-dumping duties on the products coming from Russia, Kazakhstan, Japan, Korea, China, Ukraine,

E.U. as well as well as United States of America. The hon. Member has included most of the products. If we have to see the number of anti-dumping cases initiated by India since 1992 to 2003, there were 153 anti-dumping cases which is the largest in the world and the findings have been given in more than 134 cases where measures have been adopted in more than 116 cases. Similarly, even if you have to see countries like China, the number of cases initiated is highest, which is 66, where measures have been imposed to the extent of 47 issues. Similarly, as far as Taiwan is concerned, 25 cases are initiated. This allegation that no steps are being taken and anti-dumping duties are not being imposed may not be correct. India is one of the countries which has initiated the largest number of anti-dumping cases and has also succeeded in imposing duties on them.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, initiation of anti-dumping proceedings against the Indian exporters invariably and, in fact, inevitably leads to lowering of the exports of that item as also increases the prices, rendering that product uncompetitive. It is that over the years our exporters have been facing this difficulty. It think that is where the duty of the Government becomes more pronounced. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps the Government have taken to advise our exporters about the possible consequences of fixation of the prices and as to what are the items they could export instead of the bars as such or the strips or the pipes. I know that Indian exporters have been doing extremely well in exporting even the grills meant for fencing outside—ready-to-use grills etc.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister specifically on this. This is not a short period or overnight that something has happened. These cases have been there over the last four years. After our initial experience, what has the Government done to safeguard the interests of the Indian exporters by guiding them or by providing the necessary information about the markets abroad?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, today we have the various Export Promotion Councils and the Engineering Promotion Councils. All these Councils are in constant touch with the Embassies outside and even with the Ministry of Commerce, and whatever potential markets are there, it is explained. You will appreciate that today all the exporters are very much aware of the market through their access, through the information which is available and the Government takes all due steps to facilitate and promote the trade.

As far as the question of imposition of countervailing duties and anti-dumping duties on these subjects is concerned, for example, I would like to state about the Baird Amendment in which the U.S.A. had imposed and said that all the duties collected from the countervailing duties or the anti-dumping duties would be given to the manufacturers in that country. India contested that and other ten countries joined us and because it was an additional support to those people who supported investigations of anti-dumping duties and countervailing duties, we succeeded in saying on it and this decision was revoked. Similarly, we always take several steps. We have mentioned on the safeguards.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: In case number 3, it is 153.65 per cent anti-dumping duty on cold rolled steel products.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: If you go in the specifics, I have admitted in the Question that there are duties which have been imposed. Now, the Government takes initiative. But it is initially for the exporters to go across and file the documents and see and contest it. Even the Embassies there bring facts and data. At the same time, through the MDA grants we support and if someone wants to go and contest that in a particular arbitration court or in a particular appellate court, we go and support them to the extent of 50 per cent of the cost for fighting of that case. All these steps have been taken to support the exporters.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, in the Doha Declaration, there was a clause on special and differential treatment. The meaning of this is that the same rule will not be applicable in a uniform way to all the developed and developing countries.

My question to the hon. Minister is this. Does the imposition of the anti-dumping duties in our country and the imposition of the anti-dumping duties in the countries that have been mentioned in this Question, come under the special and differential treatment? Again specifically asking about America, have we gone to the Dispute Redressal Tribunal with regard to this? Have we met with any success and have we won any case in this regard?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: You have mentioned the case in which we have gone to the Dispute Settlement

Mechanism where we succeeded in the case of cut-to-length plates and where the duties were reduced from 72 per cent to 42 per cent. That we have already mentioned.

Sir, as far as talks about the special and differential treatment under the WTO is concerned, this calls for a longer discussion which will go into the substantive part of this. This has nothing to do, immediately, with this particular Question.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite the WTO mechanism being placed to resolve the trade related disputes, we find that the USA and other European countries are imposing anti-dumping duties on the goods which are exported by the developed countries like India. Of course, the Government has taken certain steps, but these steps are not adequate because there is a very serious attempt by the developed countries to prevent countries like India, and other developing countries to export items to their countries. This is a fact, and the Minister has also admitted this. So, I want to know what specific steps are taken by the Government to meet the threat of anti-dumping duty which is being imposed by the USA and other European countries on the developing countries. Also, is this affecting our trade balance? If so, kindly give the details.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, here the question relates to the export of steel. We have admitted that in spite of all these countervailing and anti-dumping duties, the export of steel to these countries and other countries has gone up. So, there is no question of going into the further aspect that they have been affected. In spite of that, we are still successful through our efforts and through the efforts of the exporters in increasing the export of steel.

[Translation]

Regional Rural Banks

*584. ⁺ SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) functioning as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of these banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these banks have been facing severe financial difficulties;

(e) if so, since when, details thereof, bank-wise; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to fulfil the objectives for which they were set up?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The State-wise number of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) functioning as on date is given in Annexure-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government/National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) review the performance of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) periodically. The Sponsor Banks also review the performance of RRBs sponsored by them in quarterly basis. As on 31st March, 2002, out of 196 RRBs, 167 RRBs have earned profit and only 29 RRBs are incurring losses. Of these 167 RRBs, 86 have attained sustainable viability.

(d) and (e) No RRB is so far reported to be in liquidity crisis. List of loss making RRBs is at Annexure-II.

(f) RRBs were established with a view to develop the rural economy by providing, for the purpose of development of agriculture and other productive activities in the rural areas, credit and other facilities particularly to the small and marginal farmers, agriculture labourers etc. In order to enable RRBs to fulfil their mandate, several measures have been taken such as (i) recapitalisation, (ii) rationalization of their branch network, (iii) deregulation of interest rates, (iv) introduction of prudential norms, (v) active involvement in Government sponsored schemes, (vi) promotion of Self Help Groups and (vii) credit to the farmers through Kisan Credit Cards. The results so far indicate that the deposit mobilised by RRBs has increased from Rs. 8864 crore in 1993-94 to Rs. 44,539 crore in

2001-02 covering over 5 crore depositors. Similarly the loan disbursement has increased from Rs. 1440 crore in 1993-94 to Rs. 10,571 crore during 2001-02.

Annexure I

State-wise number of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

Sl.No.	State	Number of RRBs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	5
4.	Bihar	16
5.	Chhattisgarh	5
6.	Gujarat	9
7.	Haryana	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3
10.	Jharkhand	6
11.	Karnataka	13
12.	Kerala	2
13.	Madhya Pradesh	19
14.	Maharashtra	10
15.	Manipur	1
16.	Meghalaya	1
17.	Mizoram	1
18.	Nagaland	1
19.	Orissa	9
20.	Punjab	5
21.	Rajasthan	14
22.	Tamil Nadu	3
23.	Tripura	1
24.	Uttar Pradesh	36
25.	Uttaranchal	4
26.	West Bengal	9
Total		196

Annexure II*List of the loss making RRBs and their losses during 2001-2002*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Loss making RRB	Losses during 2001-2002
1	2	3
1.	Kakathiya Grameena Bank	3.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank	8.36
3.	Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank	1.00
4.	Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank	0.56
5.	Nalanda Gramin Bank	0.78
6.	Samastipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	1.39
7.	Vaishali Kshetriya Gramin Bank	1.61
8.	Bastar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	4.14
9.	Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	2.14
10.	Surat Bharuch Gramin Bank	1.57
11.	Ellaquai Dehati Bank	6.19
12.	Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank	3.36
13.	Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank	0.69
14.	Indore Ujjain Kshetriya Gramin Bank	0.23
15.	Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank	2.84
16.	Nimar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	0.03
17.	Bhandara Gramin Bank	2.15
18.	Ratnagiri Sindhudurg Gramin Bank	1.35
19.	Manipur Rural Bank	1.16
20.	Balasore Gramya Bank	10.57
21.	Bolangir Anchalik Gramin Bank	6.29
22.	Cuttack Gramya Bank	9.99
23.	Kalahandi Gramin Bank	8.05
24.	Koraput Panchabati Gramin Bank	4.00
25.	Aravali Kshetriya Gramin Bank	0.65

1	2	3
26.	Marudhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	3.70
27.	Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank	2.26
28.	Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank	1.02
29.	Rani Laxmi Bai Kshetriya Gramin Bank	2.74
Total		92.01

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister in reply to my question has written that the Regional Rural Banks have been established with a view to provide facilities for the agriculture and rural sector. Today, RRBs give neither short term nor long term loans to the farmers. All the State Cooperative Banks in Maharashtra are having NPAs. As per the information I have my bank PCC and Madhoti Cooperative Bank of Parbhani district have come under the purview of section 11 of RBI for the last three years and the Government have decided to close down 15 Land Development Banks of Maharashtra. The farmers are not getting loans under the prevailing circumstances. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are proposed to be taken by his Ministry to provide loans to farmers in such a condition?

My second supplementary question is regarding the Marathwara Regional Rural Bank of my constituency. The name of this bank is missing in the list of losses incurring banks provided by the hon. Minister to me. I am surprised to see it because even though the bank is a loss incurring bank its name is not in the list. Last year the bank was showing a profit of Rs. 30 lakhs but this year, it has been incurring losses to the tune of Rs. 95 crore. This condition has been brought by the Chairman of the bank. I would like to know as to what action is proposed to be taken by the Government against the Chairman of the bank who is guilty of turning the bank into a loss incurring bank?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has asked about a number of such things in the question which are not directly concerned with the Regional Rural Banks. Still I would try to reply all the questions in view of the importance of the question. I would only hesitate to reply one question i.e. the last question raised by the hon. Member about the Chairman. It would not be proper to make a personal comment on the functioning of some Chairman in the House. If the

hon. Member has any complaint to make or if he wants to tell something about the Chairman, he can certainly write it to me.

Hon. Member's questions are related to the Regional Rural Banks. He has raised questions regarding the loans for the agriculture sector, Cooperative Banks and regarding the losses incurred and profit made by a particular bank. Roughly speaking he has raised these four questions. He has said that some bank has incurred losses as per his information but its name has not been included in the list. I would like to say that the Government include the names of those banks only in the list which are loss incurring as per our information.

This second question is regarding the Cooperative Bank. Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks differ in the mode of their functioning. As far providing loans for agriculture sector is concerned, both these banks provide them loans. As the hon. Member is aware, the capital share of the Union Government and State Government for cooperative banks and Regional Rural Banks is 50 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. The Chellapati Rao Committee also made some recommendations in this regard. As the State Government has 15 per cent share in bank's capital, the opinion of the State Government is also sought. The Union Government have yet to get the remarks of the State Governments.

Further the hon. Member has asked about the Regional Rural Banks. Roughly speaking, an increase of 500 per cent in the deposit and 700 per cent in the credit delivery has taken place in the decade starting from 1993-1994 to 2002-2003. This information has also been given in written reply. Is the increase satisfactory? Despite this increase taking place, I am of the opinion that the credit delivery is not at satisfactory level because the public sector banks which comprise the primary lending sector have only achieved a target of 18 per cent out of targeted 40 per cent. I have stated it several times that agriculture credit has yet to achieve satisfactory level. Hence the PLR has been fired at +, -2 after insisting RBI for it. The agriculture sector has been given priority in the recently announced half yearly credit policy of the RBI.

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary question is that under the credit providing process of NABARD in Maharashtra, loans are first given to the State Cooperative banks by NABARD which in turn pass it to the district Intermediary Bank to be passed by it to the society and due to this the farmers have to

pay an interest of 15 per cent I would like to know whether the Government propose to amend this process in the interest of the farmers or not?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The Government is continuously trying. I am of the opinion that the benefit of the decreasing interest rates should reach to the farmers also and it is beyond any controversy or debate. The only fact that is to be taken care of by the Government is that the dose of medicine does not turn against the patient i.e. the financial conditions of banks does not deteriorate much and the loans are provided at reasonable rates. I would like to inform the hon. Member that an increase of 44 per cent has taken place in the credit delivery of the Regional Rural Banks last year.

The increase of Regional Rural Banks vis-a-vis public sector banks in priority sector is better. This increase is to the tune of 74 per cent in RRBs.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: The intention of the legislature in creating NABARD was very noble. As a Member of the Finance Committee, whose Chairman was Shri Shivraj V. Patil, we had an opportunity to examine NABARD. The headquarters of NABARD is situated in Worli, Mumbai, which is an urban area. In Gujarat, its headquarters is situated in Ahmedabad, which is an urban area. The intention behind creating NABARD is to help rural India where 70 per cent of the population, mainly the agriculturists live.

If you refer to the list of banks submitted by the hon. Minister, the total branches are 196. I do not know about the total number of districts and blocks in the country, but I do know about my State. In Gujarat, we have got 30 districts and 182 blocks. If sufficient branches are not opened in all districts of various States, how will the rural people be able to take advantage of the Rural Banks?

I, therefore want to know, through you, Sir, whether the Finance Ministry will try to have or establish minimum one Rural Bank in every district of the country. Will the Ministry also take steps, as suggested by the Finance Committee, under the Chairmanship of Shri Shivraj Patil, that pamphlets and literature of NABARD should be printed in local and regional languages of various States so that the less-educated rural people are able to take advantage of the infrastructure of the Rural Bank?

Just now, I have been informed that the total number of districts in our country is 550.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, as is the practice these days, the hon. Member has asked a number of questions in the guise of one question. I will endeavour to answer all of them and, I am sure, he will appreciate this.

His first point was that the headquarters of NABARD should be based in a rural area. The headquarters are based considering the factor of efficiency and managing the entire administrative requirements that have been assigned to it. This argument would be a stretched argument. To stretch the very same argument, if you have to control the law and order, then the headquarters of the law and order machinery should be based in a *Thana*—it need not necessarily be like that.

NABARD has its headquarters at a place where they find it convenient. Personally, I am in sympathy with the sentiment contained behind the hon. Member question that it seems a bit odd that it should be based in a metropolis like Mumbai.

His second point is about the spread of RRBs across the country. If I might share with the hon. Member, there are roughly 14,400 branches of RRBs spread over 500 districts. It is correct that there are certain districts which have remained uncovered. We do have intentions to cover all districts subject, of course, to various administrative considerations of managing the overall finances of the organisation.

As for disseminating the information about NABARD in regional languages for ease of communication, it is an unexceptionable suggestion. Of course, it must be done. I do not know whether we have already initiated action in that regard, but this is a very worthy suggestion. We will act upon it.

Probably, these were the three questions that were asked, which I have replied to.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government had made its intention clear behind establishment of the Regional Rural Banks that they were primarily meant to strengthen the financial condition of the small and marginal farmers in the rural areas. I am of the view that contrary to the objective of Regional Rural Banks, small and marginal farmers are being exploited in those areas where the branches of RRBs exist. The State Governments prepare list of the small and marginal farmers to provide loans at block level. The farmers are exploited both at the block headquarters as

well as in the branches of banks. I assume that the complaints of this exploitation has been continuously made by the hon. Members and other several villagers, I would like to know whether the Government have evolved a mechanism to prevent the exploitation of the small and marginal farmers and to provide financial assistance to them?

Besides, I would also like to know as to what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to establish the branches of RRB's in those several areas in which RRB have not been set up due to the non fulfilment of population criterion fixed by the Government as a large number of areas are still without the branches of Regional Rural Banks?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Firstly, I take the last question. As I informed the hon. Members right now that 500 districts have Regional Rural Banks and the number of total branches of such banks is approximately 14,400. It can certainly be stated that this number is not adequate and the number of branches of RRBs which is approximately fourteen and an half thousand should be increased further. However, Prabhunath Singh's is also aware that one should venture out as per one's resources. How can one accomplish more with meagre resources. Hence we will continue to expand further as the resources keep on increasing. But is it satisfactory—I do not say that the credit system, Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks are satisfactory in number. No system can be claimed to be entirely satisfactory.

The hon. Member mentioned about marginal and small farmers. They always lag behind whether it is banking or any other system. Though banking is a reflection of our social, political and economic system, but it is not justified to put the entire blame on the banks. It should be considered. I would certainly like to tell the hon. Member that the Government have given great encouragement to the self help groups under NABARD and Rural Banks. I think that what we call micro credit is the way to self help group. It is a very straight forward route to forming self help groups and at presently approximately two lakh self help groups exist. I find it a very beneficial path. This is what I would say and reply to Shri Prabhunath Singhji.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important subject and is related to villages. Hon. Finance Minister also hails from rural background. My friend stated about the purpose of establishment of these banks and it was replied that the purpose of setting up these banks was to give benefit to the farmers and workers of rural areas who are living below poverty line. It has been

mentioned in the Government's reply just received that 29 RRBs are incurring losses which include Monghyr Regional Rural Bank, Nalanda Rural Bank, RRB Samstipur, RRB Vaishali, RRB Ranchi, Santhal Pargana Rural Bank and RRB Madhubani. Most of these banks are situated in Bihar and Jharkhand.

I do not favour closing down of these banks due to their being loss incurring. Baby should not be thrown out with bottle water. I feel that the 5-7 remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the incurring losses which have been placed at Rs. 92.8 crore, will not serve any purpose. The Government have tried to include some banks under the company Act. I would like to know whether the Government propose to improve the financial condition of the said banks and to enable them to provide loans to the rural folks for constructing houses and buying taxis etc.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Hon. Member has asked two three questions. I would try to reply those all. Hon. Member said that 29 banks certainly incurred losses during previous year. I told about the estimate of the profit earned and this information has been provided in the question. Hon. Members has asked as to why these banks are situated in a particular State? Members are aware that bank's job is to provide loans and receive deposits. They are not meant to serve other petty jobs. To provide loans and seek loans is the part of the entire business. In stead of seeking loans or depositing sums, they indulge in other activities, then how can the banks be benefited?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH: I do not think it is proper for efficient Minister like you to divert the reply like this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I was still replying. The whole atmosphere undoubtedly has a bearing on functioning of banks. Firstly, hon. Member said that such thing used to take place in villages. I would like one more minute. Earlier such was the provision in Regional Rural Banks. As the House is aware, Mahajans used to provide loans in villages in the past and those lenders personally know each of the debtors as they used to be brought up in the same village. This system developed some defaults like exploitation and it prompted the banks to have the complete information about the loanee. The money lender system (Mahajan) practiced earlier had merits as well as demerits. The money lenders knew about all the tillers. The system came to an end after the money lenders started to exploit the farmers. There

is a difference in that system. Banks are the Governmental system requiring the office, employees, typewriters, fans, vehicles etc. I cannot change the system overnight. However, the improvement in rural banks will only take place when the loans are extended following an identification and credentials of the loanees and unless this is done satisfactory improvement cannot take place....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 585—Shri Ramdas Athawale.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, please allow me to ask a small Supplementary on Q. No. 583. It is a very important question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are other Questions also which are all important, and a number of speakers are there. You can raise your question by way of Half-an-Hour discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, no need to reply. I have already gone to the next Question.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

**Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development
Federation of India**

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*585. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED Ltd.) was set up alongwith the objectives thereof;

(b) the details of the achievement made by the TRIFED in each year, State-wise, during the last three years;

(c) the details of work proposed to be undertaken by the Federation during the current financial year, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the profits earned/losses incurred by the TRIFED Ltd. during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) was set up on 08.08.1987 under section (7) of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. The objectives of TRIFED are given at Annexure-I.

(b) The major activity of TRIFED in the past has been procurement of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) collected/grown by the tribals with the sole objective of paying remunerative prices to them and to arrest their exploitation by middlemen in tribal areas. The procurement in terms of value undertaken by TRIFED during last three years is as under:—

(Value Rs. in Lakhs)

Financial Year	Procurement			
	MFP	SAP	Handicrafts	Total
2000-01	4575	3521	37	8133
2001-02	2649	1404	26	4079
2002-03 (Provisional)	1425	1037	24	2486

The information regarding the State-wise procurement of MFP, SAP and handicrafts/handlooms undertaken during the last three years is placed at Annexure-II.

Besides, TRIFED has also undertaken a number of developmental activities mainly relating to imparting training to tribals in various State during last three years.

(c) The activities now being focused upon by the TRIFED during the current Financial Year relate to its basic mandate, i.e. Marketing development of tribal products aimed at bringing better returns to the tribals for their products and to provide them linkage with the ultimate market. The basic thrust is now on planning and implementing projects for marketing development of tribal products in a need based manner. Accordingly, some projects have been identified as viable for Marketing development of tribal products directly benefiting the tribal

population and these are being taken up during the Current Financial Year i.e., 2003-04. The details are given at Annexure-III.

Moreover, TRIFED will also be undertaking procurement of oilseeds and pulses in tribal areas of all the States during the current Financial Year wherever it is found that the prices are below MSP.

(d) The Gross Profit/Loss and net loss incurred during last three years is as under:

(Amount Rs. in Crores)

Financial Year	Gross profit (+)/Loss (-)	Net Loss*
2000-01	-15.10	-27.23
2001-02	-4.14	-16.18
2002-03 (Provisional)	+3.86	-4.74

* The net loss has been arrived at after deduction of administrative expenses, interest & depreciation.

Annexure I

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) was set up on 8th August 1987 under Section (7) of the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 with the following objectives:

- (i) To organise and plan the growth and development of natural products and their trade on rational, scientific and commercial basis in the interest of the tribal population in the country;
- (ii) To strive to ensure higher earning and larger employment opportunities for the tribal population by formulation of suitable economic schemes based on natural products;
- (iii) To ensure full utilisation of natural products available in the tribal areas including farm and forest produce by exploring new uses for the products and by improving their marketability through organised effort;
- (iv) To boost up the economic and commercial viability of the TDCCs, FDCs and other State level agencies dealing with procurement,

processing and marketing of natural products by providing marketing support to them with a view to achieve the above objectives;

- (v) To arrange finances for itself and its supported activities with the above end in view; and
- (vi) To identify items of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) in different States to be brought under the ambit of the cooperative marketing and make recommendations for fixation of minimum prices of such MFP in the tribal areas by each State.

As per the revised Bye-laws of TRIFED framed in time with the new Multi-state Co-operative Societies Act, 2002 read with the Multi State Co-operative Societies Rules, 2002, the main object of TRIFED is to serve the interest of its members in more than one State for the social and economic betterment of its members by conducting its affairs in a professional, democratic and autonomous manner through self help and mutual cooperation for undertaking marketing development of the tribal products.

Annexure II

State-wise details of procurement undertaken by TRIFED During last three years

Qty. in MTs

Value Rs. in Lakhs

States	2000-01						2001-02						2002-03 (Provisional)					
	MFP		SAP		Total		MFP		SAP		Total		MFP		SAP		Total	
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Andhra Pradesh	3211	182.3	1451	417	4661.4	599.8	1751	165.2	179.2	25.5	1930	190.7	5.27	1.69	83.82	16.27	89.09	17.96
Bihar/Jharkhand	1175	169.4	0	0	1175.1	169.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	5873	2351	5962	257	11835	2609	9738	470.2	38.97	1.489	9777	471.6	20.17	0.76	0	0	20.17	0.76
Gujarat	0	0	119.6	18.1	119.6	18.08	0	0	115.3	12.6	115.3	12.6	0	0	68.82	18.27	68.82	18.27
Karnataka	0	0	117.5	6.27	117.5	6.27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	29.76	33.00	29.76
Madhya Pradesh	1132	64.78	13518	1177	14650	1242	55.82	1.84	3281	347.7	3337	349.5	0	0	1843	218.4	1843.0	218.37
Maharashtra	0	0	1103	146	1102.80	145.60	0.19	0.04	501.5	61.86	501.7	61.9	0	0	50.7	7.59	50.70	7.59
NE States	1843	23.86	194.4	30.5	2037.4	54.34	17.12	22.25	45.93	2.92	63.05	25.17	259.7	28.1	24.45	3.296	284.2	31.36
Orissa	2421	165.8	268.6	37	2689.6	202.9	100.1	6.789	381.4	42.14	481.4	48.93	0	0	403.2	67.9	403.2	67.90
Rajasthan	588.9	33.55	13555	1431	14144	1464	66.23	2.85	5174	618.7	5240	621.6	0	0	2473	326.4	2473	326.38
Tamil Nadu	49.98	4.78	12.43	0.75	62.413	5.53	0	0	9.08	0.459	9.08	0.459	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
West Bengal	1848	69.2	0	0	1848.4	69.2	0.07	0.08	0	0	0.07	0.08	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
TRIBES Shop (Handicraft/ Handloom Items)						36.61						25.74						24.36
Sub-Total	18142	3065	36300	3521	54442	6623	11728	669.2	9726	1113	21454	1808	285.2	30.5	4980	687.8	5265.26	742.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Deemed Procurement (Through issuance of NOC)		1510				1510		1980		290.5		2271		1394		349.2		1743.6
Grand Total	18142	4575	36300	3521	54442	8133	11728	2649	9726	1404	21454	4079	285.2	1425	4980	1037	5265.26	2486

Annexure III

Information relating to the details of Marketing Development Projects proposed to be taken up by the Federation during the current Financial Year

The details of work started and also proposed, State-wise, during the financial year 2003-04 are as under:

1. A tribal entrepreneurship project with manufacture of moulded Dona-Pattal from Sal leaves through introduction of rural technology has been initiated in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur for implementation in the State of Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. As many as 6 groups of tribal persons comprising of 24 in numbers have been trained in IIT, Kharagpur and each of the groups has been given one manufacturing/moulding machine of Dona-Pattal for operating the same and generate their income. These machines are bio-mass fuelled and hence for operating these machines no electricity is required. Therefore, these machines are ideal for operating in interior-most tribal areas, where electricity is very scarce. Such bio-mass fuelled machine has been developed by Rural Development Centre, IIT, Khargapur keeping the welfare of tribals and forest dependent people in view. TRIFED has plans to replicate this project also in the States of Jharkhand, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, where Sal and such other leaves are available for collection and clearance for the same are readily available from the respective State Governments.
2. TRIFED has started Handicraft Development Project under Babasaheb Ambedkar Hastship Vikas Yojana (AHVY) in the four States viz. Gujarat, Kamataka, Assam & West Bengal. The office of the Development Commissioner (Handicraft) has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 26.80 Lakhs for this project. To this direction,

formation of 197 Nos. of SHGs are in progress which will comprise, 2680 Nos. of tribal handicraft artisans (both existing and potential). This project will be further replicated in 9 more States i.e., Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh once the funds for the same are made available by Office of the Development Commissioner of Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India.

3. A retail outlet of TRIBES Shop of TRIFED in collaboration with ITDC, Govt. of India and the office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) is in the process of establishment in the Duty Free Shop in the IGI Airport, New Delhi with a view to providing exposure and better marketing avenues for tribal handicrafts.
4. A project on development of Medicinal Herbs viz. Safed Musli and Amla would be started in the TRIFED's land at Jagdalpur, Distt. Bastar, Chhattisgarh by involving local tribal people. National Medicinal Plant Board, Govt. of India has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 20.00 lakhs for this project.
5. Project on development of Minor Millets viz. Kodo-Kutki and pulses of organic origin has been contemplated in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh. Necessary R&D exercise as pre-requisite for implementation of the project has been taken up with Central Institute for Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal and Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur.
6. TRIFED's project prepared on Capacity Building of tribals for sustainable development of Gums & Resins in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh & Gujarat is being considered for funding by Deptt. of Bio-Technology (DBT), Govt. of India. The project is proposed to be taken up in collaboration with Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal after receiving the approval & funds from DBT.

7. TRIFED has also started its Quality Control and Research & Development Centre with effect from 6/2/2003 for testing/analysis and certifying the quality parameters of the Minor Forest Produce and Agriculture Produce collected & cultivated by the tribals. Further, this Centre would also concentrate on adaptive/applied research in the field of value addition, product innovation and diversification with a view to finding better and newer market niche for the tribal produce in the era of open market economy. In the current financial year, the capacity & efficiency of this Centre are poised for further upgradation through addition of more sophisticated and modern equipment and trained technical manpower.

Some other projects viz. cultivation and marketing of Arrow Root in Keonjhar (Orissa), setting up of a Handloom and Handicraft Development Centre and Ginger pre-marketing, processing/facilitation centre in North-East and some Bench-marking Research Study on Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) in respect of determination of fair prices to be given to tribals together with creation of data base on NTFP in the form of a Yellow Pages are in the process of feasibility examination during the year 2003-04.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, adivasi community live in hilly areas and in forests. There is a need to formulate a good scheme for their housing and to ensure the growth and development of their agro-products. The Government have formulated TRIFED scheme for them. I would like to cite the figures before the House. The minor forest produce in 2000-2001 was worth Rs. 45 crore 75 lakhs. While the worth of the agriculture produce was Rs. 35 crore 21 lakh and that of handicraft was Rs. 37 lakhs. The worth of the minor forest produce was Rs. 26 crore 49 lakhs in 2001-2002 while the agriculture produce was of 14 crore rupees...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the question. Ramdasji, everybody has read what is in the reply.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I am telling that the worth of the minor forest produce in 2002-2003 was Rs. 14 crore and 25 lakhs while that of handicraft was 24 lakhs. I would like to say that there is a need to increase the production while it is decreasing every year. I would like to know as to what are the reasons of the declining production? There are complaints of corruption in TRIFED. Tribals are given less rates for their produce. The production is decreasing instead of increasing and tribals

should get better facilities through the TRIFED. I would like to know as to what steps have been proposed to be taken by the Department to provide more facilities to the tribals?

SHRI JUAL ORAM: The minor forest produce depend on weather also. The bumper crop entails bumper while lean crop is followed by lean business. The hon. Member has cited the figures and the reasons of decline in figures is that we are not concerned with minor forest produce only we also procure the agriculture surplus produce. When minimum support price is available to the tribal farmer than there is no justification for procurement. The business will only thrive when the market rate is below the MSP. However, we are continuously striving for providing better prices to the tribals for their produce.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: My second submission is that IIT Kharagpur has a scheme to manufacture disposal bowls and plates with 'sales' leaves, and they have a bio-mass fuel machine for this purpose. They have provide an opportunity for a large scale production by providing the machine. The Government have launched this scheme in Chhattisgarh and West Bengal only. These kind of leaves are also available in Jharkhand, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. There is a need to start this scheme in these States also by making use of such machines. I would like to know the number of people to be trained to handle the biomass fuel machine, my second question is that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can not ask another question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: My only submission is that the Government have implemented Babasaheb Ambedkar Handicraft Development Scheme under TRIFED in Gujarat, Karnataka, Assam and West Bengal. Maharashtra is a State where majority of the tribals know handicraft. Do the Government propose to implement this scheme in Maharashtra?

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the machine devised by IIT Kharagpur for manufacturing disposable plates and bowls will not be operated with electricity, but by biomass fuel. In this regard 24 people in 6 groups have been given training. Initially this scheme is proposed to be implemented in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. The proposal is being discussed with the State Governments. If State Governments agree and self help groups come forward, we will try to do that also. IIT Kharagpur has evolved the

technology and is ready to give it. The Ministry is ready to fulfil all demands of TRIFED. It is a continuous process. The Government is ready to give it to all who will get motivated.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I would like to know this from the hon. Minister and also I would like to remind him that the TRIFED and other forest development corporations were in fact created in order to stop exploitation of tribals throughout the country. It is so unfortunate that the very objective for which these were created—the mechanisms were created, became a vested interest. The entire minor forest produce are covered under the Act called the Minor Forest Product State Nationalisation Act. If you make a survey of the entire country, you would find that gram, honey, raisin, *tendu* leaves, *mahua* flower, *mahua* seeds, *sal* seeds are all being produced at one-third of the prices.

[Translation]

If all these items are sold by Tribal Marketing Federation and Forest Development Corporation in the market, they earn 3-4 times more. Employees are paid their salaries from the earnings of Tribal Marketing Federation and Forest Development Corporation due to which, the profit earned by Tribal Marketing Federation and Forest Development Corporation is not given to Adivasis and sellers. Madhya Pradesh is the only State where profit earned by village cooperatives from the sale of 'Tendu' leaves is given to Adivasis. There is no provision to this effect in any other State. Tribal Marketing Federation and Forest Development Corporation do not give any part of profit earned from minor forest produce or agricultural produce to Adivasis. Is there a probability to devise a mechanism to fix minimum support price for forest produce also, as is done in agriculture? Do the Government propose to devise a mechanism to ensure remunerative price to Adivasis, who constitute eight percent population of country, of their produce?

SHRI JUAL ORAM: One question comprises many parts.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I have only two supplementary questions. One is that less profit is given and other is whether the Government will devise a mechanism to fix minimum support price of minor forest produce, as is done in agriculture sector?

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mechanism already exists.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am sorry, Sir. There is no such mechanism available. The Government does not declare minor forest produce support price, as the minimum support price existing in agricultural produce.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Besides, the Ministry of Agriculture is having Agricultural Price Commission, the decisions of which are applicable to minor forest produce too. Besides, the collector at district level also see as to what item should be sold at what price. TRIFED also do direct sale and purchase, whether it is 'Bandhan Samiti' or TDCC they do the same. In this way, both the State Government and TRIFED do it. You referred to the business of 'Tendu' Leaves, it has a different mechanism. The bonus in this regard is given to Adivasis, but here there is no provision for bonus, and no mechanism to this effect.

[English]

Priority Sector Lending

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*586. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector financial institutions have missed the targets set for priority lending for agriculture, retail trade and small scale units;

(b) if so, the target set therefor and the achievements made in the field during the last three years;

(c) the names of the financial institutions, who have failed to achieve the target during the above period alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the financial institutions to achieve the lending targets set for priority sector?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Financial Institutions provide term loans to large projects. They do not have any norms for lending to priority sector, which is undertaken by Banks.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to hon'ble Minister's reply, loan to priority sector is given by banks, not by financial institutions. It means Banks and Financial institutions lie in different categories. Banks are the biggest financial institutions of the country. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister, in which category do the banks lie? Alongwith it, I would also like to know the details of target fixed during last three years by banks for giving loan to priority sector and the extent to which this target has been achieved?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as it often happens that a number of queries are sought to be answered in one question, I would try to answer all of them. As all the hon. Members are aware that money provided at lower rates to Development Financial Institutions was discontinued after 1990-1991 due to which, financial condition of institutions like IDBI and IFCI get started deteriorating. These Development Financial Institutions should be self reliant, it is a fact and the Government are aware in this regard. The bill relating particularly to IDBI is with the Standing Committee. I would like to request the Standing Committee to return it as soon as possible so that the bill could be presented in the Parliament and something concrete is done to bring about reforms in financial institutions. As hon'ble Members know that IDBI bank is related to IDBI and the provisions of such financial institution has to be made, the Government is aware in this regard.

The hon'ble Member wished to know about the priorities fixed for the banks? As everybody is aware that 40 percent loan to priority sector is given by banks and approximately, they fulfil what percentage? Out of this, around 18 percent goes to Agriculture. If any bank is unable to fulfil this percentage, then it has to deposit the amount in the same proportion to NABARD. They have to pay lesser rate of interest than market rate, it means they have to pay less interest rates. This is the provision made till now and this is being followed to fulfil the purpose.

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the names of banks in the country who have given loan to priority sectors, alongwith details of loan provided, during last years, particularly in Maharashtra? I want information about the number of districts and Tehseels which have availed this loan facility and the amount of loan Government propose to provide to priority sectors through banks during 2003-2004?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has deviated from the original question. It is impossible to provide complete answer to the question asked. I would like to submit that I should not be forced to give reply to this question.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not arising out of the main Question.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Agriculture is the growth engine for the GDP. We are discussing every year about the credit to the farming community from the nationalised banks. Though 18 per cent is the norm fixed, yet it is on record that many banks have not been able to give 18 per cent. What steps the Government has taken in this regard? They talk about the directions given by the Reserve Bank. The Government is repeatedly giving instructions in this regard but they are not being followed. The recovery out of this 18 per cent of the loan given to other sectors is less than it is in the farming sector. We have to take care of the agriculture in this scenario. Even now the agriculturists are taking loan from the private lenders after paying high interest. Unfortunately, if there is a crop loss, they have to commit suicide. So, the flow of money to the small and marginal farmers should be according to the priority fixed by the Government. Is the Government really willing to implement this 18 per cent norm? What action has the Government taken against the defaulting banks?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: So far as willingness of the Government is concerned, indeed, the percentage is laid down by the Government. It is not the question of Government's willingness, Government demands that this be adhered to and should banks fail to achieve the target of 18 per cent, as I have just explained, the shortfall is deposited with NABARD with penal interest. The commitment of the Government in this regard is unequivocal and we will continue to abide by that.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: What is the interest that you are charging?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 587 Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Question No. 587

[*English*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question pertains to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: The Government is confused, Sir...(Interruptions)

[English]

Import Policy for Cars and Printing Machines

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*587. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) the details of import policy, procedures and customs duty for import of new/used cars and printing machines;

(b) whether the Government have evaluated the impact of increase in import of new/used cars and printing machines on the domestic sector of these items;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to reduce the dependence on imports of these items?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) The present Exim Policy provides for free import of new/used cars and printing machinery. However, the import of car is subject to conditions regarding consumer protection, road safety and specified emission norms. New/used cars are allowed for import only through specified ports. Import of second hand printing machines, older than 10 years are permitted against a licence issued in this regard. The applicable rates of duty are 105% for used cars, 60% for new cars & 25% for printing machinery.

@No Supplementaries were asked.

Even after removal of Quantitative Restrictions, the imports are subject to applicable tariffs, technical standards, environment and safety norms. The imports are monitored closely to ensure through appropriate use of the above mechanisms that the domestic industry does not suffer in competition.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Dismantling of Quantitative Restrictions on Imports

*588. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union and other developed countries have been pressing the Indian Government to dismantle the quantitative import restrictions on various items especially the agricultural products under the WTO regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the demand was reiterated at the recent bilateral consultations with EU at Brussels;

(d) if so, the specific item-wise demands made at Brussels;

(e) the response of the Government thereto; and

(f) the action taken in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (f) The European Commission (EC) has been raising the matter of import restrictions maintained by India on some products from time-to-time. They had also requested formal consultations with India under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) regarding the justification for maintaining import restrictions by India on a list of 101 products, some of which were agricultural products.

Formal consultations with held in WTO, Geneva on 17 February 2003, in which the United States joined as a third party. In the consultations, India adopted a reasoned approach explaining the basis for the import restrictions and affirmed that all the import restrictions were permitted under Articles XX and XXI of GATT 1994. EC acknowledged that the consultations were on the whole constructive.

[*Translation*]**Foreign Investments in States**

*589. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign capital investments in various States during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether the investment of foreign capital in certain States has been negligible;

(c) whether this unequal foreign economic capital investment will lead to imbalance among the States; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Data regarding foreign investments in various States from 1-1-2001 to 31-12-2002, are enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) The main factor contributing to FDI concentration in certain States is the overall investment climate that they provide. Government has put in place a liberal FDI Policy and most of the sectors have been placed under the automatic route except for a small negative list. The location of investment is determined entirely by the commercial judgement of the investor.

The recommendations of the Committee on Reforming Investment Approval and Implementation Procedures, which include measures to facilitate greater investment flows, have been accepted by the Government.

Statement

Year-wise/State-wise FDI Inflow from 01-01-2001 to 31-12-2002

(Amount Rupees in Crore)

Sl.No.	State Name	Amount of FDI inflows	
		2001 (Jan.-Dec.)	2002 (Jan.-Dec.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	339.80	288.81
2.	Assam	0.00	5.58

1	2	3	4
3.	Gujarat	109.41	288.42
4.	Haryana	0.00	0.00
5.	Karnataka	1,310.36	892.90
6.	Kerala	59.89	54.86
7.	Madhya Pradesh	9.73	9.17
8.	Maharashtra	2991.73	4,865.73
9.	Rajasthan	6.67	1.06
10.	Tamil Nadu	742.70	1,341.22
11.	West Bengal	66.84	132.21
12.	Chandigarh	4.01	842.55
13.	Delhi	6,918.31	2,994.28
14.	Goa	10.92	146.79
15.	Pondicherry	299.26	0.00
16.	Others (State Not Indicated)	2,962.27	4,259.77
Grand Total (January 2001 to December 2002)		15,841.90	16,123.35

Note: (i) Amount includes the inflows received through SIA/FIPB route, acquisition of existing shares & RBI's automatic route only.

(ii) The amount of FDI inflows in respect of the state specific data is not provided by RBI, Mumbai prior to January 2000.

Closure of NTC Mills

*590. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of textile mills under National Textile Corporation (NTC) as on date;

(b) the number of mills of the NTC functioning at present in each State;

(c) the annual profits/losses of these mills during last year;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to close down certain mills of NTC;

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

(f) the fate of the workers employed in these mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) There are 119 mills with NTC (including the 33 mills already closed). The State-wise break-up of mills along with status (functioning/not functioning) as on

30.4.2003 and loss sustained by NTC Companies for 2001-02 is at Statement.

(d) to (f) As per the revival schemes approved for NTC, out of 119 mills, 66 unviable mills are to be closed after giving VRS to affected employees. Out of these 66 mills, VRS was offered in 42 mills to 21,369 employees at a cost of Rs. 647.12 Cr. of these, 33 have been closed under ID Act.

Statement

NTC mills State-wise functioning and not functioning and loss for 2001-02

NTC	State	Functioning	Not functioning	Already closed	Loss in 2001-02 (in Rs. cr.)
DPR	Punjab	3	1	—	62.90
	Rajasthan	3		1	
MP	MP	2		5	47.97
UP	UP	2	9	—	79.35
MN & SM	Maharashtra	32		3	245.29
Gujarat	Gujarat	4		7	61.03
APKKM	AP	0	2	4	37.08
	Karnataka	2	1	1	
	Kerala	5	—	—	
	Mahe	1	—	—	
WBABO	WB	5	1	6	60.57
	Assam	1	—	—	
	Bihar	0	1	1	
	Orissa	1	—	—	
TNP/HC	TN	8		5	97.22
	Pondicherry	2	—	—	
Total		71	15	33	691.41

Note: Loss is computed Company-wise only.

Rice Export

*591. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he rice export from India has been badly affected due to its quality, transportation problems and lack of competitive prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to remove the above problems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Export of Non-basmati rice during the current year (April, 2002 to January, 2003) has increased to 35.47 lakh MT valued at Rs. 3236 crores

from 10.11 lakh MT valued at Rs. 937 crores in the corresponding period last year. However, representations have been received from All India Rice Exporters' Association and others on inter-alia inadequate availability of railway rakes which has caused difficulties.

(c) and (d) Certain WTO admissible costs on account of marketing and transport are being reimbursed on exports out of Central Pool Stocks.

Export of Textiles

*592. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified new markets for textile exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to promote exports?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) India's textile products are exported to more than hundred countries. However, the USA, EU Member States, Canada, U.A.E., C.I.S. countries, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Mexico, Australia, are the major importers of our textile goods.

The Textile Export Promotion Councils have intensified their export promotion activities, particularly to the non-quota markets. As a part of the efforts to boost textile exports to Latin America markets, a mega Textile Trade show was organised under the LAC programme. Co-ordinated promotional events are also planned under the Focus Africa programme to boost the exports of yarn and fabrics to the growing African apparel industry.

(c) Government have been taking a number of measures to promote textile exports to various countries. Some of the important initiatives are:—

- (i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.

(iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms and other important textile machinery items has been brought down to 5%.

(v) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

(vii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.

(viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS)' has been launched.

[English]

Crisis in Silk Industry

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

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

(a) whether farmers engaged in mulberry cultivations have become bankrupt due to steep fall in prices of cocoons as a result of huge dumping and import of silk yarn from China;

(b) if so, whether Director General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties has initiated anti-dumping investigations on the basis of complaints received from silk industry;

(c) if so, the result thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken/being taken to protect the interest of silk growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Government has not received any information about farmers engaged in mulberry cultivation having become bankrupt due to steep fall in prices of cocoons as a result of huge dumping and import of silk yarn from China.

(b) and (c) At the same time, however, on the basis of a petition received from the cottage/filature/multiend silk reelers associations located in the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) initiated anti-dumping investigation on 17.07.2002 into the import of Mulberry Raw Silk (not thrown), 2A Grade and below, originating in or exported from Peoples' Republic of China. Preliminary finding in the case was notified on 20.12.2002 recommending provisional anti-dumping duty equivalent to the difference between US \$ 33.19 per kg. and the landed value of import. Provisional anti-dumping has been imposed by the Ministry of Finance vide notification dated 2.1.2003.

(d) The other steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of silk growers are as follows:—

- (i) Central Silk Board operates Raw Material Banks and provides Margin Money Loan to the State Marketing Agencies to ensure fair price to primary farmers. Besides, the State Government Agencies such as the Karnataka Silk Marketing Board play a stabilizing role by their presence in the major markets.
- (ii) In order to provide relief to farmers from falling prices and to encourage them to continue in Sericulture, some State Governments implemented a short duration Scheme during 2002-03 for providing incentive of Rs. 10/- per kg. of cocoons to farmers on cost sharing basis by the Centre and the respective State in the ratio of 50:50.
- (iii) During the X plan period enhanced plan provision over the IX plan period has been made i.e. Rs. 450 crores for development of Research & Technology and implementation of Central and Centrally sponsored programmes. Under the

Central & Centrally sponsored programmes, Central Silk Board assists the State Governments and beneficiaries by way of grants-in-aid and technology support for quality and quantitative enhancement of production of silk.

Boost to Consumer Movement

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

(a) whether in the recent past, consumer movement in the country has received a tremendous boost due to consumer courts, media and consumer cooperation organizations;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to give further boost to consumer movement in the country;

(c) whether several organizations of traders, both wholesale and retail including middlemen are trying to weaken the consumer movement in the country; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to break these cartels?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir. The consumer movement has gained considerable momentum in the country due to the persistent efforts made to create consumer awareness by the Central/State Governments, NGOs, consumer organizations, media and others.

(b) In addition to undertaken audio, video and print media publicity programmes and observance of 'National Consumer Day' on 24th December, 'World Consumer Rights Day' on 15th March, involving all concerned, some of the important steps taken by the Department of Consumer Affairs to further strengthen consumer movement, include;

- (i) Amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 made in December, 2002. Among others, the provision made to set up District Consumer Protection Council at district level is expected to strengthen consumer movement at grass root level.
- (ii) Financial assistance are extended under the Consumer Welfare Fund to promote and protect the welfare of consumers and to strengthen the

consumer movement in the country. Under the Fund, a scheme, namely, District Consumer Information Centre has been launched to set up a Centre in each district in a phased manner. Another scheme, i.e., Jagriti Shivar Yojana has also been launched for spreading consumer awareness amongst the Below Poverty Line categories of the population.

(c) and (d) No specific instance has come to the notice of the Government. The legislations governing the trade and industry and the consumers do the balancing act to provide proper environment to the growth of the trade and industry on the one hand and to provide fair and competitive market for the consumers on the other hand.

Apparel Parks

*595. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved a centrally sponsored scheme on apparel parks for textile exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the said scheme is helpful to generate employment and to achieve export target;

(c) whether the Government had set \$ 15 b export target during the 2002-2003;

(d) if so, the extent to which it has been achieved during the above period;

(e) the share of Rajasthan in said export during the same period; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for the development of textile industry in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme", with the following objectives:—

- (i) To give a focussed thrust for setting up of modern apparel manufacturing units of international standards, which will work as one-stop-shop for reputed international buyers.
- (ii) To give fillip to domestic production to meet competition from imports and to promote exports in this sector.

The detailed guidelines of the Scheme are available on Ministry of Textiles' website <http://www.texmin.nic.in>. Under the Scheme, Government of India assistance to the tune of 75% of the infrastructure development cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 10 crores. Besides, central assistance upto a maximum of Rs. 5 crores is available for setting up of an effluent treatment plant, creche/s, any multi purpose centre/hall for marketing/display etc. and assistance to the tune of 50% subject to a maximum of Rs. 2 crores is available for the cost of any training facility created in the park.

The Apparel Parks set up under the scheme are expected to generate additionality in employment and exports.

(c) and (d) A target of US\$ 15005 million has been fixed for textile products for the year 2002-2003. As per the latest available DGCIS export data, textile exports during the period April-December 2002 have amounted to US\$ 8849.4 million; meaning thereby that 59% of the annual export target has been achieved during the first nine months.

(e) State-wise/Union Territory-wise data is not centrally maintained.

(f) Government have been taking a number of measures for development of textile industry in the country, including State of Rajasthan. Some of the important initiatives are:—

- (i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.
- (iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.
- (iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms and other important textile machinery items has been brought down to 5%.

- (v) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (vi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.
- (vii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.
- (viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS)' has been launched.

Impact of Gulf War on Indian Trade

*596. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:

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

- (a) whether the Indian export-import market has suffered a major setback owing to the US-Iraq war;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any new strategy to help exporters-importers in view of existing situation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the impact on foreign exchange earning of the present war?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) As the US-Iraq war began towards the end of March 2003, it did not have any impact on India's exports-imports for the financial year 2002-03. As per provisional data, exports in 2002-03 registered a growth rate of 19.67% and have reached Rs. 250130.02 crore. Imports also increased by 18.76% during the same period.

(b) and (c) The Government is closely monitoring the situation and is in touch with the concerned agencies, including the apex trade and industry organisations, for resolving the problems faced by the business community. The Permanent Mission of India, New York has been taking up the problems of the Indian exporters under the Oil for Food Programme with the Office of the Iraq Programme of the United Nations.

(d) Presently, there is no significant impact on the foreign exchange earnings of the country due to the war.

Amendment in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996

*597. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the recommendations made by the Law Commission of India with regard to Arbitration and Conciliation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make amendments in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 in order to make it more effective; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the Law Commission of India on the subject of amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, as contained in its 176th Report, are under examination by the Government. In this respect, the views of the State Governments and some prominent members of country's chambers of commerce and industry have also been solicited though no chamber of commerce and industry has so far responded. The Government is waiting for the necessary feedback in the matter from all the concerned quarters before taking a final view. Hence, it is not possible at this stage to indicate any time frame for taking a decision in the matter.

Credit-Deposit Ratio of Banks

*598. SHRI KHAGEN DAS:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the credit deposit ratio of public sector banks during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that certain States are deprived of banks credits as compared to other States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to stop this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) State-wise Credit Deposit (CD) ratio of public sector banks for the last three years is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) The main reasons for low CD ratio in certain States has been the low credit absorption capacity of the State's industrial economy, poor industrial infrastructure, inadequate power, labour unrest, lack of large and medium industries and entrepreneurial initiatives. With a view to ensure adequate credit flow to economically viable and bankable schemes, the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) meets regularly and ensures adequacy of funds. States have also been requested to bring specific instances of economically viable schemes which have been denied loans by Banks to the notice of the SLBC, so that such cases are specifically rectified.

Statement

*Credit Deposit Ratio of Public Sector Banks
March 2000, 2001 & 2002*

S. No.	Region/ State/UT	Credit-Deposit Ratio-2000	Credit-Deposit Ratio-2001	Credit-Deposit Ratio-2002
1	2	3	4	5
I.	Northern Region	58.06	63.49	69.22
1.	Haryana	42.45	43.37	45.89
2.	Himachal Pradesh	23.05	22.68	23.00
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	20.75	21.39	20.88
4.	Punjab	39.31	42.10	43.31
5.	Rajasthan	47.39	49.81	51.20
6.	Chandigarh	57.34	110.44	135.74
7.	Delhi	79.12	83.94	94.08
II.	North Eastern Region	27.83	28.19	26.81
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	12.27	12.71	11.74
2.	Assam	32.43	33.39	32.07
3.	Manipur	36.50	38.85	24.47
4.	Meghalaya	15.10	16.23	17.82
5.	Mizoram	22.67	23.50	24.36
6.	Nagaland	16.07	14.51	12.90
7.	Tripura	23.64	19.97	19.58
III.	Eastern Region	35.80	36.22	37.26
1.	Bihar	22.53	21.29	21.38

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Jharkhand	—	28.93	24.16
3.	Orissa	38.65	40.87	41.73
4.	Sikkim	13.80	15.59	16.01
5.	West Bengal	44.40	43.54	46.83
6.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	16.76	18.63	18.61
IV.	Central Region	33.76	33.94	34.38
1.	Chhattisgarh	—	41.77	49.07
2.	Madhya Pradesh	49.78	49.18	47.70
3.	Uttar Pradesh	27.63	29.23	29.90
4.	Uttaranchal	—	22.38	22.86
V.	Western Region	72.90	72.75	75.19
1.	Goa	23.96	23.59	24.85
2.	Gujarat	46.48	46.51	43.19
3.	Maharashtra	87.21	86.66	92.68
4.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	22.56	17.12	17.25
5.	Daman and Diu	14.70	13.11	9.81
VI.	Southern Region	65.20	64.87	63.52
1.	Andhra Pradesh	66.19	65.41	64.14
2.	Karnataka	63.82	60.55	63.74
3.	Kerala	40.13	41.73	59.60
4.	Tamil Nadu	82.98	84.50	77.72
5.	Lakshadweep	7.72	0.61	8.36
6.	Pondicherry	32.62	32.85	30.11
	All India	55.65	56.96	44.69

IMF and World Bank Loan for Poverty Alleviation

*599. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank have recently approved loan to India to support poverty alleviation programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where this amount is likely to be provided; and

(d) the actual funds likely to be released during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The International

Monetary Fund does not provide project linked assistance to India to support poverty alleviation programmes. However, poverty alleviation is one of the primary objectives of all World Bank assistance to India. In the last one some projects which seek to directly attack poverty have been taken up. These are Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Project (AP-RPRP) and Chhattisgarh District Rural Poverty Project (C-DRPP).

(b) AP-RPRP involving US \$ 150 million assistance from International Development Association (IDA), has been signed on 3rd April, 2003 in the World Bank. It is yet to be declared effective. World Bank has also approved C-DRPP on 24th April, 2003 involving an IDA assistance of \$ 112.5 million. The Project Agreements are yet to be signed by the concerned parties. These projects seek to improve opportunities for the rural poor to meet priority social and economic needs through community driven participatory approaches and demand based investment decisions.

(c) The beneficiary/project States are Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

(d) US\$ 5 million for the Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Project and US\$ 5 million for Chhattisgarh District Rural Poverty Project are expected to be released by the World Bank during 2003-04.

VRS for Bank Employees

*600. SHRI RADHAMOHAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are going to have another round of voluntary retirement scheme in public sector banks shortly;

(b) if so the main features of the scheme and the time by which it is likely to be launched;

(c) the total number of persons who had sought retirement in first round of VRS;

(d) the approximate number of persons expected to opt for VRS in the second round; and

(e) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Bank of India

had, in April 2002, submitted a proposal for a second round of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). However, they were advised to re-examine the proposal. There is no other proposal under consideration of the Government for introducing a second round of VRS in the Public Sector Banks.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per available information, the Public Sector Banks received 1.27 lakh applications under the VRS introduced by them in the year 2000.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Merger of Financial Institutions

*601. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to merge three mega financial institutions viz. IDBI, IFCI and IIBI;

(b) if so, the details of the plan and the time by which the merger is likely to be made;

(c) whether the employees of these mega financial institutions have been taken into confidence for implementing the proposal of merger;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the fate of the depositors, share holders and employees of these after merger?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir, not as at present.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Restructuring of UTI Scheme

*602. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India propose to restructure some of its schemes through intra-scheme merger;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for aggressive marketing of UTI scheme in order to reduce redemption pressure on the trust?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) As at present, there is no proposal for intra-scheme merger in respect of schemes with UTI-I which manages US-64, Assured Return Schemes and SUS-99.

However, UTI-II has decided in March 2003 to merge five existing Master Equity Plans, i.e., MEP 93, MEP 94, MEP 95, MEP 96 and MEP 97 into a single scheme named as UTI-Master Equity Plan Unit Scheme (UTI-MEPUS).

(c) Assets under Management of the UTI-II have fallen from Rs. 14,476 crores (as on 28th February, 2003) to Rs. 13,516 crores (as on 31st March, 2003) as per information provided by AMFI. UTI Mutual Fund is undertaking all possible measures for marketing of its schemes.

In UTI-I, US-64 holders have been given an option of exchanging their US-64 certificates for a bond to be issued by it and guaranteed by the Government. These bonds will carry 6.75% p.a. tax free interest, will be freely tradable and will be redeemable after five years. Investing public have accepted these bonds in an overwhelming majority.

Dividends earned by the scheme will be passed on to the certificate holders tax free and the transactions of US-64 will be exempted from capital gains tax.

[Translation]

Demand of Salt Manufacturer Association

5735. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any letter from the Gujarat Inland Salt Manufacturer Association-Dhrangdwara (Saurashtra-Gujarat) regarding "conversion of Dhrangdwara Kuda Salt siding from MG to BG;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon along with the outcome thereof; and

(d) the time by which their demands are likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Gujarat Inland Salt Manufacturers Association (GISMA) has requested for waiver of special levy of Rs. 20/- tonne on movement of salt on Dhrangadhra-Kuda line. GISMA had agreed to pay levy for their 1/3rd share amounting to Rs. 1.13 crore which has been paid by Salt Commissionerate, an attached office of Department of Industrial Police and Promotion.

(c) and (d) Since part of Rs. 1.13 crore has to be recovered from actual users who are being benefited by conversion of Dhrangadhra-Kuda line from meter gauge to Broad gauge with their prior consent, request for waiver of levy is not justified.

[English]

Export/Import of Mushroom

5736. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether dried and canned mushroom is being exported;

(b) if so, the quantity of export with foreign exchange earning during each of the last three years; and

(c) the quantity and value of mushroom imported and value added in the country during the above period?

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

(b) The quantity and value of export of dried and canned mushroom from India during the last three years are as under:

Qty: MTs, Value: Rs. lakhs

Year	Dried Mushroom (Morels)		Canned (button) Mushroom	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1999-2000	251.00	3475.00	3660.58	1742.96
2000-2001	397.77	6790.40	6807.28	2532.61
2001-2002	241.77	2731.25	4099.25	2142.24

(Source: DGCI&S)

(c) The quantity and value of mushroom (all types) imported during the last three years are as under:—

Qty: MTs, Value: Rs. lakhs

Year	Dried Mushroom (Morels)		Canned (button) Mushroom		Fresh Mushroom	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1999-2000	9.30	6.09	—	—	2.22	5.46
2000-2001	5.37	26.09	1.18	6.24	0.21	4.08
2001-2002	12.23	30.52	1.84	6.84	0.29	1.17

(Source: DGCI&S).

Subsidy for Sugar Transportation

5737. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar factories in Maharashtra have demanded transport subsidy for transportation of sugar from factory to the port;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have agreed to the proposal; and

(d) if so, the quantum of subsidy provided to the sugar factories in Maharashtra so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) The Central Government is reimbursing the expenditure incurred by sugar factories on internal transport from factory to the port on export shipments of sugar with effect from 21st June, 2002.

(d) No reimbursement could be made to the sugar factories in Maharashtra due to deficiencies in their claims which have already been communicated to them.

New Guidelines by SEBI

5738. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI propose to issue new guidelines for search and seizure powers while carrying out search and investigation of companies for alleged insider trading and market misconduct;

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

(c) the extent to which the new guidelines are likely to stop the insider trading?

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

Private Insurance Companies

5739. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IRDA has taken note of private insurance companies which have started declaring bonus to policy holders;

(b) if so, the names of companies which have declared bonus recently;

(c) whether it has been declared as per the guidelines;

(d) if not, the reasons for declaring bonus in spite of incurring loss; and

(e) the measures the Government and IRDA have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has informed that the following private life insurance companies have declared bonus recently for the year ended 31st March, 2002:—

- (i) HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company Limited;
- (ii) ING Vysya Life Insurance Company Limited;
- (iii) SBI Life Insurance Company Limited; and
- (iv) Tata-AIG Life Insurance Company Limited.

(c) to (e) Section 49 of the Insurance Act, 1938 deals with the declaration of bonus, on valuation of the life insurance business, on the data of valuation. IRDA has informed that normally bonus to policyholders is declared by life insurers from the actuarial valuation of surplus. For a new life insurance company, it may take seven to eight years to make profits. However, in order to show its commitment to the policyholders and to the market, the new life insurance companies declare a small bonus to the policyholders from out of the shareholder's funds (viz., share capital). The IRDA (Actuarial Report and Abstract) Regulations, 2000 provide for such a transfer. The IRDA has informed that such a transfer must be shown explicitly in the accounts and also that amounts so declared cannot be restored to shareholders in the future when profits are made. In other words, the unilateral transfer to policyholders is not recoverable. Moreover, the insurers have also to comply with IRDA

(Assets, Liabilities and Solvency Margins of Insurers) Regulations, 2000.

[Translation]

Organisation of Exhibitions Abroad

5740. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India organize exhibitions abroad;

(b) if so, the number of countries in which exhibitions were organized during the last three years;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) the outcome of these exhibitions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) under Department of Commerce organises exhibitions abroad.

(b) and (c) Details of exhibitions organised by ITPO during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of countries	(Rs. in lakhs)
		Expenditure
2000-2001	30	3314.55
2001-2002	20	1494.56
2002-2003	28	2123.27*

(*Provisional figures)

(d) India's product capability was displayed and projected in these exhibitions. Organisation of such exhibitions abroad has a catalytic effect on the growth of India's exports as such exhibitions provide an appropriate platform to showcase India's capabilities in various products.

[English]

IFC Investment in Indian Company

5741. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Finance Corporation (IFC) propose to increase its investments in the Indian companies engaged in manufacturing, Infrastructure and financial sectors;

(b) if so, the increased financial assistance proposed to be given by the IFC during the current financial year; and

(c) the companies in which the financial assistance is likely to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) According to the information received from IFC, its investment in India is expected to increase from US \$ 210.21 million in the year ending 30th June, 2002 to US \$ 300 million in the year ending 30th June, 2003 on approval basis.

(c) The expected increased volume of investment depends on suitable investment opportunity to support internationally competitive industry, services, financial market development and private infrastructure.

Price Stability

5742. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have achieved the desired price stability in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard for the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government achieved reasonable price stability during the Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997-2002). The annual point to point inflation rate and average inflation rate based on the Wholesale Price Index during the plan period are indicated below:

Annual Inflation Rate (%)

	Point to point Inflation rate (%) (end of the year)	Average Inflation Rate (%)
1997-98	4.5	4.4
1998-99	5.3	5.9
1999-00	6.5	3.3
2000-01	5.5	7.2
2001-02	1.6	3.6
Average (1997-2002)	4.7	4.9

(c) The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) envisages price stability through effective fiscal management and expenditure control. Government's anti inflationary policies include maintaining monetary and fiscal discipline; effective management of supply and demand for essential commodities and raw materials through liberal imports, and further strengthening of the public distribution system.

Sick/Closed Industries

5743. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) the details to sick and closed industrial units separately in various States as on March 31, 2003;

(b) since when these units have been closed down or fallen sick alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of employees and workers rendered jobless following the closure of these units;

(d) the details of financial assistance given to the workers working in these units by the State Government/ Union Government; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to revise these industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Data on sick industrial units, assisted by banks in the country, is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). As per the latest available information, State-wise number of non-SSI (sick and weak) closed industrial units as at the end of March, 2002 is at statement-I.

The Labour Bureau, Shimla, under Ministry of Labour collects information on closure of industrial units covered by Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, and the number of workers affected by the closure. The State-wise number of industrial units closed and workers affected thereby during 1998-2002, as per information available with the Labour Bureau, are at Statement-II.

(d) and (e) The Government provides a policy regime that facilitates and fosters growth and development of industry. The Government has also taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, inter alia, include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to bank, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, etc. Data on financial assistance, if any, provided by various governments to the workers affected by the closure is not centrally maintained.

Statement I

No. of Non-SSI (sick and weak) closed industrial units at the end of March 2002

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Number of Non-SSI (sick and weak) closed industrial units
1	2
Eastern Region	
Assam	17
Mizoram	3
Bihar	26
Jharkhand	13
West Bengal	120
Nagaland	7

1	2
Manipur	2
Orissa	28
Sikkim	1
Tripura	1
Northern Region	
Uttar Pradesh	113
Uttaranchal	13
Delhi	60
Punjab	50
Haryana	63
Chandigarh	15
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Himachal Pradesh	18
Rajasthan	41
Western Region	
Gujarat	199
Maharashtra	294
Daman & Diu	5
Goa	4
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5
Madhya Pradesh	56
Chhattisgarh	12
Southern Region	
Andhra Pradesh	179
Karnataka	111
Tamil Nadu	143
Kerala	17
Pondicherry	5
Total	1623

Statement II**State-wise number of Closures and Workers Affected during 1998-2002**

State/Union Territory	1998		1999(P)		2000(P)		2001(P)		2002(P)	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	2	114	3	393	—	—	3	344
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	—	—	1	21	—	—	1	39	—	—
Bihar	4	219	3	90	—	—	—	—	1	3000
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	..			
Goa	2	36	4	163	6	326	7	403	1	48
Gujarat	34	1067	14	272	25	999	43	1353	31	1492
Haryana	2	83	2	187	4	262	1	20	1	62
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	6	186	5	255	4	118
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—			—	—
Karnataka	3	182	3	2237	9	624	7	220	9	454
Kerala	—	—	9	293	9	367	9	695	7	205
Madhya Pradesh	4	274	9	1552	—	—	—	—	1	29
Maharashtra	1	70	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	85
Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	13	2537	5	350	8	498	2	130	1	14
Punjab	1	1425	51	8202	1	22	1	91	—	—
Rajasthan	1	350	5	269	4	348	1	49	3	311
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	7	94	2	630	3	737	7	417	—	—
Tripura	42	742	18	139	7	104	7	199	23	242
Uttar Pradesh	38	5190	13	559	31	6356	39	7127		
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	437	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
West Bengal	—	—	10	463	5	426	—	—		
A & N Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	—	3	75	—	—	10	150	1	12
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi	2	607	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	17
Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	21	510	5	91	17	256	6	14	4	75
Total	175	13,386	159	15,707	138	11,904	151	11,599	93	6,508

A = Number of Units closed

B = Number of workers affected.

— = Nil

(P) = Provisional; .. = Not available

Source: Labour Bureau, Shimla.

Report of International Narcotics Control Board

5744. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the International Narcotics Control Board annual report released on February 26, 2003;

(b) if so, the main findings of the report particularly impact of illicit drug trade; and

(c) the steps being proposed on the above findings of the report by the Government?

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

(b) The focus of the Annual Report 2002 of the International Narcotics Control Bureau (released on February 26, 2003) is the review of the adverse socio-economic impact of illicit (drug) crop cultivation and illicit drug trade on long-term economic growth. This review shows that illicit drug production and related economic activities compromise long term economic development because of their destabilizing effects on the state, the economy and the civil society.

(c) Efforts are made continuously to effectively implement the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and

Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and those of the International Conventions on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances to control illicit drug production, abuse and trafficking.

[Translation]

Development of Rubber Industry

5745. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating any scheme for the development of rubber industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Government of India, through the Rubber Board, besides implementing several Plan schemes and developmental activities, has also been provided technical and financial assistance and other necessary support in the form of research, extension and supply of planting material etc. to the rubber growers for development of the rubber industry. As against an amount of Rs. 348.20 crore incurred by the Board during the 9th Plan period for undertaking various developmental activities, an amount

of Rs. 415.00 crore has been allocated for the 10th Plan period.

[*English*]

Tobacco Consumption

5746. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether tobacco consumption in the country has dropped after imposing ban on smoking in public places;

(b) if so, the percentage drop in tobacco consumption; and

(c) the strategies adopted to compensate the loss to the tobacco industry due to such ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The available statistics do not show a fall in consumption of tobacco in the country after imposition of ban on smoking in public places.

(c) Does not arise.

Technical Support by Rubber Board

5747. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber Board propose to implement a scheme for providing technical support and financial assistance in processing in latex at grass-root level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Rubber Board is already implementing a scheme for the benefit of the processors of latex at grass-root level. The scheme inter-alia provides technical and financial assistance to the small holders and Rubber Producers' Societies for processing their latex. Under the scheme, rubber growers are also trained in post harvest/processing operations.

New Sugar Factories in Karnataka

5748. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has taken a decision on setting up new sugar factories in the State;

(b) if so, the details of the norms set for the purpose;

(c) the number of new sugar mills and factories that have been set up in the State;

(d) the extent to which production of sugar has been increased in these factories in the State; and

(e) the incentives provided by the Union Government to the State Government in helping the sugar factories to grow?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) The sugar industry has been de-licensed with effect from 11th September, 1998 and as such the entrepreneurs are free to set up new sugar factories in any part of the country keeping in view the techno-economic viability of their projects and maintaining a distance of 15 Kms from the existing sugar factories. As on 30.9.2002, there were 41 sugar factories in the State of Karnataka which produced 15.77 lakh tonnes of sugar during the sugar season 2001-2002.

(e) The Government of India do not provide any incentive/financial assistance to the State Governments for development/growth of sugar industry. However, financial assistance is provided to the sugar mills from the Sugar Development Fund for modernization/rehabilitation/expansion and cane development schemes.

[*Translation*]

Forestry Development Project of Bihar

5749. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar Government have submitted a new forestry development project to be funded by the Japan Bank for international cooperation;

(b) if so, whether this project has been forwarded to the bank; and

(c) if not, the time by which this project is likely to be entrusted to this bank?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Credit Facility for N.E. States

5750. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of the Federation of Industries and Commerce of North Eastern Region (FINER) called on the Governor, Reserve Bank of India to seek the much needed support for the industrial development and economic resurgence of the region and to invite attention to the low credit debit ratio of leading Banks in the region;

(b) if so, the precise demands made by FINER delegation; and

(c) the response of the RBI and the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that a delegation of the Federation of Industries and Commerce of North-Eastern Region (FINER) had called on Governor, RBI on 13.2.2003 during his visit to Guwahati.

(b) Some of the steps suggested by the FINER in respect of credit delivery in the N.E. Region are given below:—

- (1) The commercial banks operating in the NE Region should have their controlling/sanctioning authorities offices in the NE Region at least at the level of Zonal/Regional Office with sanctioning power of upto Rs. 500 lakh in respect of any single borrowing entity.
- (2) The commercial banks handling industrial advances of significant magnitude in the NE Region should be directed to locate dedicated commercial/industrial finance branches to handle

commercial/industrial advances with exposure above a cut off limit say Rs. 25 lakh to expedite the credit delivery process of such advances in major industrial centres of NE Region.

- (3) The bank should strive to raise the standards of appraisal and monitoring of advances by inducting specialized, dedicated and trained staff having adequate exposure to the Region.
- (4) RBI and commercial bank boards should have representation of the North East.
- (5) Time limits for disposal of loan proposals set by RBI should be strictly adhered to.
- (6) RBI should convene quarterly meetings of important commercial banks with industry associations to monitor credit flow.

(c) Following the FINER's aforesaid meeting with Governor, RBI had convened 2 meetings of Senior Bankers, State Government Officials and Members of FINER at Guwahati to consider, inter-alia, the steps suggested by FINER. IT was felt that Banks need to augment their efforts to increase flow of credit to small and marginal farmers and the industry for enhancing CD Ratio in the region.

RBI Fair Practice Code

5751. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI had formulated a "Fair Practice Code" for all banks in the country with regard to scrutinising loan applications;

(b) whether banks are supposed to divulge the reason for refusing a loan under the Fair Practice Code;

(c) whether all banks have agreed to this proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons advanced by banks to avoid this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Based on the recommendations of a Working Group constituted by the Government, RBI are in process of formulating a 'Fair Practice Code' for lenders.

Merger of Banks

5752. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding merger of some nationalised banks is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Arbitration Proceeding Against IDBI

5753. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the offshore lenders to the Dabhol Power project recently started arbitration proceedings in London against the Industrial Development Bank of India;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Certain off-shore banks and Overseas Private Investment Corporation (Collectively called as 'Claimants'), vide notice dated 17.4.2003, have initiated arbitration proceedings against the Indian Financial Institutions and Banks, viz. Industrial Development Bank of India, ICICI Bank Ltd., IFCI Ltd. and State Bank of India (Collectively called as 'Respondents').

(b) The Notice of Arbitration has been issued under the Inter-Credit Agreement (ICA) seeking a declaration

that the respondents have breached the ICA and fiduciary obligations to the claimants and have caused damages to them.

On the issuance of the Final Termination Notice by the Dabhol Power Corporation for termination of a Power Purchase Agreement entered into between DPC and Maharashtra State Electricity Board, the Indian Financial Institutions filed a suit in the Bombay High Court on 6-11-2001 and obtained an interim order of injunction on 9-11-2001 restraining DPC from issuing an FTN. The IFIs filed another suit in the Bombay High Court in March 2002 for appointment of Court Receiver. The Bombay High Court ordered appointment of Court Receiver to take possession of the physical assets, on 2.4.2002.

(c) The proposal for the restart of Phase I of the Dabhol Power Project, as an interim measure and without prejudice to the rights and contentions of various parties, pending overall restructuring of the project and induction of a new sponsor, is being discussed by IFIs with Government of India, Government of Maharashtra and Maharashtra State Electricity Board. Legal Counsel to the IFIs has been advised to weigh the pros and cons so that an appropriate strategy could be developed. The Legal Counsel is in touch with the Offshore (London-based) Counsel in this regard.

Lifting of Samples of Bulk Drugs

5754. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Custom Authorities are lifting samples of bulk drugs during its exports;

(b) if so, the guidelines issued in this regard and details of various laboratories notified for bulk drugs and medicines;

(c) whether all exports benefits are being denied till test report is received; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The samples of bulk drugs are drawn and tested at the time of exports as per the guidelines which stipulated that in case of manufacturer exporters who have in-house testing facilities duly approved by Drug Controller of India, samples are

not to be drawn and the inhouse test result relied upon for the purpose of export and verification to credit under various Export Incentive Schemes. Further, where the samples of the export product have earlier been drawn by the Central Excise Authorities and the test results of the same are available, these test results are relied upon (for six months) for the purpose of exports, provided such test reports bring out the technical characteristics of the inputs as required to be ascertained under the various Export Incentive Schemes. As regards the laboratories notified for testing of drugs and medicines are concerned, the laboratories duly approved by the Drug Controller of India are relied upon.

(c) and (d) Whenever samples are drawn, the shipment is permitted provisionally. After receipt of the test report, the provisional assessment is finalized and eligible export benefit given to the exporters. The test report is relied upon to ensure that no undue export benefit is availed by the exporters.

Scrapping of Franchises

5755. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to answer given to Unstarred Question No. 907 dated July 19, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the supply of stationery and other items to the Government departments was under a special dispensation under a DOPT OM and not under business and administrative matters of NCCF;

(b) if so, under which rule can the NCCF further delegate the dispensation to supply stationery and other items to privately owned franchise holders selectively and not collectively;

(c) whether there is any proposal to immediately scrap the franchises; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The guidelines for procurement of stationery and other articles by the Govt. of India offices located in Delhi/New Delhi and outside Delhi are issued by the Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT) from time to time. The DOPT had issued an OM in consultation with the Ministry of Works & Housing on 14th July, 1981. This OM had

mentioned that the purchase of stationery and other articles by the Central Government offices were to be undertaken from the Kendriya Bhandar, Delhi only. Subsequent to this, the Super Bazar, Delhi and the NCCF of India Ltd. were included in the list of the nominated agencies by the DOPT vide their Office Memoranda issued in 1987 and 1994 respectively.

(b) The NCCF is an autonomous Multi State Cooperative Society having its own Board of Directors to decide about its business and other administrative matters. The NCCF has informed that they have not delegated the dispensation for supply of stationery and other office use articles to any privately owned franchise holders. The NCCF has, however, opened a few showrooms for sale of stationery and other office use articles in Delhi and other parts of the country under a business collaboration with its registered suppliers as per agreed terms and conditions. These showrooms are monitored and supervised by the staff of NCCF.

(c) and (d) According to the NCCF, these showrooms provide ready availability of stocks and provide satisfactory services to the Government Departments. As such there is no question of scrapping the franchises.

New Formula for Ways and Means Advance

5756. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has adopted a new ways and means (WMA) formula and overdraft to States;

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

(c) whether after implementing these norms some States are facing difficulties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

revised formula, the total Normal WMA limits have been enhanced to Rs. 7170 crore from Rs. 6035 crore effective March 3, 2003 to help State Governments avoid frequent resorting to Overdrafts. The number of days of overdraft has also been extended to 14 consecutive working days from 12 consecutive working days to allow the States more time to adjust their intra-month mismatches. No State Government will be allowed to be in overdraft for more than 36 working days in a quarter. This is intended to bring certain discipline on the States frequently resorting to Overdraft facility from RBI. The rates of interest on Normal Ways & Means Advance, Special Ways and Means advance and on overdraft have also been revised.

(c) According to the data available with RBI, the States are not facing any difficulties after implementing these norms.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Factories Manufacturing Narcotics Illegally

5757. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where factories manufacturing narcotics illegally have been identified by the customs department in the country during the last four years;

(b) whether investigations have been conducted in this regard;

(c) whether the Government are considering over taking strict action against the persons indulged in such activities; and

(d) if so, the action thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Five factories illegally manufacturing narcotics have been identified by the customs department in the following four States, during the last four years:—

- (i) Punjab
- (ii) Rajasthan
- (iii) Gujarat, and
- (iv) Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The persons concerned have been arrested. Investigation has been completed and prosecution complaint has been filed in the appropriate Court.

Shortage of Containers

5758. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of containers in the country has adversely affected exports;

(b) if not, the number of available containers with various Port Trusts of the country including the Chennai Port Trust, separately;

(c) whether a large number of containers have been stranded at the foreign Container Freight Stations (CFS) due to non-payment of customs duty by the foreign importers; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to meet the shortage of containers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) No representation regarding shortage of containers for exports has been received. The Government has been making sustained efforts to improve containerisation of export cargo and the share of such cargo in total exports has gone up from 11.46% in 2000-01 to 12.94% in 2001-02. Department of Commerce interacts on a regular basis with Ministries of Shipping, Railways, Finance, and Container Corporation of India as well as with the freight forwarders, shippers and shipping lines to facilitate containerisation of exports and imports.

(c) No such representation has been received.

(d) The Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Denial to Purchase Indian Leather

5759. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Daimler crysler has stopped the buying of Indian leather in protest against the treatment of animals by the leather industry in India;

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

(c) the other companies which have also stopped buying Indian leather; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to stop the illegal practices of this trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Export of Upholstery leather from India to Germany is still continuing. Export of leather products to Germany are also continuing. Some of the International retail chains had at one stage either cancelled their import orders or decided to go slow on sourcing leather and leather products from India. However, most of the above companies have again started purchasing leather and leather products from India.

(d) To improve the plight of animals while in transit, Government has made concerted and coordinated efforts, with the involvement of State Governments, Railways, transporter/industry etc. for ensuring strict compliance of the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty Act, 1960.

Criminal Proceedings Against Companies

5760. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether criminal proceedings are on against Directors of some companies under Sections 209 and 209A of Companies Act for stock manipulation; and

(b) if so, the names of the companies and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Sections 209 and 209A of the Companies Act, 1956 pertain to the maintenance of books of accounts by a company, and their inspection, and not to stock manipulation. The Department of Company Affairs had ordered inspection of 98 companies under Section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956, based on SEBI's Preliminary Investigation Report relating to the stock market developments in February-March 2001. 539 prosecutions have so far been ordered/launched for violation of various provisions of the Companies Act, 1956.

Transit and Storage Loss of Foodgrains

5761. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of transit and storage loss of foodgrains during the last three years;

(b) the measures taken by the Government to lessen or prevent this loss and its result thereof;

(c) whether the maximum loss occur in the transportation of foodgrains because there is no appropriate system for booking the foodgrains on the basis of their weight due to which Railways do not give receipt to the Department of Food and the Railways instead of its responsibility, leads the foodgrains on the responsibility of Department of Food though Department of Food is prepared to make weighing bridge;

(d) if so, whether his Ministry has held discussion with the Ministry of Railways for solution of this problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and success achieved thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The percentage of transit and storage losses incurred by the Food Corporation of India for the last three years are as under:

Year	(Quantity of lakhs MT)			
	Transit loss		Storage loss	
	Quantity	Percentage	Quantity	Percentage
1999-00	2.95	1.17	1.72	0.34
2000-01	1.55	0.84	1.56	0.42
2001-02 (Provisional)	1.82	0.78	1.98	0.36

(b) The following remedial measures have been taken to prevent storage and transit losses:

- (i) Deployment of security staff of the FCI (as well as Home Guards) for safety of the foodgrain stocks.
- (ii) Deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the State Armed Police at "vulnerable" godowns.
- (iii) Periodic security inspections, as also surprise checks of the depots at various levels to detect and plug theft/security lapses.

(iv) Installation of lorry electronic weigh-bridges and their surprise inspection.

(v) Improvement in size and quality of gunnies.

FCI has prescribed a procedure for prompt reporting, investigation and fixation of responsibility and write off storage losses. In case of transit losses, the prescribed procedure is to report the transit loss immediately to the consignor for speedy investigation and fixation of responsibility wherever warranted. With the introduction of this procedure, significant improvement has been made in controlling the storage and transit losses.

(c) to (e) Transit losses in food grains occur at various stages during multiple handling and transportation by various means, to and from the FCI Depots and railheads. Railways have no arrangement for weighing foodgrains consignments before booking. FCI has also not found it viable to install in-motion weight-bridges at its cost. The Railway Board has made it clear that "clear Railway Receipt" or "said to contain" Railway Receipt have no meaning for the purpose of shortages so far as the Railways are concerned, because, in either case when wagon seals remain intact, the Railways would normally have no liability for shortages if any. The matter of installation of reliable in motion weight-bridges and the broad scheme thereof or any other alternative method for fixing accountability in the event of transit losses is yet to be decided between the FCI and the Railways.

Financing by NHB

5762. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Housing Bank is providing finance for State housing projects; and

(b) if so, the State-wise finance provided for such project during the last three years particularly to Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) National Housing Bank (NHB) provides financial assistance for housing and development projects implemented by State owned agencies like Housing Boards, Development Authorities, Municipal Authorities etc. NHB has so far provided financial assistance to tune of Rs. 552.61 crores to various State Government agencies. The details of State-wise (including Gujarat) finance provided by NHB for State

owned housing and development projects during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crores)			
Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03*
Himachal Pradesh	1.42	4.55	2.36
Madhya Pradesh	9.05	20.32	6.72
Tamil Nadu	6.43	3.15	0.00
West Bengal	25.00	10.00	10.00
Goa	0.83	2.62	1.27
Rajasthan	1.21	8.38	17.73
Gujarat#	25.48	62.23	0.93
Total	69.42	111.25	39.04

* For the 9 month period July 2002 to March 2003.

This includes the special assistance of Rs. 51.44 crores provided to Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority and Gujarat Rural Housing Board for earthquake rehabilitation housing projects.

Permission to Tobacco Board for Direct Purchase

5763. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for directing the Tobacco Board to purchase tobacco directly from farmers so as to help the farmers to get minimum price for their produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government to the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Andhra Pradesh Government has suggested that the Union Government permit Tobacco Board to undertake intervention operations during the current marketing season.

(c) Tobacco Board is required to intervene in the market when prices of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco fall below the Minimum Support Price (MSP). At present, the prices prevailing in the ongoing tobacco auctions in Andhra Pradesh are above the MSP.

Tax Free Municipal Bonds

5764. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from various State Governments for permitting issuing of tax free municipal bonds by the Municipal Corporation of their respective States;

(b) if so, the number of proposals vetted and approval given;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has also requested for permission to raise Rs. 200 crore through tax-free municipal bonds; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) During 2002-2003, two proposals from Nasik Municipal Corporation (Maharashtra) and Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) for issue of Tax Free Municipal Bonds were received. Whereas, the proposal of Nasik Municipal Corporation was approved during 2002-2003, the proposal of Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) could not be approved during 2002-2003 due to paucity of time. The same has been approved during 2003-2004.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign Nationals arrested in Smuggling Activities

5765. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign nationals arrested during the period from January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002 for their involvement in smuggling activities and how these figures compare with the figures of last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of persons, nationality etc. of each of such smugglers; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assistance to States

5766. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom weavers in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh are being provided assistance for modernisation of their looms;

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

(c) the number of looms modernised during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) Under the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY), funds are provided to the handloom weavers in the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh for purchase of new looms and also for modernization of their existing looms by way of providing funds for doobby, jacquard and accessories.

(b) and (c) The details of number of new looms to be acquired, and looms to be modernized as per the sanctions under the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) are given at Statement enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	State Name	No. of Looms, Dobbies, Jacquards, Accessories sanctioned to	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
2000-01			
1.	Assam	4400	206.72000
2.	Gujarat	2500	175.00000

1	2	3	4
3.	Himachal Pradesh	250	5.52000
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	600	9.00000
5.	Madhya Pradesh	185	1.88500
6.	Manipur	3627	104.42974
7.	Meghalaya	100	3.75000
8.	Nagaland	1000	16.00000
9.	Tripura	1015	15.07500
10.	Uttar Pradesh	2975	83.80000
11.	West Bengal	890	36.00500
	Total	17542	657.18474

2001-02

1.	Andhra Pradesh	5024	81.31850
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2700	90.25300
3.	Assam	15120	752.95000
4.	Chhattisgarh	407	4.07500
5.	Himachal Pradesh	575	41.75000
6.	Karnataka	0	0.00000
7.	Madhya Pradesh	265	3.35000
8.	Nagaland	7500	113.07000
9.	Tamil Nadu	7771	46.45900
10.	Uttar Pradesh	13236	427.46500
11.	Uttaranchal	742	21.99000
12.	West Bengal	860	4.60000
	Total	54200	1624.28050

2002-03

1.	Andhra Pradesh	4710	131.66000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	200	10.75000
3.	Assam	14300	671.90000
4.	Chhattisgarh	1330	33.65000
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1175	36.25000
6.	Kerala	800	19.22500

1	2	3	4
7.	Madhya Pradesh	165	3.19000
8.	Manipur	7913	255.19600
9.	Nagaland	2550	38.25000
10.	Rajasthan	150	2.82000
11.	Tamil Nadu	17067	166.20000
12.	Uttar Pradesh	8540	251.69500
13.	Uttaranchal	563	17.81500
14.	West Bengal	3460	207.87300
	Total	62923	1846.47400
	Grand Total	134665	4127.93924

[Translation]

Loan from Japan

5767. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan Government has agreed to provide loan to India for various projects;

(b) if so, the amount of loan to be obtained from Japan alongwith terms and conditions governing the loan;

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

(d) the details of the projects for which the loan is likely to be obtained from Japan?

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

(b) Government of Japan has approved the loan assistance of approximately Rs. 4417 crores to India. The rate of interest and repayment period for the loans for environmental related projects is 0.75% per annum and 40 years respectively. For the loans for other projects, the interest rate and the repayment period are 1.8% per annum and 30 years respectively.

(c) The loan would be available from financial year 2003.

(d) The names of the projects for which loan is to be provided is as under:

1. Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project (IV)
2. Bakreswar Thermal Power Station Units Extension Project
3. Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (IV)
4. Punjab Afforestation Project (II)
5. Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Conservation Project
6. Yamuna Action Plan Project (II)
7. Ajanta-Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project (II).

Cases referred to BIFR

5768. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases handed over to the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) after its setting up as on date;

(b) the number of cases in which final decision has been taken by the Board till 28th February, 2003;

(c) the number of cases in which recommendations for closing the industrial units have been made alongwith the number of cases in which package for revival has been given; and

(d) the number of cases regarding which recommendations for reviving the industrial units has been accepted by the Government and the names of such units in respect of which the recommendations of BIFR have not been accepted along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has reported that 4468 cases of sick industrial companies were registered with it upto 31st March, 2003.

(b) BIFR has taken a final decision in 2845 cases out of 4468 cases up to 31st March 2003.

(c) BIFR has recommended winding up in 1115 cases u/s 20(1) of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. BIFR has also so far sanctioned revival packages in respect of 562 sick units, which include 334 sick units already declared no longer sick.

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

[English]

Textile Mills in A.P.

5769. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cotton and man made fibre mills functioning in public, co-operative and private sectors, separately in Andhra Pradesh as on date;

(b) the production capacity and actual production of these mills during each of the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for modernisation of these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) The number of functioning public, private and co-operative sector cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI), their production capacity and actual production during each of the last two years in the State of Andhra Pradesh as on 28th Feb. 2003 are given below:

S. No.	Management	No. of mills functioning	Installed Capacity			Production (Mn. kg.)	
			Spindles ('000')	Rotors ('000')	Looms ('000')	2001-02	2002-03(P)
1.	Public	0	0	0	0	0	
2.	Private	53	1380	2584	0	144.08	133.11
3.	Co-operative	1	25	0	0	1.00	0
Total		54	1405	2584	0	145.08	133.11

(c) With a view to improve the overall viability of the textile and jute industries and to enable it to meet the global challenges, Government has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textile and Jute Industries, w.e.f. 1.4.1999 for a period of 5 years, i.e. upto 31st March 2004. The Scheme covers the whole of India including Andhra Pradesh. The main feature of the scheme is that it provides a reimbursement of 5% point on the interest charged by the nodal agency/co-opted banks on the projects of technology upgradation of textile industry, which are eligible as per the scheme. These mills are free to approach nodal agency/co-opted banks with their modernisation projects to seek assistance under the Scheme. As on February 28, 2003, in the State of Andhra Pradesh, 40 applications with project cost of Rs. 613 crore and loan requirement of Rs. 361 crore have been received. 31 applications have been sanctioned a loan amount of Rs. 229 crore and Rs. 170 crore has been disbursed against 26 applications.

Public Distribution System

5770. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether lack of supervision has affected Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to tone up vigilance mechanism to end the continued malpractices by dealers of fair price shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 provides for stringent punishment under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 against fair price shop owners for malpractices. The order provides the procedure for monitoring of the Public Distribution System including the functioning of the Fair Price Shops (FPS) by the State Governments as under:—

- (i) State Governments shall ensure a proper system of monitoring of fair price shops and prescribe model sale register, stock register and ration card register.
- (ii) State Governments shall ensure regular inspection of fair price shops not less than once in six months by the designated authority. State Governments may issue orders specifying the

inspection schedule, list of check points and the authority responsible for ensuring compliance with the said orders.

- (iii) Meetings of the Vigilance Committees on the Public Distribution System at the State, District, Block and FPS level shall be held on a regular basis. The date and periodicity shall be notified by the State Government. However, the periodicity shall not be less than one meeting a quarter at all levels.

Import of Offset Printing Machines

5771. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's import of used sheet fed offset printing machines has registered a steep increase in the last few years;

(b) if so, the comparative data of import of these machines for the last three years;

(c) whether the Exim Policy permits the import of such machines;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether given foreign exchange is being released for the import of such machines in violation of Exim Policy;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) the corrective steps being taken in this regard; and

(h) if so, the safeguards measures formulated by the Government to ensure that the importer could not import used printing machines violating the exim policy and trade them freely violating actual users conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (h) As per the Exim Policy, 2002-2007, capital goods including 2nd hand offset printing machines older than 10 years can only be imported with an import licence. Licence for such imports are issued on the recommendation of the Exim Facilitation Committee (EFC, an Inter-Ministerial Committee consisting of representatives from concerned Ministries and technical authorities). A statement indicating number of cases cleared by EFC for import of 2nd hand offset printing machines during the

last three years is enclosed. It may be observed that there is no increase in number of such cases cleared by the EFC over the years. These imports were cleared with actual user conditions. As regards violation of Exim Policy, there is a clear provision in the FT (D&R) Act, 1992 to deal with violation of various provision of Exim Policy and any violation of conditions of import of 2nd hand offset printing machines is liable to be dealt with accordingly.

Statement

No. of cases cleared by EFC during the last three years for import of 2nd hand offset printing machines

Year	No. of cases cleared for import of 2nd hand printing machines
2000-2001	1
2001-2002	3
2002-2003	2

Hybrid Silk

5772. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been successful to produce international grade hybrid silk;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Orissa Government to patent the new hybrid silk worm varieties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Central Silk Board (CSB) has been successful in evolving bivoltine hybrids capable of yielding

international grade silk with the technical assistance of Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). 6 bivoltine silkworm hybrids viz., CSR2 X CSR4, CSR2 X CSR5, CSR12 X CSR6, CSR18 X CSR19, CSR16 X CSR17 and CSR3 X CSR6 from CSR races and few multi X Bivoltine Hybrid from BL series have been authorised for commercial exploitation.

(c) Presently, no system exists for patenting of live materials including silkworm hybrids. CSB has however, developed a mechanism of registration of newly evolved silkworm hybrids on the lines of National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), ICAR, New Delhi.

Default in Credit Cards

5773. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of default in credit card business are increasing in nationalised and commercial banks in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the RBI has recently directed banks to take immediate steps to reduce the incidence of default in credit card business; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the banks in this regard particularly recovery of outstanding dues from credit card holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that overdues in credit card business are increasing in some public sector banks as may be observed from the position given in the table below:—

(Figures in Rs. crores)

		No. of cards in force As on 31st March			Overdues in credit card business- As on 31st March		
		2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	BOB cards (Subsidiary of BOB)	144733	140751	123055	11.54 (69.32)	19.96 (81.75)	22.56 (76.91)
2.	Corporation bank	2949	3228	3501	0.32 (6.64)	0.31 (6.75)	1.30 (7.51)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Dena Bank	6820	7900	7700	0.20 (0.77)	0.40 (1.11)	0.63 (1.26)
4.	Punjab & Sind Bank	4455	4933	9748	0.59 (1.05)	0.62 (1.28)	0.68 (1.28)
5.	SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd. (Subsidiary of SBI)	269929	607069	902844	0.40 (112.56)	8.39 (278.67)	26.79 (474.90)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate total outstanding amount.

(c) Banks have been advised by RBI to take immediate steps to reduce the incidence of default in this business and closely monitor the recovery of credit cards outstandings. Banks may formulate specific Action plans to this effect with the approval of their Board of Directors. Banks are advised to observe the code of ethics formulated by the Indian Banks' Association while engaging recovery agents for collection of credit card overdue.

(d) Banks are taking various steps such as regular follow up by branches with the defaulting card holders, legal recourse, follow up through the field functionaries and recovery agents, blocking the usage of the card in case of non-repayment for 3 months consecutively, sending of monthly reminders etc.

Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom Workers

5774. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revise Group Insurance Scheme for powerloom weavers' families;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to give benefit of this scheme to unorganized powerloom workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) The Central Government has approved a modified Group Insurance Scheme (GIS) for the Powerloom weavers or self employed weaver families owning more than 4 looms, who are of the age group between 18 to 59 years and below the poverty

line (BPL) or marginally higher than the BPL. There will be two components under the Scheme. (1) Coverage under existing 'Janashri Bima Yojana' of LIC (2) Add on Group Insurance coverage for death: Both components will be administered by LIC.

1. Janashri Bima Yojana:

(i) Life Insurance cover towards natural death shall be a sum of Rs. 20,000/- per member.

(ii) For accidental death or permanent total disability, the coverage shall be maximum Rs. 50,000/- per member and for permanent partial disability, the coverage shall be maximum of Rs. 25,000/- per member.

(iii) Added benefits in the form of, an associated scheme of LIC—"Siksha Sahyog Yojana", under which not more than 2 dependent children of the beneficiary studying the class 9th to 12th are given Rs. 300/- per quarter/child as educational allowance based on a transparent selection criterion.

(iv) The annual premium charged would be Rs. 200/- per annum, of which i.e. Rs. 100/- is to be borne by Life Insurance Corporation from its Social Security Fund, Rs. 60/- is to be borne by the Government of India in Ministry of Textiles and remaining Rs. 40/- is to be borne by the beneficiary.

2. Add on GIS for death:

(i) The insurance coverage shall be Rs. 30,000/- per member of the Group for natural as well as accidental death.

(ii) The yearly premium amount for the first year shall be Rs. 180 per member of the Group.

- (iii) 50% of premium amount i.e. Rs. 90.00 shall be contributed by the Government of India and remaining 50% i.e. Rs. 90.00 by the powerloom weaver who is a member of the group.
- (iv) Notwithstanding the provision at (b) above, the premium amount may be revised on biennial basis, by the LIC based on the actual claim experience.

A powerloom weaver, who fulfils the eligibility conditions, shall have the option of choosing the 'Janashri Bima Yojana' with or without the add-on insurance cover.

[Translation]

Opium Cultivation

5775. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken any steps for promoting opium cultivation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the provisions for providing relief to the opium growers in the case of natural calamity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The following steps have been taken by the Government for promoting opium cultivation in the country:—

- (i) The cultivation of opium for scientific and medicinal purposes in the notified tracts of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh is regulated by the Central Bureau of Narcotics under licence.
- (ii) Research project for development of opium poppy variety with higher alkaloid content has been commissioned by the Government.
- (iii) The Government provides remunerative prices for the procurement of opium from licensed opium cultivators.
- (iv) A scheme for upgrading and enhancing the production facilities at the Government Opium and Alkaloid Works, Neemuch and Ghazipur is under implementation.

- (v) Efforts are made to increase the sale/export of opium in the international market in order to sustain licensed opium cultivation.

(c) If the opium crop of a cultivator is damaged due to any disease or natural calamity, he can get the damaged unbalanced crop uprooted, fully or partially, under departmental supervision. In case of full uprooting, the cultivator becomes automatically eligible for licence in the next year, if he is otherwise eligible. In case of partial uprooting, the cultivator is required to tender opium grown over the remaining area and also fulfil Minimum Qualifying Yield (MQY) for the area. Such cultivators would be eligible for licence in the subsequent year provided they satisfy the conditions of MQY.

[English]

Participation of Private Sector

5776. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to privatise Telecom, Power, Roads, Railways and Airport Sectors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have chalked out a plan in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) In a wider economic sense, any process which reduces the involvement of the State or the public sector in economic activities is called privatization, which is generally in keeping with the trend of liberalization, deregulation declicensing and globalisation of the economy. Private participation and private investment including foreign investment of varying degrees is allowed in telecom, power and airport infrastructure. In the road sector, under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP), roads are being constructed by domestic and foreign contractors with joint ventures between India and foreign companies. Indian railways has also formalized public private partnership arrangements in rail projects for various activities such as port connectivity, gauge conversion, electrification,

doubling of lines, development of suburban transportation and connectivity to remote and backward areas with new railway lines.

(c) to (e) In the Union Budget 2003-04, measures have been announced to encourage public private partnership in infrastructure, principally in roads, railways, airports and sea ports, through an innovative funding mechanism. This comprehensive initiative will cover:

- 48 new road projects at an estimated cost of around Rs. 40,000 crore; with a quarter of them being made of cement concrete;
- National Rail Vikas Yojana projects worth Rs. 8000 crore;
- Renovation/modernization of two airports, and two seaports at an estimated cost of Rs. 11,000 crore.
- Establishing two global standard international convention centers at an estimated cost of Rs. 1000 crore.

In the power sector the following announcements have been made:

- The mega power project policy to be liberalized further by extending all the benefits to any power project that fulfils the conditions already prescribed for mega projects.
- A special allocation of Rs. 20 crore to CSIR for launching incentive driven research in fields of solar energy, wind turbines, hydrogen fuel as alternative to fossil fuels.

[*Translation*]

Foreign Exchange Reserve

5777. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign exchange reserves have considerably fallen recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three months alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to maintain the foreign exchange reserve of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Foreign exchange reserves increased from US Dollar 70.4 billion at end December, 2002 to US Dollar 73.6 billion at end January 2003. However, foreign exchange reserves declined marginally by US Dollar 0.7 billion to US Dollar 72.9 billion in February 2003 mainly due to prepayment of certain foreign currency loans from the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank amounting to approximately US Dollar 3 billion in February, 2003. Subsequently, foreign exchange reserves increased by US Dollar 2.55 billion to US Dollar 75.4 billion during March, 2003. The Reserve Bank of India has been closely monitoring the trends and developments in foreign currency markets, domestic money market and country's foreign exchange reserve position and appropriate measures are undertaken as and when necessary.

[*English*]

Export of Pig Iron

5778. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has emerged as one of the top pig-iron exporters after establishment of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of export of pig iron being made to international market, since its inception, year-wise and country-wise; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned in terms of Indian rupee thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Sir, prior to the establishment of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited, the country's export of pig iron stood at 4 lakh metric tonnes during the year 2001-02, with 5% world market share. However, after the establishment of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited in 2002-03, the country's exports has gone up to 6.5 lakh metric tonnes, with the world market share of 8%.

(c) The country-wise break-up of Pig Iron exported by Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. during 2002-03 is as under:

Country	Quantity (Metric Tonnes)
Korea	27,500
Thailand	80,622
Malaysia	56,625
Indonesia	43,249
Japan	31,500
Total	2,39,496

(d) Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. earned Rs. 158.90 crores in foreign exchange during 2002-03 against the above exports.

[Translation]

Review of Foreign Aid Policy

5779. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review its foreign aid policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to write off the debt of heavily indebted poor countries in the next fiscal year;

(d) if so, the total amount of loan to be written off, country-wise;

(e) whether the Government have also decided to dovetail the India Development Initiative Fund set up with a corpus of Rs. 200 crore with project exports support provided by Exim Bank and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) An initiative to promote India as a production centre and an investment destination, called 'India Development Initiative' has been

established in the Ministry of Finance with an allocation of Rs. 200 crores for the year 2003-04. It is envisaged that this initiative will leverage and promote India's strategic economic interests abroad.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The outstanding dues of seven Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) are proposed to be written off. The amounts of outstanding dues are given as under, country-wise:

Name of the country	Outstanding dues (As on 31.3.2003)	Name of the country	Outstanding dues (As on 31.3.2003)
Tanzania	Rs. 37.30 crore	Ghana	Rs. 0.01 crore
Mozambique	Rs. 19.91 crore	Nicaragua	Rs. 22.02 crore
Zambia	Rs. 13.40 crore	Guyana	Rs. 2.78 crore
Uganda	US \$ 5.332 million		

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

Quality of Exportable Goods

5780. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of goods exported from India during the period from 2000-2001 to 2002-2003;

(b) the arrangements made by the Government during the said period to check the quality of goods before exporting;

(c) the amount of goods which were found to be substandard before export; and

(d) the details of the goods refused by the importing countries after export during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The total value of goods exported from India was US\$ 44076 million in 2000-01, US\$ 43795 million 2001-02 and US\$ 51702 million in 2002-03, respectively.

(b) Under the provisions of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 which came into force in 1964, a number of commodities were notified, for which compulsory quality control and pre-shipment inspection are mandatory.

(c) Sub-standard goods are not allowed for export.

(d) However, few cases of import refusal by EU countries have been brought to our notice which largely pertain to Marine products to the reported presence of Antibiotic residues, Salmonella, Nitrofurans, etc.

Smuggling of Diamonds

5781. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether diamonds are being smuggled into the country;

(b) if so, the details of the seizure during the last three years;

(c) whether it has come to notice of the Government that this smuggling is taking place due to the nexus between the corrupt officials of DGFT and the smugglers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the seizures of diamonds made during the last three years are as follows:

Year	No. of Cases Booked	Value of Diamonds Seized (Rs. in crores)
2000-2001	4	3.20
2001-2002	8	3.74
2002-2003	4	2.29

(c) to (e) No nexus between the officials of DGFT and smugglers has come to the notice of the Government.

[English]

Involvement of Voluntary Organisations in Adivasi Scheme

5782. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether voluntary organisations have been involved in implementation of scheme relating to adivasis through TRIFED in Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount released by the Union Government to these organizations alongwith the amount utilised by each of these organizations during the last three years till date, Scheme-wise?

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

(b) and (c) The question does not arise.

[Translation]

Salt Units In Rajasthan

5783. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan is the largest producer of salt in the country;

(b) if so, the location-wise details of salt units in the State;

(c) whether the smaller salt producers in Rajasthan are unable to sell their produce directly or they do not have loading facility at their disposal and/or a result thereof, they are not getting remunerative prices for their produce;

(d) if so, whether Rajasthan Government has requested the Union Government to look into this problem; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Rajasthan is the third largest producer of salt after Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Location-wise details of salt units in Rajasthan are as under:—

Sl.No.	Location	No. of Units
1.	Phalodi	455
2.	Pokharan	43
3.	Didwana	5
4.	Sujangarh	43
5.	Kuchamancity	41
6.	Nawacity & Rajas	926
7.	Sambhar Lake	1
8.	Pachpadra	150
Total		1664

(c) The average production of salt in the State is 15 lakh tonnes out of which about 6.24 lakh tonnes of iodized salt is moved to different consuming States for edible use under Zonal Scheme by rail & road and about 6.75 lakh tonnes of salt moves for industrial use. The salt producing areas viz. Sambhar, Nawa, Govindi Marwar, Kuchamancity and Phalodi have loading facilities and the manufacturers are utilizing the same for disposing their produce at remunerative prices.

(d) The Government of Rajasthan have requested Ministry of Railways, Government of India for the following facilities for the salt manufacturers:—

- (i) Piecemeal loading at all loading stations.
- (ii) Reservation of zonal quota to salt manufacturers.
- (iii) Piecemeal rake loading facilities at the Railway stations within a distance of 200 Kms.
- (iv) Provision of additional linkage to Rajasthan for transportation of salt, and
- (v) Salt loading facilities.

(e) Most of the issues raised by the Government of Rajasthan have already been addressed. The following steps have been taken:—

- (i) The common salt manufacturers who have installed iodization plants are provided with quota under zonal scheme for removal of their produce.
- (ii) Under Zonal Scheme linkage have been provided from Rajasthan to the various consuming States i.e. Bihar, Jharkhand, Delhi

etc. Wagon is allotted to the salt producing States based on their common salt production.

- (iii) Salt producing areas in the State have been providing with loading facilities.

[English]

Conditions of Tobacco Growers

5784. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh has held a meeting with him recently and requested to help the tobacco growers who are in pitiable conditions;

(b) if so, the main demands of the tobacco growers; and

(c) the Government's response on their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main demands of the delegation are as below:—

- (i) Permit the Tobacco Board to undertake market intervention operations during the current marketing season.
- (ii) Create an exclusive Price Stabilization Fund for FCV tobacco.
- (iii) The Tobacco Board must continue to regulate crop production and fix the individual crop quotas. The Peer Review Committee recommendations in this regard should be overlooked.
- (iv) Tobacco Board may be given plan assistance of Rs. 54.50 crores during the 10th Plan.
- (v) Foreign Direct Investment should be allowed in tobacco sector and foreign merchants should be allowed to participate in the auctions directly to create competition in the market.

(c) Tobacco Board is required to intervene in the market when prices of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco fall below the Minimum Support Price (MSP). At present, the prices prevailing in the ongoing tobacco auctions in Andhra Pradesh are above the MSP. The Government,

after due consideration, has already constituted a Price Stabilization Fund for tobacco growers alongwith some other plantation crops. The Board has been provided with a plan assistance of Rs. 2 crores. As regards 'Peer Review', the process of consulting the concerned State Governments on the recommendations made in the Report has been taken in hand. Under extant Industrial Policy, investment in cigars and cigarettes of tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes are subject to compulsory licensing.

[*Translation*]

Handicraft Export Promotion Cell

5785. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up handicrafts Export Promotion Cell;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the objective for setting up of this cell?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government has set up Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), New Delhi in the year 1986 with a view to project India as a reliable supplier of high quality of handicrafts goods and services and to ensure various measures to maintain international standards and specification.

(c) The main objectives for setting up of Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) New Delhi include: providing commercially useful information and assistance to its members exporters in developing and increasing handicrafts exports and offering professional advise in the area of technology upgradation, quality and design improvement; organisation of visits abroad to explore overseas market opportunities; organisation of buyer sellers meet; participation in trade fairs/festival abroad; promoting interaction between the exporters of handicrafts and the Government both at Central and State Levels and maintaining statistical data on exports of handicrafts and relevant internal trade data.

Export/Import of Fruits and Vegetables

5786. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) the quantity and value of fruits and vegetables imported and exported by India during each of the last three years;

(b) whether fruits and vegetables are being imported in spite of decaying 20 to 50% vegetables and fruits in the country;

(c) if so, the estimated loss suffered by the farmers of the country due to import of vegetables and fruits; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government to ban import of vegetables and fruits in Indian seas vegetables and fruits are not get decayed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The data on quantity and value of fruits and vegetables imported and exported by the country during the last three years are contained in the publication "Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India: Volume-I (Exports), Volume-II (Imports)-Annual Number" published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which is available in the library of the Parliament.

(b) to (d) Imports of all items including fruits and vegetables, are permissible as per the Exim-Policy and procedures laid down in the Handbook of Procedures. Some of the fruits and vegetables being imported in the country may not be indigenously available. The Quantitative Restrictions (QRs), which were earlier maintained on balance of payment grounds have been removed in line with the economic liberalization policy and also in accordance with the country's commitment to multilateral trading regime. Domestic production of any commodity is seldom a ground for imposing restriction on import of such commodities. Additionally, the imports of all primary agricultural products have been subjected to a Bio Security and Sanitary & Phyto-Sanitary import permit to be issued by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation as per condition of Plants, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of import into India) Order, 1989.

[*English*]

Special Package for Textile Industry to Karnataka

5787. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal seeking special package for textile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

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

(a) Though the Ministry have been receiving proposals under existing schemes being administered by it from various State Governments, including Karnataka, there has been no proposal seeking a special package for textile industry from the State of Karnataka.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Filing of IT Return

5788. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the advertisements published by the Department of Income Tax for timely filing of returns by certain categories of individuals in the national dailies and other newspapers during the last 2-3 months aimed at intimidating and mentally harassing the individuals instead of stating the legal consequences for not filing the returns in time; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that such advertisements informs the individuals about the legal consequences for delay in filing the returns instead of intimidating and harassing the individuals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The advertisement campaign for timely filing of returns was not aimed at intimidation or mental harassment. It consisted of humorous ways of catching the attention of the eligible tax payers.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Export Proceeds

5789. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether export proceeds aggregating Rs. 11,735 crore were pending realisation as on June, 2001 of which Rs. 7,549 crore was outstanding for more than two years;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-realisation thereof;

(c) whether 5,262 cases involving unrealised foreign exchange of Rs. 2,182.63 crore where export incentives were available of and Duty incentive of Rs. 521.58 crores alongwith interest of Rs. 188.63 crores were recoverable in these cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof with reasons for not recovering the same; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to avoid such huge losses due to non-realisation of foreign exchange in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The total export bills outstanding as on 30th June 2001 amounted to Rs. 15264.90 crores, out of which the export bills outstanding for more than two years were for Rs. 8628.20 crores.

(b) Non-realisation of export bills are on account of variety of factors such as slowdown in economy worldwide, disputes over quality of goods, legal disputes, write off proposals/extension for realisation under process, foreign buyers becoming insolvent, disputes over documents negotiated by exporters, repatriation affected from CIS countries and balance of payments problems of various African countries and the repatriation of export realisation proceeds in foreign exchange pending due to externalization problems etc.

(c) and (d) Realisation of export proceeds is an ongoing process and the number of cases and amount of foreign exchange remaining unrealised, keeps varying from time to time. While RBI monitors realisation of export proceeds, action under the provisions of relevant Acts is taken by the Government in cases where export incentives under various schemes are availed of but export proceeds remain unrealised. As on 1.3.2003, 23,500 show cause notices to the defaulting exporters have been issued by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) and drawback amount to the extent of Rs. 93 crores approximately, has been recovered.

(e) Monitoring system for realisation of export proceeds has been further strengthened for early realisation of export proceeds.

[*Translation*]**Million Shallow Tube Wells**

5790. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Million Shallow Tube Wells Scheme (MSTs) has been launched in Bihar under which the farmers will be given loan by the banks;

(b) if so, the number of applications received by the banks in the State of Bihar till 2002 and the number of applications against which loan has been disbursed;

(c) whether the targets are not being achieved; and

(d) if so, the action taken/is likely to be taken against non-cooperation banks to make the said scheme successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Million Shallow Tubewells Programme (MSTP) is being implemented in Bihar by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in association with commercial banks and regional rural banks with Central Government assistance.

(b) NABARD has reported that as per information available as on 31 March, 2003 with the participating banks, 54815 number of loan applications have been received out of which loans have been sanctioned to 39614 applicants.

(c) and (d) The implementation of the scheme had been slow during the first year of implementation in 2001-2002. However, with the series of steps taken for implementing the scheme the achievements were over 82% of the target as at the end of 2002-2003. The progress of the scheme is regularly reviewed by NABARD at various levels. NABARD has also taken several steps for streamlining the process of implementation of the scheme like launching of awareness programme to sensitise all stakeholders, organizing of workshops, seminars in all the districts of the States, giving wide publicity in local newspapers, simplifying the loan sanction and disbursement procedures, cash disbursement to farmers to purchase assets of their choice, etc.

[*English*]**Failure of PDS**

5791. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
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 Government propose to organise a meeting to totally revamp the public distribution system so as to cover all the poor in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have analysed the reasons for the failure of PDS in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken to tone up PDS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. It is proposed to hold an All Party Meeting to discuss steps to strengthen the Public Distribution System in the country.

(c) to (e) The Public Distribution System is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments wherein the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities upto the Central godowns and the States are responsible for identification and issue of ration cards and their distribution to the consumers through a net work of about 4.75 lakh Fair Price Shops in the country. Regular review, streamlining of PDS and taking corrective measure is an on-going process. In order to make the PDS more effective, efficient and accountable, following measures have been taken:—

- (1) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order has been issued on 31.08.2001 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. As per the provisions of the Order, wilful adulteration, substitution, diversion, theft of stocks from the Central godowns to fair price shops or

at premises of the fair price shops shall be liable for criminal punishment under Section 7 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The Order also provides for the following:—

- (a) State Governments shall ensure a proper system of monitoring of fair price shops and prescribe model sale register, stock register and ration card register.
- (b) State Governments shall ensure regular inspections of fair price shops not less than once in six months by the designated authority. State Governments may issue orders specifying the inspection schedule, list of check points and the authority responsible for ensuring compliance with the said orders.
- (c) Meetings of the Vigilance Committees on the Public Distribution System at the State, District, Block and FPD level shall be held on a regular basis. The date and periodicity shall be notified by the State Government. However, the periodicity shall not be less than one meeting a quarter at all levels.
- (2) States/UTs have been asked to actively involve the Gram Panchayats in rural areas and the local bodies in urban areas in the monitoring of the functioning of fair price shops as a measure of social audit.
- (3) In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities under PDS to the Consumer in a transparent and accountable manner, a model Citizen's Charter has been issued by Central Government for adoption by the State Governments.

NABARD Funding for Roads/Bridges

5792. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the funds provided for this purpose during each of the last three years to Gujarat, State-wise;

(c) whether some State Governments including Gujarat Government had asked for loan from NABARD for constructing metallic line roads in the rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the NABARD in this regard; and

(e) the State-wise number of roads/bridges for which construction work has been started/is likely to be started with the assistance of NABARD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been providing financial assistance to State Governments for construction of roads and bridges out of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). The details of loans sanctioned to Government of Gujarat for construction of roads and bridges out of RIDF during the last three years (1999-2002) are as under:

		(Rs. in Crore)			
S.No.	Year	Roads		Bridges	
		No.	Sanctioned	No.	Sanctioned
1.	1999-2000	3652	199.54	—	—
2.	2000-2001	600	282.60	26	30.45
3.	2001-2002	—	—	—	—
Total		4252	482.14	26	30.45

(c) and (d) NABARD has reported that it has not been providing loans for construction of metallic line roads out of RIDF. However, loans have been provided basically for black topping of existing water bound macadam roads.

(e) The details of State-wise number of projects for roads/bridges sanctioned by NABARD under different tranches of RIDF are indicated in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise details of the number of projects for roads/bridges sanctioned by NABARD under various tranches of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) As on 31.3.2003

S. No.	Name of the State	Rural Roads	Rural Bridges
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1592	278
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11	6

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	6	174
4.	Bihar	3	56
5.	Chhattisgarh	133	157
6.	Goa	97	13
7.	Gujarat	4776	3778
8.	Haryana	62	29
9.	Himachal Pradesh	227	120
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	508	53
11.	Jharkhand	1	2
12.	Karnataka	2539	456
13.	Kerala	529	220
14.	Madhya Pradesh	401	150
15.	Maharashtra	4959	1195
16.	Meghalaya	137	60
17.	Mizoram	2	60
18.	Nagaland	97	2
19.	Orissa	71	283
20.	Punjab	339	51
21.	Rajasthan	5788	22
22.	Sikkim	37	26
23.	Tamil Nadu	4001	719
24.	Uttar Pradesh	9582	274
25.	Uttaranchal	289	55
26.	West Bengal	850	105
Total		37037	8409

Inclusion in BPL List

5793. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in many States inclusion of families Below Poverty Line (BPL) has been denied to the eligible families;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected and reported, State-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government to made BPL system foolproof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Targetted Public Distribution System is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments wherein the State Governments are responsible, inter-alia, for identification of families living below the poverty line. As per the information available more families have been identified and issued Ration Cards by State Governments/UTs under BPL category than the Planning Commission estimates of 6.52 Crore BPL families.

(b) and (c) The guidelines relating to identification of BPL families issued in 1997 emphasised that the thrust should be to include the really poor and vulnerable sections of the society. The States have been instructed to actively involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the identification of BPL families in the rural areas and the local bodies in the urban areas.

The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, which has come into force on 31.8.2001, provides that the State Governments shall get the lists of BPL families finalized in a meeting of the Gram Sabha. The lists are also required to be reviewed every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families.

[*Translation*]

ATM of SBI

5794. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ATM centres opened by the State Bank of India in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) the names of places where these have been opened;

(c) the criterion fixed by the State Bank of India for installing ATM in Delhi;

(d) whether ATM centres have also been opened flouting the criterion;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken against the guilty officers?

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

[English]

Fund to Kerala

5795. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned to State Government of Kerala for ongoing and new Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last two years, year-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) whether percentage of utilisation of funds is not satisfactory;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount lapsed to States exchequer due to non-utilisation or non-payment of State contribution during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes are provided by the Central Ministries/ Departments to the State Governments including Kerala in the different pattern of funding adopted by them. Whereas, Ministry of Finance provides Central Assistance to State Governments including Kerala under State Plan on the basis of the Annual Plans approved by the Planning Commission as well as under Non-plan based on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

(b) to (d) Further funds are released by the concerned Central Ministries/Departments under Centrally Sponsored Schemes on the basis of the utilization of State's share and the instalments provided earlier to the State Governments including Kerala to implement the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. For propriety of utilization of financial assistance, the State Governments (including Kerala) are responsible to their respective State's legislatures.

Central Assistance to States

5796. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from State Government of Gujarat to modify the norms for releasing the additional Central Assistance on the basis of 70 percent grant and 30 percent loan;

(b) if so, whether any consideration has been made in this regard;

(c) if so, whether such type of relaxation has been granted in case of EAPs of certain States in the past;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government on the proposal of State Government of Gujarat; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Finance has received a proposal from Government of Gujarat to change the loan-grant ratio of Additional Central Assistance against loans received for Gujarat Earthquake related Externally aided projects from 70% loans and 30% grants to 30% loans: 70% grants.

Requests for modifying the current formula have been received from various States from time to time for External Aid in the face of calamity. However, the Central Government has not granted such relaxation to any State in the past.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Training to the Tribals of Bihar

5797. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any arrangement has been made to impart training to the tribals of Bihar for cultivating herbs and precious plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) There is no specific scheme under this Ministry of Tribal Affairs to provide training in the cultivation of herbs and precious plants. However, the Ministry has been funding the Ramakrishna (RK) Mission Ashrama, Morabadi, Ranchi's project 'Divyayan' for providing training in agriculture and allied subjects for tribals from many States, including Bihar.

(b) and (c) The R.K. Mission Ashrama, Morabadi, Ranchi has been organizing composite motivational programmes and special courses in Agronomy, Horticulture, Poultry and Dairy farming, Pump repairing, Carpentry, Welding, Beekeeping and pisciculture etc. to the tribal farms.

[English]

Adoption of New Technology in Agriculture

5798. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after extending 50% subsidy on inputs for cultivating export quality rice, the farmers are unable to compete in the international market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to make agriculture cost effective by adopting new technologies?

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.

Textile Workers Rehabilitation Scheme

5799. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to enhance the coverage of Textile Workers Rehabilitation Scheme (TWRS);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of textile workers likely to be benefited from the scheme; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve other long pending demands of textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Government had enhanced the coverage of TWRS by enhancing the wage ceiling from Rs. 2500/- per month to Rs. 3500/- per month with effect from 5th February, 2002 in respect of all workmen including permanent, badli or casual:

- (i) who have been employed in such a closed textile mill on the date of its closure; and
- (ii) have been in continuous service for five years or more, before the closure of the mill; and
- (iii) have been figuring in the records of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner; and
- (iv) have been earning wage equivalent upto Rs. 2500/- per month or less in respect of the eligible textile mills closed before 5.2.2002 or wage equivalent upto Rs. 3500/- per month or less in respect of eligible textile units which are closed on or after 5.2.2002; and
- (v) were not on illegal strike and the mill's closure was not due to the fault on the part of the workmen.

Since the inception of the scheme up to 31.3.2003, 41 mills having 88809 workers on roll have been found eligible under the scheme and a total of 72118 workers have been disbursed a relief of Rs. 163.73 crore.

(c) Government has been receiving from time to time requests from textile industry for modernisation, relaxation in duties and taxes, development of infrastructure, dereservation of certain sectors, completion of CENVAT chain etc. Government has initiated/proposed various measures/schemes in order to fulfil these demands of textile industry which include:—

- (i) Introduction of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to facilitate modernisation and upgradation of textile sector.
- (ii) Completion of CENVAT chain in entire Textile Value Chain with simultaneous rationalization of excise duty on fibres, yarn, fabric/made-ups and readymade garments (RMG) in Union Budget-2003-04.

- (iii) Concessional rate of import duty of 5% on specified, textile machinery with state of art technology.
- (iv) Dereservation of woven readymade garments from SSI sector.
- (v) Development of apparel parks for production and export of garments.
- (vi) Launch of Cotton Technology Mission for boosting production and quality of cotton.
- (vii) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route in this sector with certain exceptions.
- (viii) Rationalisation of DEPFB rates for certain textile products.
- (ix) A programme has also been launched to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernize 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.
- (x) In budget proposals 2003-04, Finance Minister has announced that government is considering a mechanism for restructuring the debt portfolios of viable and potential viable textile units.

Restructuring of NTC Mills

5800. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the proposal for restructuring of NTC and its subsidiary (Headquarters);

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof of the NTC mills likely to be revived;

(c) the recommendations of the BIFR about the restructuring of subsidiary headquarters of NTC;

(d) whether the Group of Ministers also recommended the restructuring of NTC and its subsidiary (Headquarters) without consulting the NTC Management;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the proposal submitted by NTC Management was taken into consideration; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:
(a) to (c) As per the rehabilitation scheme approved for the sick subsidiaries of NTC, 66 unviable mills out of the total 119 mills would be closed. Already 33 of these have been closed after giving VRS to employees therein, and the balance are expected to be closed by the current financial year. Since only 53 mills would be left under NTC, it was felt that the number of subsidiaries could be reduced. A Detailed Scheme of Arrangement for restructuring is being prepared and will be implemented after taking approval of the Competent Authority. State-wise list of NTC mills likely to be revived is placed at Statement enclosed.

(d) to (g) The decision for restructuring was taken after considering all view points including that of NTC management.

Statement

List of Mills for Revival

S.No.	Company	Mill	State
1	2	3	4
1.	N.T.C. (DP&R)	Udaipur Cotton Mills	Rajasthan
2.	N.T.C. (DP&R)	Kharar Text. Mills	Punjab
3.	N.T.C. (DP&R)	Mahalaxmi Mills	Rajasthan
4.	N.T.C. (DP&R)	Shree Bijay Cotton Mills	Rajasthan
5.	N.T.C. (DP&R)	Suraj Textile Mills	Punjab
6.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	Algappa Text. Mills	Kerala

1	2	3	4
7.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Can	Kerala
8.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Mahe	Pondichery
9.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	Kerala Laxmi Mills	Kerala
10.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	Vijayamohini Mills	Kerala
11.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	Minerva Mills	Karnataka
12.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	Parvathi Mills	Kerala
13.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	Sree Yallama Cotton Mills	Karnataka
14.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	Tirupati Cotton Mills	A.P.
15.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	Ananthapur Cotton Mills	A.P.
16.	N.T.C. (MN)	India United Mills Dye Works	Maharashtra
17.	N.T.C. (MN)	India United Mills No. 1	Maharashtra
18.	N.T.C. (MN)	Kohinoor Mills No. 1	Maharashtra
19.	N.T.C. (MN)	Tata Mills	Maharashtra
20.	N.T.C. (MN)	Podar Mills	Maharashtra
21.	N.T.C. (MN)	RBBA Mills	Maharashtra
22.	N.T.C. (MN)	India United Mill No. 5	Maharashtra
23.	N.T.C. (MN)	Savatram Ramprasad Mill	Maharashtra
24.	N.T.C. (S.M)	Apollo Tex. Mills	Maharashtra
25.	N.T.C. (S.M)	Barshi Tex. Mills	Maharashtra
26.	N.T.C. (S.M)	Chalisgaon Tex. Mills	Maharashtra
27.	N.T.C. (S.M)	Finlay Mills	Maharashtra
28.	N.T.C. (S.M)	Dhule Tex. Mills	Maharashtra
29.	N.T.C. (S.M)	Goldmohur Mills	Maharashtra
30.	N.T.C. (S.M)	Nanded Tex. Mills	Maharashtra
31.	N.T.C. (S.M)	New City of Bombay Mfg. Mills	Maharashtra
32.	N.T.C. (S.M)	Aurangabad Tex. Mills	Maharashtra
33.	N.T.C. (U.P)	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Mau	U.P
34.	N.T.C. (U.P)	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naini	U.P
35.	N.T.C. (M.P)	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	M.P
36.	N.T.C. (M.P)	New Bhopal Tex. Mills	M.P
37.	N.T.C. (Gujarat)	Ahmedabad New Tex. Mills	Gujarat

1	2	3	4
38.	N.T.C. (Gujarat)	Rajnagar Tex. Mills No. 1	Gujarat
39.	N.T.C. (WBAB&O)	Laxminarayan Cotton Mills	West Bengal
40.	N.T.C. (WBAB&O)	Sodepur Cotton Mills	West Bengal
41.	N.T.C. (WBAB&O)	Associated Industries	Assam
42.	N.T.C. (WBAB&O)	Bihar Co. Op. Weavers Spg. Mills	Bihar
43.	N.T.C. (WBAB&O)	Orissa Cotton Mills	Orissa
44.	N.T.C. (WBAB&O)	Aarti Cotton Mills	West Bengal
45.	N.T.C. (TNP)	Combodia Mills	Tamil Nadu
46.	N.T.C. (TNP)	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	Tamil Nadu
47.	N.T.C. (TNP)	Pankaja Mills	Tamil Nadu
48.	N.T.C. (TNP)	Pioneer Spinners Mills	Tamil Nadu
49.	N.T.C. (TNP)	Sri Rangavilas S.&W. Mills	Tamil Nadu
50.	N.T.C. (TNP)	Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' Unit	Tamil Nadu
51.	N.T.C. (HC)	Sri Bharati Mills	Pondicherry
52.	N.T.C. (HC)	Sri Sarda Mills	Tamil Nadu
53.	N.T.C. (HC)	Coimbatore Spg. & Wvg. Mills	Tamil Nadu

Import of Edible Oil

5801. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have booked 3,50,000 tonnes of palm oil during March 2003, mainly from Malaysia and Indonesia;

(b) if so, whether this is more than India's monthly requirement;

(c) whether the Government are also considering purchase of soyabean oil from Brazil and Argentina in bulk quantities;

(d) if so, whether such bulk imports of edible oils will depress the indigenous market; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Quantitative Restrictions on Foodgrain Export

5802. SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the Government are actively considering putting quantitative restrictions on foodgrains exports or alternatively increasing the ex-granary prices as a part of new grains export policy;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the reasons for the restrictions?

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

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

Competition with China

5803. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been facing stiff competition from China in the export of both traditional and non-traditional items and China has virtually captured the export markets in the non-Communist countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the areas in which Indian exports is facing severe competition from China and the extent to which India's exports have dwindled as a result thereof;

(c) the major factors responsible therefor; and

(d) the steps contemplated by the Government to evolve a strategy to face the competition and to regain the lost export market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) While India and China are competitors in several areas for export in the world market, it would not be correct to say that China has virtually captured the export markets in the non-communist countries. This is evidenced by the overall growth in India's exports by 18.05 percent (April 02 to March 03). Growth in exports to major markets such as US, EU and China (April 02-January 03) has been 29%, 15% and 96% respectively.

[*Translation*]

Private Banks in Rural Areas

5804. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed a plan to encourage the Private Banks to provide their services in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if not, the manner by which the Government ensure their participation in implementation of various schemes meant for rural people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) At present, new private banks are required to open at least 25% branches in rural and semi urban areas. Reserve Bank of India have recently issued instructions to the new private sector banks to open more branches in rural areas. Old private banks also have about 24% branches in rural areas. All private sector banks are required to adhere to the priority sector guidelines, which stipulate that 40% of Net Bank Credit (NBC) should be extended to the priority sectors. Within the priority sector there is a sub target of lending 10% of advances to the weaker sections.

[*English*]

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

5805. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
 SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
 SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
 SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to double the coverage of families under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expected number of families below poverty line likely to be covered under the scheme, State-wise; and

(d) the additional subsidy likely to be incurred by the Government on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced in his Budget Speech for 2003-2004 that the Antyodaya Anna Yojana will be expanded to cover an additional 50 lakh

families raising the total coverage to more than a quarter of all BPL families during the year 2003-04. The details are yet to be worked out.

(d) The additional expenditure on implementation of the expanded AAY from the Central Exchequer is expected to be about Rs. 510 crores per annum.

[Translation]

Industrial Finance Corporation of India

5806. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation of India have sought a package of Rs. 10,000/- crore from the Government for honouring its financial agreements;

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

(c) the time by which this amount is likely to be provided?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export of Conventional Goods

5807. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the exports of conventional goods have increased between April 2002 and December, 2002 as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the items listed as conventional goods; and

(d) the main items which have been listed as non-conventional goods along with the extent to which the exports thereof have increased during the first three quarters of the 2002-03 as compared to the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes. Sir. The exports of both conventional and non-conventional goods have increased between April-December, 2002. As per the available disaggregated data from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, the export of some of the conventional goods is given below:

Commodities	Value: in US\$ Million		
	April- December 2001-02	April- December 2002-03	% age Growth
Readymade garments	3573.41	3926.31	9.88
Cotton, Yam, Fabrics, Made-ups, etc.	2300.51	2445.31	6.29
Manmade textiles made-ups, etc.	817.93	998.34	22.06
Natural Silk Textiles	203.84	226.37	11.05
Coir & Coir Manufacturers	50.17	56.67	12.97
Jute mfrs	99.06	136.88	38.19
Handicrafts	421.51	557.57	32.28
Cotton raw incl. Waste	4.50	4.95	9.94

(d) As per the available disaggregated data from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, the export of some of the non-conventional goods is given below:

Commodities	Value: in US\$ Million		
	April- December 2001-02	April- December 2002-03	% age Growth
Gems & Jewellery	4982.83	6387.67	28.21
Marine products	970.68	1095.50	12.86
Chemical & related products	4638.32	5471.93	17.97
Engg. goods	4142.86	5184.34	25.14
Project goods	13.09	39.18	199.21
Sports goods	50.55	51.85	2.57
Floriculture products	18.37	26.12	42.19

[English]

Group Insurance Plan of SBI

5808. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India's SBI Life is negotiating with a number of State Governments and municipal bodies to offer tailor made group insurance plans:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response received from the State Governments and the municipal bodies in this regard;

(d) whether it is also true that SBI Life had responded to expression of interests in managing pension portfolio invited by some State Governments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The SBI Life Insurance Company Limited have informed that a Group Insurance Scheme namely 'Super Suraksha' has been introduced by them. The scheme has been duly approved by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) and is marketed by them to cover groups of employees in various institutions including employees of state public sector undertakings and municipal bodies. The scheme is structured in every case to modify the benefits to suit the specific needs of each group.

(c) The SBI Life have informed that out of the offers made to various state public sector undertakings and the municipal bodies, they have received positive response from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. A few other State Governments and departments have asked for certain clarifications which have been provided to them.

(d) and (e) The SBI Life have also informed that they have responded to an advertisement released by the Government of Karnataka soliciting expression of interest for managing the superannuation benefits of the employees of urban level bodies in the State, as part of its routine marketing function.

Inclusion In ST List

5809. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had received many representations from State Governments and other organizations to include various Tribal communities in the list of Scheduled Tribe;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to include such communities in the list of S.T.?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) 142 modifications in the list of Scheduled Tribes of 20 States have already been carried out vide the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2002 and the remaining proposals have been processed as per the modalities approved for deciding such claims.

Statement*State-wise Number of Proposals*

S.No.	State/UT	No. of Proposals
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	24
3.	Assam	113
4.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2
5.	Bihar including Jharkhand	46
6.	Chandigarh	17
7.	Delhi	1
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3
9.	Daman Diu	2
10.	Goa	13
11.	Gujarat	14
12.	Haryana	4

1	2	3
13.	Himachal Pradesh	14
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	11
15.	Karnataka	54
16.	Kerala	58
17.	Lakshadweep	1
18.	Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh	34
19.	Manipur	28
20.	Meghalaya	17
21.	Maharashtra	90
22.	Mizoram	7
23.	Nagaland	24
24.	Orissa	88
25.	Pondicherry	11
26.	Punjab	13
27.	Rajasthan	18
28.	Sikkim	7
29.	Tamil Nadu	70
30.	Tripura	12
31.	Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	68
32.	West Bengal	22
	Total	981

[Translation]

Export of Readymade Garments

5810. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of readymade garments and Indian textiles exported during last three years;

(b) the target fixed for the export of above mentioned garments for the year 2003-2004; and

(c) the number of effective steps being taken to overcome difficulties prevailing in Indian Textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:
(a) Quantity-wise data is not centrally maintained. However, the value of textile and readymade garments exports from the country during the last three years and the current year i.e. upto December 2002 has been as follows:—

	(In US \$ Million)			
	1999- 2000	2000- 2001	2001- 2002	Apr.-Dec. 2002
Textile Exports	10508.5	12037.6	10715.0	8849.5
Out of which				
Readymade Garments	4765.1	5569.5	4987.4	3692.9

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

(b) A target of US \$ 6250 million has been fixed for exports of readymade garments during 2003-2004.

(c) Government have been taking a number of measures to overcome difficulties prevailing in Indian Textile industry. Some of the important initiative are:—

- (i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garments from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.
- (iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility to accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.
- (iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms and other important textile machinery items has been brought down to 5%.
- (v) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel

in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

- (vi) Facilities by way of ECO-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.
- (vii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.
- (viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS)' has been launched.

Fire Safety Instruments at CNG Stations

5811. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether C.C.O.E. Nagpur had given any instructions to compressor operators at C.N.G. stations for mandatory installation of fire safety instrument panel;
- (b) if so, whether the same is provided with every compressor at all the CNG stations in Delhi; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No specific instructions have been issued by the CCOE, Nagpur to compressor operations at CNG stations for mandatory installation of fire-safety instrument panel. However, as per Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) standard 179, all CNG stations are required to provide fire protection facilities/fire safety instrument panel.

(b) and (c) The above fire protection facilities/fire safety instrument panel is provided in all the CNG stations with every compressor. The details of these facilities include:

- (i) Pressure relief valves on inlet and all stages to prevent pressure build up above the predetermined set point.
- (ii) High discharge temperature shut down.

- (iii) High Cooling water temperature switch fitted to cooling water return line to shut the compressor in the event of a fault.
- (iv) High, inlet, inter stage & discharge pressure shut down.
- (v) Low lube oil pressure shut down.
- (vi) Low cooling water flow switch fitted to the cooling water return line to shut the compressor in the event of fault.
- (vii) A remote isolation switch for emergency shut down to be provided with manual reset at control panel.

In addition to the above safety features, compressor units are installed with gas detectors and ultra violet/ infrared ray detectors to detect gas leakage and flame. The above safety features are interlocked with compressor cut out switch in the electrical system of the compressor which could automatically switch off the unit in case of major gas leak/fire or in case of deviation of standard safety settings.

[English]

World Bank Aid

5812. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank has decided to provide funds worth \$ 2 billion for various projects in India during the current year;
- (b) if so, the terms and conditions of the grant of funds and the purposes for which it is proposed to be utilised; and
- (c) the details of the projects to be implemented out of this fund, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) According to the Country Assistance Strategy 2001-04 the World Bank has committed assistance worth US \$ 1.9 billion for Bank Financial Year 2003-04 (July-June).

(b) and (c) India borrows from the World Bank under the Variable Spread Loans (VSL) for which repayment period is 20 years, interest rate is variable (1.71% as on 15.4.2003), with a front end fee of 1% and an effective Commitment Charge of 0.25% on undisbursed loan amount. Assistance from World Bank is utilised for various development projects in India that are posed to, appraised

and approved by the Bank from time to time. The likely sectors to be considered for project approvals are social sector, infrastructure development and rural development.

Import of Pepper

5813. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale import of pepper has taken place during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details of import of pepper, country-wise;

(c) whether pepper imports at a concessional duty of 7% is permitted from Srilanka under a bilateral agreement between India and Srilanka;

(d) if so, the details of the agreement and the quantum of pepper imported from Srilanka since this bilateral agreement was made, year-wise;

(e) whether such cheaper imports has affected the domestic prices of pepper causing concern to the domestic plantation sector;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to impose a quantity cap on the import of pepper from Srilanka; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Country-wise details of import of pepper for the period April-February, 2002-03 (estimated) are given in the table below:—

Country	Quantity (Tons)	Value (Rs. Crores)
Brazil	50	0.43
Indonesia	1624	12.98
Malaysia	44	0.31
Singapore	30	0.30
Sri Lanka	6204	58.22
Vietnam	6929	48.05
Others	219	1.17
Total	15100	121.46

Source. Spices Board.

(c) Import of pepper was permitted at 7% duty from Sri Lanka under the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement till 17th March, 2003. With effect from 18th March, 2003, the import of pepper is being permitted duty free from Sri Lanka.

(d) A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Sri Lanka was signed on 28th December, 1998 in New Delhi. The FTA has been made operative by the issuance of Customs Notification on 1st March, 2000. The agreement envisages phasing out of tariffs on all products, over a period of time, except for a limited number of items in the Negative List. While India would complete the process of tariff elimination over a period of 3 years, Sri Lanka would achieve this over 8 years from the date of operation of the Agreement. The quantum and value of import of pepper from Sri Lanka for the last five years is given below:—

Year	Quantity (Tons)	Value (Rs. crore)
1998-1999	1095	24.15
1999-2000	1160	25.76
2000-2001	1749	27.88
2001-2002	1241	16.05
2002-2003 (April-February)*	6204	58.22

*Estimated.

Source: Spices Board.

(e) Fall in domestic prices since 1999-2000 is a reflection of declining international prices. As such, this cannot be attributed only to the concessional duty regime permitted under Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement. Further, during the current year, domestic prices have shown an improvement as compared to last year.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Trade between India and Sri Lanka has to be carried out in terms of the provisions of India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement.

Funds for KBK Districts

5814. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total fund allocated by the Government to the KBK districts of Orissa during the last three years, project-wise, scheme-wise, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) the amount spent and the amount of fund lying unused, project-wise, during the aforesaid period; and

(c) the reasons for non-utilisation of funds allocated by the Government during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) For development of the KBK Districts of Orissa, the Government of India extends grants under its Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP), which does not allocate funds directly to these districts, but sanctions and releases Additional Central Assistance (ACA)/Special Central Assistance (SCA) for the implementation of sectoral action plans under the RLTAP in favour of the State Government on a year to year basis. The State Government, in turn, make scheme-wise/Department-wise allocations of ACA/SCA under the RLTAP for their implementation.

Details of the allocations under ACA/SCA received by the State Government during the last three years (2000-01 to 2002-03) and the expenditure incurred during the said period (upto the end of February, 03) against the above allocations, as reported by the State Government, are as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)		
Year	ACA/SCA received by the State Government	ACA/SCA Utilised*
2000-2001	40.35	57.14
2001-2002	100.00	61.37
2002-2003	200.00**	93.55 (Feb'03)
Total	340.35	212.06

* Includes unspent balance of previous years.

** Includes Rs. 100.00 crore that has been released to the State Government on 31st March, 2003.

(c) The main reasons for non-utilization of funds allocated by the Government were (i) delay in implementation of the projects and utilization of the grants by the State Government and (ii) consequent delay in release of further instalments by the Government of India, in view of the absence of Utilization Certifications.

[*Translation*]

NABARD Funding for Construction of Godowns

5815. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any proposal to NABARD seeking funds for construction of godowns in the State under the RIDF Scheme;

(b) if so, the locations of godowns in respect of which NABARD has accorded its approval; and

(c) the time by which funds are likely to be sanctioned for other godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that Government of Maharashtra has not submitted any proposal to NABARD seeking funds out of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for construction of godowns in the State.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[*English*]

Removal of Restrictions on Export of Onion

5816. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been growing demand to remove restrictions on export of onion;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the matter; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to remove the quantitative restrictions on export of all varieties of onion?

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

(b) and (c) Government have since decided to remove all quantitative restrictions on exports of all varieties of onion.

FCI Storages in Orissa

5817. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of FCI storages for foodgrains set up in Orissa, more particularly in the KBK districts at present and capacity thereof;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the capacity of these storages;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has a total of 55 storage godowns in the State of Orissa (23 owned and 32 hired) with a total storage capacity of 4.38 lakh MTs. Out of these, 5 godowns owned by the FCI and 14 godowns hired from the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)/ State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) are in the KBK districts. The details are given at statement I.

(b) and (c) During the X Five Year Plan (2002-07), the FCI proposes to construct its own godowns at certain centres in the State of Orissa. In addition to this, the CWC and SWCs have been requested to construct storage capacity under the Seven Year Guarantee Scheme, in KBK districts. The details are given at statement II.

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

Statement I

Godowns in KBK Districts of Orissa

Centre	Capacity (in lakhs MT)
1	2
FCI Owned	
Jeypore (Umeri)	17,500
Rayagada	10,000
Kesinga	13,340
Dungripali	15,000
Nowrangpur	7,500
Hired Godowns	
Malkangiri (SWC)	2,000
Gunapur	2,000
Umerkot	1,800
Rayagada	3,600

1	2
Balangir	7,500
Kantabanji	4,000
Malmunda	5,000
Titilagarh	4,000
Bhawanipatna	2,000
Junagarh	2,000
Kesinga	5,000
Khariar	1,000
Khariar Road	2,000
Jeypore (CWC)	2,500

Statement II

Construction of Godowns in KBK Districts

Centre	Capacity (in Lakh MT)
1	2
(A) Under Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07)	
Angul	5,000
Dhenkanal	2,500
Keonjhar	2,500
Nowrangpur	2,500
Phulbani	2,500
Total	15,000
(B) Under Seven Year Guarantee Scheme	
Kantabanji (SWC)	15,000
Malmunda (SWC)	15,000
Titilagarh (SWC)	20,000
Kesinga (SWC)	20,000
Bhawani Patna (SWC)	20,000
Khariar Road (SWC)	20,000
Junagarh (SWC)	10,000

1	2
Dharangarh (SWC)	3,000
Jaipatna (SWC)	2,500
Malkangiri (SWC)	4,000
Rayagada (SWC)	6,500
Gunapur (SWC)	6,500
Balangir (SWC)	2,500
Bolangir (CWC)	15,000
Kesinga (CWC)	10,000

Facilities for Handloom/Powerloom Weavers

5818. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems of handloom/powerloom workers living without basic facilities of housing, education, etc.;

(b) whether the Government have taken up with the authorities concerned to provide necessary facilities to handloom/powerloom workers and their wards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has been implementing various welfare schemes for the handloom workers such as:

Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme: Assistance is provided for construction of a Workshed/Workshed-cum-Housing primarily with the objective of providing a suitable work place to the handloom weavers.

The Health Package Scheme: Weavers are provided financial assistance for the treatment of diseases such as (a) asthma, (b) tuberculosis and inflammation of the alimentary system, (c) maternity benefits to women weavers, (d) payment of additional compensation for permanent measures of family planning; and (e) infrastructure for the primary health care.

Under the **Thrift Fund Scheme**, a fund in the nature of provident fund for handloom workers is made and an eligible subscriber may get a temporary advance from the fund to meet medical expenses, expenses in connection with marriage and other ceremonies to be performed by him, cost of childrens' education, cost for purchase of a house site etc.

The **Insurance Schemes** provide for meeting the socio economic obligation of the weavers towards his or her family and protection from various types of contingencies like natural calamity, accidental death etc.

Regarding Powerloom sector, the Government of India is implementing the scheme for Group Insurance for Powerloom workers. The powerloom workers can choose to pay Rs. 40/- every year to insure himself for a cover of Rs. 50,000/- on accidental death and upto Rs. 25,000/ for partial disability; with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and the central governmental contributing Rs. 100/- and Rs. 60/- respectively every year. Alternatively, he can choose to pay Rs. 130/- per annum to obtain an insurance cover of Rs. 80,000/- on accidental death, Rs. 50,000/- on natural death and a maximum of Rs. 50,000/ for permanent disability, with Central Government paying Rs. 150/- and LIC Rs. 100/-. Added benefits in the form of an associated scheme of LIC—"Siksha Sahyog Yojana", under which upto 2 dependent children of the beneficiary studying in the class 9th to 12th are given Rs. 300/- per quarter/child as educational allowance based on some transparent selection criterion.

Role of FIPB

5819. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to enlarge the automatic licensing route as administered by the RBI and reduce the role of the FIPB; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Government has put in place a liberal FCI policy and most of the sectors have been placed under the automatic route, except for a small negative list. In almost all activities FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route, except for a few sectors such as telecom, banking, insurance, broadcasting, etc., where caps have been prescribed based on strategic and sectoral considerations. The FDI policy, including sectoral policies and caps, is reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Strike by I.T. Officers

5820. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was pen-down-walk out programme by the employees and officers of the Income Tax Department during the month of March, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons given by them for the same; and

(c) the response of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Income Tax Employees and Gazetted Officers belonging to the Income Tax Employees Federation (ITEF) and Income Tax Gazetted Service Federation (ITGSF) have staged a walk-out on 20.3.2003.

(b) The walk-out was organized to press the demand for revision of pay scales if Income Tax Officer (ITO), Income Tax Inspector (ITI) and Tax Assistance (TA).

(c) The matter regarding revision of pay scales of Central Government employees falls within the purview of the Central Pay Commission (CPC). The demand made by the employees/officers for upward revision of pay scales of Income-tax Officers, Income-tax Inspectors and Tax Assistants was summarily rejected by the 5th CPC. However, the proposal was again examined in consultation with Department of Expenditure on merits but was not agreed to.

Distribution of Sugar under PDS

5821. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed for the allocation and distribution of sugar under Public Distribution System;

(b) the total quantum of sugar allocated to each State during last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka had requested to the Union Government for the enhancement of sugar allocation; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that regard for 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The Central Government has restructured the PDS in respect of Sugar with effect from 01.2.2001. The supply of levy sugar under PDS has been restricted only to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families except in the North Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories. While carrying out this restructuring the Government has also shifted the population base for supply of levy sugar under PDS. The base for levy sugar distribution is the projected population as on 01.03.2000. Simultaneously, with effect from 01.2.2001, the minimum per capita per month allotment of levy sugar under PDS in respect of States/UTs other than North Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories has been enhanced from 425 gms to 500 gms to benefit the BPL families. In case of North Eastern States, Hill States and Island territories, the per capita for month allotment of levy sugar has been fixed at 700 gms.

(b) Statement showing total quantum of sugar allotted to each State during last three years and the current year is at enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Quantity of Levy Sugar Allocation for the Calendar Years 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 (upto June 2003)

(Qty. in tonnes)

State	2000	2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	373576	152248	131508	58140
Andaman & Nicobar	4408	4804	4816	2334

1	2	3	4	5
Arunachal Pradesh	9388	10171	10196	50004
Assam	209542	224635	225836	111470
Bihar	493590	286377	266348	126826
Jharkhand	—	81530	88478	42958
Chandigarh	3942	1064	968	372
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	914	634	604	288
Delhi	171872	46241	35952	15660
Goa	7096	2161	1740	720
Daman & Diu	688	204	156	66
Gujarat	229050	92042	79848	35046
Haryana	94324	38713	33668	14910
Himachal Pradesh	52154	57224	57592	28188
Jammu & Kashmir	79636	85114	85280	42206
Karnataka	253862	126169	114332	51816
Kerala	159852	65191	56436	24618
Lakshadweep	1304	1421	1424	690
Madhya Pradesh	389068	183940	164364	74646
Chhattisgarh	—	53658	58170	27072
Maharashtra	431764	236481	219532	100752
Manipur	19874	21518	21572	10578
Meghalaya	19188	20795	20848	10224
Mizoram	7494	8127	8148	3996
Nagaland	13222	14365	14404	7074
Orissa	179496	117978	111944	53242
Pondicherry	7302	3476	3092	1458
Punjab	110940	28640	21404	8310
Rajasthan	258204	111982	98288	44052
Sikkim	4414	4648	4792	2346
Tamil Nadu	301336	156422	143420	64920
Tripura	29826	32287	32368	15882
Uttar Pradesh	831224	464041	428028	205655
Uttaranchal	—	67927	73960	36589
West Bengal	380172	200875	184636	84522

Nodal Agency for Export of Garlic, Onion and Potatoes

5822. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether nodal agencies have been created in several States for export of garlicks, onions and potatoes etc.;

(b) if so, the details where these nodal agencies have been established, State-wise;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for the export of these commodities;

(d) whether any scheme has been formulated for this purpose; 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) There is no nodal agency for export of garlic and potato. For export of onions, Government has designated the following 8 cananlizing agencies, viz.:

1. National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)
2. Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB)
3. Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Ltd. (GAIC)
4. The Spices Trading Corporation Ltd. (STCL)
5. The Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd. (KSCMF)
6. National Co-operative Consumer's Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF)
7. Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation Ltd. (APSTCL)
8. The North Karnataka Onion Growers Cooperative Society (NKOCS)

(c) to (e) No target as such is fixed for exports of these commodities. Exports of these commodities are eligible for a variety of assistance under various export promotional schemes.

Package to Attract Exim Policy, 2003-04

5823. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any special package to attract Export-Import Policy for the year 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The government has announced the Exim Policy 2003-04 which has come into effect on 1st April, 2003. The Policy include initiatives such as the duty free entitlement for status holders having incremental growth of more than 25% in free foreign exchange subject to a minimum export turnover of Rs. 25 crore, duty free import facility to service provider having an average foreign exchange earning of Rs. 10 lakhs in preceding three licensing years, modification in EPCG scheme to link the export obligation with the duty saved amount and extension of the scheme to cover capital goods required for pre-production, production and post production. The Exim Policy has also identified few engines of growth such as services, Special Economic Zones, Agri Export Zones, export cluster and status holders. The relevant Customs Notifications operationalising the aforesaid changes have already been issued.

Storage Capacity in FCI

5824. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India is not utilising the space to the optimum level;

(b) the total storage capacity available in its godowns, owned, hired and covered as on date and how much of those are being utilised at any given point of time;

(c) whether a number of high level committees have recommended the closure of uneconomical godowns; and

(d) if so, the number of godowns closed till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) As per the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) norms, the optimum of level of storage capacity utilization is 75%. As on 28.2.2003, the covered capacity utilization by FCI was around 68% due to increase in off-take.

(b) As on 28.2.2003, the covered storage capacity of FCI is as under:—

Figures in million tonnes

Covered Capacity	Capacity	Stocks	% Utilization
Owned	12.82	7.12	56%
Hired	14.02	11.20	80%
Total	26.84	18.32	68%

(c) and (d) Godowns are hired on the basis of requirement and availability of storage facilities with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) at a particular place. Periodic review is undertaken by the Regional Heads of the FCI to de-hire/close godowns which are uneconomical or not operationally required.

Transfer of NISST to ICAR

5825. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken decision in principle to transfer infrastructure of National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology, Mau to Indian Council of Agricultural Research;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be transferred to ICAR physically;

(c) the reasons for non-transfer of infrastructure of NISST to ICAR so far;

(d) the reasons for keeping transfer process pending for three years; and

(e) the manner in which the transfer of employees to ICAR will be treated?

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

The infrastructure of the National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology at Mau, Uttar Pradesh has already been transferred to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

(d) The transfer process was not kept pending.

(e) 20 posts in the NISST, Mau and the services of their incumbents stand transferred to ICAR.

Development of Silk

5826. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has agreed to provide 565 crore of rupees for the development of silk during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) whether silk growers from our country are being sent to China for study and training to improve the quality and quantity (production) of silk; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) During the X Plan period an amount of Rs. 450 Crore has been allocated for development of silk. A statement indicating the names of the schemes to be implemented during X Plan period is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Study and exposure tours of farmers and experts are being sent from time to time to different silk producing and processing countries, including China, so that we can learn from their experiences.

Statement

Name of the Scheme	Outlay Allocated
1. R&D/Transfer of Technology/training	Rs. 207.34 crores
2. Seed Support & Technical Assistance/HRD	Rs. 56.24 crores
3. Catalytic Development Programme	Rs. 173.73 crores
4. Specific Special Collaborative Projects with States	Rs. 7.25 crores
5. IT initiatives	Rs. 2.50 crores
6. Quality Certification Systems	Rs. 1.85 crores
7. UNDP-Assisted Fibre Development Programme (Externally aided)	Rs. 1.09 crores
Total	Rs. 450.00 crores

Indo-Russian Trade Relations

5827. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are taking steps to expand Indo-Russia trade and economic cooperation; and

(b) if so, the various steps taken in that regard during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. During the last three years Government of India has taken a number of steps to improve the Indo-Russian trade and economic cooperation which include:

- promotion of dialogue including discussions at the highest level;
- constant review of bilateral trade at the Government level through Joint Commission/ Working Group/Sub-Group meetings.
- promotion of direct business contacts by way of exchange of delegations, Joint Business Councils, holding of and participation in exhibitions, fairs, buyer-seller meets etc.

Promotion of Trade in South Asia

5828. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to promote trade and commerce in South Asia;

(b) if so, the proposal mooted in that regard for the coming five years; and

(c) the areas in which trade and commerce proposed to be promoted with South Asian countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) It is Government's policy to promote trade and commerce with all countries including those in South Asia.

(b) Promotion of trade and commerce is a continuous process. India has been exchanging tariff concessions with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries under SAARC Preferential

Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) to increase trade. India has already entered into a bilateral free trade agreement with Sri Lanka. India has also proposed a free trade agreement to Bangladesh.

(c) Trade is promoted in all the commodities and services of mutual interest.

[Translation]

Jute Procurement Centre in Madhya Pradesh

5829. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request to open more jute procurement centers of Jute Corporation of India in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which the centers are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Indo-Myanmar Trade

5830. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to expand Indo-Myanmar trade;

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

(c) whether the Government have legalized Indo-Myanmar border trade; and

(d) 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. It has been the constant endeavour to increase the bilateral trade with friendly countries including Myanmar. Steps taken in this regard

include periodically review of Indo-Myanmar trade at Government level, exchange of high level officials and business delegations, holding of exhibitions/fairs in each other's country.

(c) and (d) Indo-Myanmar border trade is taking place smoothly through the Moreh-Tamu border points under the Border Trade Agreement signed between the two countries on 21st January 1994 which became operational from 12th April 1995.

Ineffective Functioning of National Consumer Forum

5831. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the National Consumer Forum and the fora in the States are not functioning effectively due to the lack of facilities including ministerial staff;

(b) the number of cases filed and disposed off by both the national and State Consumer forum in last three years; and

(c) the facilities planned to be provided to make them work effectively alongwith the budgetary support required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the responsibility for setting up of the Consumer Disputes Redressal Forums in the States and UTs and their effective functioning rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. However, to strengthen the infrastructure for effective functioning of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Forums in the States and UTs, Central Government has provided a one time financial assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs per State Commission and Rs. 10 lakhs per District Forum during the 1995-99. Similarly, the responsibility of setting up of National Commission and its effective functioning rests with the Central Government. Necessary infrastructure including supporting staff and funds have been provided to the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission for its effective functioning.

As per the information made available by the National Commission 19,91,131 cases have been filed before the consumer disputes redressal agencies, set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, out of which 16,50,919 cases (82.9%) have already been disposed of by them

since their inception, which is a considerable achievement by any standard.

Training Programme on P.D.S. and Foodgrains Management

5832. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the central plan scheme training research and monitoring, financial assistance is provided to States for conducting training programme at various levels on Public Distribution System and foodgrain management;

(b) if so, the total financial assistance provided to States for this purpose during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of proposals received by the Union Government from States/Union Territories for financial assistance for this purpose and number of proposals cleared so far, State-wise/UT-wise; and

(d) the number of proposals pending and the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

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

(b) Financial assistance provided to States/UTs during the last three years for conducting training programmes is given below:

Year	Name of State/UT	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
2000-2001	Nil	Nil
2001-2002	Bihar	3.00
	Jharkhand	2.00
	Mizoram	2.00
	Orissa	0.50
	Tamil Nadu	1.50
	Pondicherry	0.30
2002-2003	Andhra Pradesh	2.00
	Rajasthan	0.50

(c) Number of proposals received and cleared by the Government is as under:

Year	State/UT	No. of Trg. course for which proposal received	No. of training courses cleared
2000-2001	Nii	Nil	Nil
2001-2002	Bihar	6	6
	Jharkhand	4	4
	Mizoram	2	2
	Orissa	1	1
	Tamil Nadu	3	3
	Pondicherry	1	1
2002-2003	Andhra Pradesh	12	4
	Rajasthan	1	1
	Bihar	8	Nil

(d) The proposals for 16 training programmes (8 each from Andhra Pradesh and Bihar) are pending for want of revised schedules from the State Government.

Export of Spurious Drugs

5833. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of spurious drugs being exported from India to African Countries;

(b) whether recently a consignment ready to be exported to African countries have been detected and caught near Mumbai in Ambamath;

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Ministry of Chemical & Fertilisers, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Commerce and Industry have carried out doing any coordination and a joint action in this regard; and

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

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The news about detection and catching of spurious Drugs consignment appeared in the local Newspapers namely Navakal, Marathi daily on 6-2-2003. As per the news, the Police under the instruction of Food & Drugs

Authorities (FDA) was given to understand that in MIDC Ambamath, Maharashtra, M/s. Zo Pharma indulged in the business of spurious drugs. On keeping track of the consignments received by this firm they found out that spurious material was being supplied to them from "OM SAI" Warehouse situated at Bivandi-Kashali. The truck and tempo meant to be delivered to the Zo Pharma consisted of duplicates of Ildoen (Pfizer), Sypracasin (Bayer), Pamadol (Smithklineglaxo), Superaptic (Unigrass) Chemokleen (Park Devis) Gentil (Rosh) Cratex (Zanika) and Viagra (Pfizer). The Newspaper report is silent about the destination of this consignment. However, the above mentioned news has not appeared in any of the English Newspapers. The FDA is now pursuing the case with CID Branch.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The High Commission of India, Nigeria informed that the National Agency for Food and Drugs Control, Nigeria has vide a Public Notice black listed some Indian companies for producing fake and substandard drugs and importing them into Nigeria. The matter regarding export of fake and counterfeit drugs from India to Africa was one of the main issues covered in the India-Africa Health Summit, held during September 26-29, 2001 in Mumbai. The Ministries of Commerce & Industry and Health & Family Welfare, State Government of Maharashtra and FICCI were some of the main participants in the said summit.

It was clarified by the Drugs Controller that in general, the drug administration lays down quality specifications of individual products or Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). All the units manufacturing drugs, for any purpose whether for domestic consumption or for exports, have to adhere to strict standards at every stage as laid down by the respective State Governments. Due to India's enormous size and diversity, the Central Government only lays down certain ground rules and makes the State Governments the sole implementing authority, on behalf of the Central Government. The Maharashtra State Government further advised African Countries to prescribe stricter rules regarding import of drugs. It was also clarified that the buyer also should make sure that fake drugs are kept out of the country by introducing suitable specifications in govt. tenders.

[Translation]

Unclaimed Money in Banks

5834. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crores of rupees of depositors are lying unclaimed in various banks of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has given a suggestion of forming "Depositors Protection Trust Fund" for the unclaimed money which will be managed by some company or regulatory authority;

(d) whether the RBI has also given a suggestion of amending the Banking Act, 1949 to make provisions in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the total amount of unclaimed deposits lying with the Scheduled Commercial Banks aggregated to Rs. 680.05 crores as on 31st December, 2002. The details of unclaimed deposits are as under:

Bank Group	Amount of unclaimed deposits (Rs. in crore)
SBI Group of Banks	144.26
Nationalized Banks	425.24
Private Sector Banks	38.45
Foreign Banks	72.10

(c) to (e) RBI has submitted a proposal to the Government to insert a new Section in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for creation of Depositors' Protection Trust Fund wherein such unclaimed deposits would be credited. The proposal is under examination of the Government.

[English]

Destruction of Sea Food Containers

5835. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some countries importing sea food from India are destroying the sea food containers rejected by them;

(b) whether the sea food exporters have strongly protested about the destruction of the rejected sea food containers;

(c) whether the sea food exporters association has demanded the return of the exported products not accepted by the importing countries instead of their destruction; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to help the sea food exporters in the matter so as to save them from the financial losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Information has been received that the French health authorities have destroyed some consignments of marine products exported by India.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Competent Authority in India viz: the Export Inspection Council had requested the concerned authorities in the importing countries to return the cargo for inspection, testing and further necessary action in India, instead of destroying it. The Government of India has strongly protested against the destruction of the consignments and took up with all Indian Missions in EU countries to impress upon the respective authorities to return the cargo to the country of export when the cargo failed to meet the required quality standards of the importing country, instead of destroying them. Union Commerce Minister in his meeting with French Minister for Trade & Commerce held in February, 2003 also raised this issue. The issue was also taken up with the European Commission authorities during the bilateral Indo-EU Joint Commission meeting held in March, 2003. At the same time Government/EIC have also impressed upon our sea food exporters to take all steps necessary so as to avoid such contingencies arising out of rejection.

Rubber Holdings

5836. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber Board had initiated enumeration of Rubber holdings in the year 1998;

(b) if so, the expenditure made in this connection so far along with progress made in the matter;

(c) the reasons for very slow pace of enumeration work; and

(d) the time by which the enumeration of rubber holdings is likely to be completed?

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

(b) to (d) The enumeration of rubber holdings was completed by 1995-96 and an amount of Rs. 38 lakh incurred in this exercise. The enumeration of rubber holdings was conducted by engaging enumerators on purely temporary basis sponsored by the Employment Exchange. Selection of the enumerators engaging them for not more than 89 days at a stretch, prohibition in allowing them another term unless sponsored by the Employment Exchange, etc. were some of the reasons for the slow pace of enumeration of the rubber holdings.

Bad-Debts of SBI

5837. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the bad-debts written-off by State Bank of India and other nationalised banks during the last financial year;

(b) whether the write-off done in last financial year is more than previous years;

(c) if so, the reasons thereto; and

(d) the details of the recoveries of NPAs by these banks during the last financial year in comparison to previous years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (d) The amount of bad-debts written off and total recovery of non-performing assets (NPAs) by State Bank of India & other nationalised banks during the years 2000-2001 & 2001-2002 (latest available) is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

	Bad-debts written off		Total Recoveries	
	2000-01	2001-02	2000-01	2001-02
SBI	982	2492	3723.80	4559.35
Nationalised Banks	3334.50	3223.67	8590.90	7823.41

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The write-off of bad debts by public sector banks is resorted to by banks as a last resort when chances of recovery by all other means are absolutely nil. Banks take due care before writing off of bad debts. Some increase in write-off of bad debts is a normal banking phenomenon in view of the large volume of loans/advances made by the banks.

Market Borrowings by State Government

5838. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the RBI to allow States to access an additional Rs. 20000 crore of market borrowings in the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the reaction of RBI to this proposal of the Government; and

(c) the purpose for which this additional market borrowings by State Governments have been permitted?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Splitting of IFCI

5839. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to split IFCI into the entities; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Business Contracts in Iraq

5840. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has carry out any survey in regard to the business contracts in Iraq;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether as per survey Indian companies would get sub contracts worth about \$ 15 billion; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Government is not aware of any survey having been carried out by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in regard to business contracts in Iraq. However, the FICCI had made a study on reconstruction and humanitarian supplies to Iraq. The salient features of the FICCI study are as under:—

- (i) The United Nations passed Resolution 1472 on March 28, 2003 notifying the continuation and extension of the 'Oil for Food Programme' in Iraq for emergency needs out of approved and funded contracts, to be delivered in 45 days at strategic ports in Syria, Turkey, Jordan, Kuwait and Iran.
- (ii) FICCI should take a delegation to meet the Office of the Iraq Programme (OIP)—United Nations officials in New York to present what India can offer and to ensure that interest of Indian businesses are taken care of.

(iii) Information gathered by FICCI reveals that Indian businesses are prepared and would be able to make available supplies of a large number of items belonging to the six identified sectors.

(c) As per the FICCI study, contracts for items worth over Rs. 3000 crores have already been entered into and Indian business (both in the public and private sector) would like the same to be executed at the earliest. Further, there is scope for entering into contracts worth Rs. 2000 crores in the near future.

(d) The Government through Permanent Mission of India (PMI) New York has been facilitating the execution of contracts earlier entered into by Office of the Iraq Programme (OIP) with the Indian exporters. The OIP has placed 30 Indian contracts, out of a total of 327 worldwide contracts on the Priority List for supply of essential humanitarian items. The Government is also in constant touch with the concerned agencies including the apex trade and industrial organisations and has been taking all necessary steps through the PMI, New York to facilitate exports to Iraq.

[Translation]

Import of Pulses

5841. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) the quantity and value of pulses imported in the country during each of the last three years and to be imported in the current year;

(b) the efforts made by the Government to reduce the import of pulses; and

(c) the extent to which the Government have succeeded in its efforts alongwith the clarification of the Government in this regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The quantity and value of pulses imported in the country during each of the last three years were as under and the same trend is likely to continue during the current year:

Year	Quantity (in lakh tonnes)	Value (in Rs. lakh)
2000-01	3.50	49,847.40
2001-02	21.77	315,565.59
2002-03*	15.02	205,822.58

*upto December, 2002

(b) and (c) The Government have taken several steps to increase the production and productivity of pulses in the country. For an integrated approach in production processing, storage, marketing and trade, Pulses were brought under the Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses (TMOP) in 1990-91, resulting in substantial increases in the production and productivity of pulses during 1990s. Imports of pulses have gone up in last two years due to liberalization of economy and a decline in the domestic production of pulses due to adverse climatic conditions. Efforts are being made to strengthen the TMOP in the Tenth Plan period for attaining self reliance in pulses through crop diversification and sustainability of the production system.

Monitoring of Functioning of Planning Commission

5842. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has evaluated the functioning of the Planning Commission for monitoring the funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which the Government propose to implement these proposals?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Employment Scheme for Tribal Youth

5843. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any specific programme for providing employment to the youths belonging to tribal community of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements a scheme of "Vocational Training in Tribal Areas" (VTC) under which grants are sanctioned for establishing Vocational Training Centers with a view to provide professional skills to the unemployed tribal youth to help them to earn a living through employment/self employment.

The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) provides loans through State channelizing agencies (SCAs) to eligible tribal entrepreneurs to set up enterprises for income generation. These enterprises also generate indirect employment.

The salient features of the VTC scheme are:—

(a) The capacity of each Vocational Training Center (VTC) is 100 ST youths with a hostel facility for 50.

(b) Each VTC may cater to five vocational courses in traditional skills, depending upon the employment potential of the area.

(c) Each trainee is trained in two trades of his/her choice.

(d) The duration of each course in each trade is 3 months.

(e) Each trainee is also attached to a Master Craftsman in a semi-urban area for a period of 6 months for practical experience.

(f) The scheme can be implemented by the State Governments as also NGOs.

The salient feature of NSTFDC's schemes are:—

To provide financial assistance to the eligible ST beneficiaries with an annual family income not exceeding double the poverty line income limit for undertaking viable schemes/projects costing up to Rs. 10 lakhs per unit profit centre for income generating activities in various spheres including agricultural, industrial and service sectors.

To provide training grants to the STs for upgradation of skills and knowledge.

To provide financial support for meeting working capital requirements for the procurement and marketing of MFP/agricultural produce collected/grown by the STs and marketing of tribal products through the State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations and TRIFED.

[English]

Assured Career Promotion Scheme

5844. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assured Career Promotion Scheme (ACP) was announced in the Fifth Pay Commission for redressal of grievances of stagnation of Government officials;

(b) whether this ACP Scheme has not been implemented for the officials of Reserve Bank of India;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Fifth Central Pay Commission had recommended an Assured Career Progression Scheme for Central Government employees.

(b) to (d) Recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission as accepted by the Government in respect of ACP Scheme are specific to the Central Government employees and are not suo-moto applicable to employees of any other organisation outside the Government.

[Translation]

Foreign Direct Investment

5845. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the sectors in which foreign direct investment is being received during each of the last three years;

(b) the actual percentage of foreign direct investment in comparison to total investment in the country during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the actual outflow of funds out of the country due to this foreign direct investment and the employment generated in each of the above sectors during the above period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the domestic industrial sectors are not affected by the foreign direct investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into India during 2000-2002 is as under:—

Year (Jan-Dec)	FDI inflows into India (US \$ in billion)
2000	2.43
2001	3.57
2002	3.38

Sector-wise details of the FDI inflows are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) FDI as a percentage of gross fixed capital formation for India for the years 1998-2000, as per the latest publication of the UNCTADs' World Investment Report, 2002 is given below:

Year (Jan-Dec)	Inward flows as a percentage of gross fixed capital formation for India
1998	2.9
1999	2.2
2000	2.3

(c) and (d) There has been no major outflow of funds on account of repatriation of original investment. The outflow on account of dividend repatriation, technology fee payment, etc., has also not been significant. Detailed outflow figures are published annually by the Reserve

Bank of India. Foreign Direct investment especially in green field projects as in the case of domestic investment, leads to employment generation. Data on employment generation on account of foreign investment proposals approved are not maintained.

(e) FDI supplements domestic investment efforts. Apart from providing additional capital to bridge saving-investment gap, FDI also infuses modern technology and management practices, and provides overseas market access resulting in greater international competitiveness of Indian Industry.

Statement

Sector-wise inflows from 01.01.2000 to 31.12.2002

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	Sector	(Amount of inflow)			Total
		2000 (Jan-Dec)	2001 (Jan-Dec)	2002 (Jan-Dec)	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Metallurgical industries	65.41	124.64	182.59	372.63
2.	Fuels (Power & Oil Refinery)	484.02	536.88	2807.29	3828.19
3.	Electricals Equipment (Incl S/W & Elec)	1201.22	1875.73	2550.99	5627.95
4.	Telecommunications	685.54	4227.25	749.58	5662.37
5.	Transportation Industry	1225.98	1143.68	281.63	2651.29
6.	Industrial Machinery	29.97	74.90	58.52	163.29
7.	Machine Tools	10.37	13.66	13.82	37.85
8.	Agricultural Machinery	15.65	0.00	5.00	20.65
9.	Earth-Moving Machinery	0.00	0.48	0.43	0.91
10.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	109.85	299.00	115.88	524.74
11.	Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	55.05	13.54	12.19	80.78
12.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	10.11	186.45	109.31	305.87
13.	Industrial Instruments	0.00	0.10	0.35	0.45
14.	Scientific Instruments	23.81	10.47	0.15	34.42
15.	Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02
16.	Fertilizers	0.50	0.00	78.63	79.13
17.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	538.07	163.98	193.82	895.87
18.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	0.00	0.00	1.70	1.70
19.	Dye-Stuffs	4.50	0.00	0.87	5.37
20.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	207.99	147.23	92.76	447.98
21.	Textiles (Include Dyed, Printed)	8.10	18.29	208.24	234.63

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Paper and Pulp including Paper Product	259.95	50.14	54.46	364.55
23.	Sugar	0.00	0.00	4.12	4.12
24.	Fermentation Industries	68.88	29.80	3.00	101.69
25.	Food Processing Industries	222.45	146.81	196.23	565.49
26.	Rubber Goods	16.20	3.07	178.72	198.00
27.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	13.25	31.57	0.35	45.17
28.	Glue and Gelatin	0.00	0.00	25.07	25.07
29.	Glass	145.64	22.50	215.06	383.20
30.	Ceramics	8.28	10.04	1.10	19.41
31.	Cement and Gypsum Products	317.83	590.95	90.75	999.54
32.	Consultancy Services	14.83	234.00	97.13	345.96
33.	Service Sector	186.15	781.42	1005.87	1973.44
34.	Hotel & Tourism	52.40	36.25	222.92	311.57
35.	Trading	123.98	201.64	181.93	507.54
36.	Miscellaneous Industries## NRI RBI Scheme*	12886.92	8061.44	11534.39	32482.75
37.	NRI RBI Schemes	348.82	229.25	11.08	589.15
Total		19341.70	19265.16	21285.96	59892.83

- *Special NRI Schemes administered by RBI from 01.01.2000 to 31.12.2002 No country wise details are available with RBI.
- ##Misc. Ind. includes Misc. Sectors, Euro issues (ADRs/GDRs), Acquisition of shares, advance pending for allotment of shares and stock swapped.

Loan from Foreign Countries

5846. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the country-wise loans taken by the Government from the various countries during each of the last three years;

(b) the country-wise loan repaid and the interest paid thereon as on March 31, 2003;

(c) whether the loan amount received from some countries is lying unutilised;

(d) if so, State-wise and project-wise details thereof during each of the last three years;

(e) the payment made by the Union Government in this regard as commitment charges;

(f) the number of projects completed alongwith the number of ongoing projects; and

(g) the action taken by the Government against the States which have failed to utilise the loan amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The details are indicated in annexed Statement-I.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
EEC	4.82	4.93	5.35	1.08	1.07	1.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rep. of Czech & Slovak	4.28	4.28	4.28	0.48	0.37	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00
Russian Federation	261.36	211.36	251.27	38.59	39.74	5.14	0.00	0.00	0.00
Japan	1457.00	1604.02	1723.11	1038.68	978.19	1028.26	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kuwait Fund	63.73	54.85	47.44	10.89	8.80	6.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
Netherlands	194.07	191.22	0.00	54.16	49.50	51.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
Saudi Arabia	13.12	7.09	7.21	2.05	1.77	1.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
Australia	5.10	7.67	7.86	0.79	0.72	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spain	18.26	19.11	19.35	3.38	3.15	2.81	0.00	0.00	0.00
U.S.A.	635.07	654.45	652.84	174.79	167.20	153.79	0.00	0.00	0.00

[English]

Guidelines for Candidates for Election

5847. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has sent new guidelines for the candidates who are likely to file nominations for the State Assemblies and Lok Sabha constituencies;

(b) if so, the details of the revised guidelines being issued by the Election Commission in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for issuing such guidelines?

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

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) The Election Commission of India in compliance with the judgement of the Supreme Court delivered on 13.3.2003 in writ petitions, namely WP (C) No. 490 of 2002, WP (C) No. 509 of 2002 and WP (C) No. 515 of 2002, has issued the aforesaid instructions alongwith its order dated 27.3.2003 to Chief Electoral Officers, thereby requiring the candidates contesting elections to the

Parliament and State Legislatures to furnish certain information about themselves on affidavit as part of their nomination papers.

Statement

By Registered A.D.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110 001

No. 3/ER/2003/JS-II

Dated 27th March, 2003.

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of
all States and Union Territories.

Subject:- Supreme Court's order dated 13th March, 2003 relating to right to information of electors regarding criminal antecedents, assets and liabilities and educational qualifications of candidates-implementation of the order.

Sir,

I am directed to say that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, by its order dated 13th March, 2003 in Civil Appeal No. 490 of 2002 (People's Union for Civil Liberties and another v Union of India) has directed as follows:—

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4. The Court has to take a holistic view and adopt a balanced approach in examining the legislation

providing for right to information and laying down the parameters of that right.

5. Section 33B inserted by the Representation of the People (3rd Amendment) Act, 2002 does not pass the test of constitutionality firstly for the reason that it imposes blanket ban on dissemination of information other than that spelt out in the enactment irrespective of the need of the hour and the future exigencies and expedients and secondly for the reason that the ban operates despite the fact that the disclosure of information now provided for is deficient and inadequate.
6. The right to information provided for by the Parliament under Section 33A in regard to the pending criminal cases and past involvement in such cases is reasonably adequate to safeguard the right to information vested in the voter/citizen. However, there is no good reason for excluding the pending cases in which cognizance has been taken by Court from the ambit of disclosure. The provision made in Section 75A regarding declaration of assets and liabilities of the elected candidates to the Speaker or the Chairman of the House has failed to effectuate the right to information and the freedom of expression of the voters/citizens. Having accepted the need to insist on disclosure of assets and liabilities of the elected candidate together with those of spouse or dependent children, the Parliament ought to have made a provision for furnishing this information at the time of filing the nomination. Failure to do so has resulted in the violation of guarantee under Article 19(1)(a).

9. The Election Commission has to issue revised instructions to ensure implementation of Section 33A subject to what is laid down in this judgement regarding the cases in which cognizance has been taken. The Election Commission's orders related to disclosure of assets and liabilities will still hold good and continue to be operative. However, direction No. 4 of para 14 insofar as verification of assets and liabilities by means of summary enquiry and rejection of nomination paper on the ground of furnishing wrong information or suppressing material information should not be enforced."

2. Therefore, in pursuance of the said order dated 13th March, 2003 of the Hon'ble Court, the Commission has made a detailed order on 27th March, 2003, under

Article 324 of the Constitution, containing norms and modalities to carry out and give effect to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court reproduced in para 1 above. A copy of the said order bearing No. 3/ER/2003/JS.II, dated 27th March, 2003, is forwarded herewith for information and strict compliance by all concerned.

3. A perusal of the Commission's Order will show that the Commission has prescribed, in para 16 of the Order, an affidavit (Annexure-1 to the said Order) which will have to be filed by each candidate at the time of filing his nomination paper for any election to the Council of States, House of the People, Legislative Assembly of a State or Legislative Council of a State. The consequences of failure on the part of the candidate to furnish the said affidavit have also been spelt out clearly in para 16(3) of the Order. The manner of dissemination of the information furnished by the candidate in the said affidavit has also been specified in paras 16(4) and 16(5) of the Order.

4. The copies of the Commission's Order and its Annexure should be immediately supplied to all the District Election Officers, Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers and other election authorities concerned. They should get the copies of this Order and its Annexure printed or photocopied in sufficient number and they should supply a copy each of the Order and the format of the affidavit alongwith the form of the nomination paper as and when any intending candidate is supplied with a form of the nomination paper. Failure of any election related officer to do so would be viewed seriously.

5. If any candidate fails to file the said affidavit alongwith his nomination paper, he shall be reminded to do the needful by the Returning Officer by a written memorandum. A standard draft of such reminder to the candidate is annexed hereto as Annexure-A to this letter. This reminder should be issued immediately to the candidate or his proposer presenting the nomination paper.

6. Copies of this Order should also be supplied to all political parties with a request to bring its contents to the notice of all candidates set up by them. The matter should also be given widest publicity through all media of mass communication, print as well as electronic media.

7. The receipt of the letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(A.K. Majumdar)
SECRETARY

STANDARD DISTRIBUTION

ANNEXURE A

Memo No. _____ Dated _____

From: Returning Officer for _____

To,

(Name of the candidate)Sub: Election to _____ from consti-
tuency _____ filing of the required affidavit.

You have filed your nomination paper for the above election today, but you have not filed, along with your nomination paper, the affidavit prescribed by the Election Commission vide its Order No. 3/ER/2003/JS-II, dated 27th March, 2003. A copy each of the said Order and the format of the requisite affidavit is enclosed for your ready reference.

2. You are required hereby to furnish the requisite information in the prescribed affidavit, duly sworn before a Magistrate of the First Class or a Notary Public or Oath Commissioner appointed by the High Court.

3. It should be noted that the requisite affidavit must be furnished by you immediately and positively before _____ hrs. on _____ (time and date fixed for scrutiny of nominations).

4. You may also note the consequences of not filing the requisite affidavit as explained in para 16(3) of the above referred Order of the Commission.

(Returning Officer)

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110 001

No. 3/ER/2003/JS-II

Dated 27th March, 2003.

ORDER

1. Whereas, the superintendence, direction and control, inter alia, of all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State are vested in the Election Commission by Article 324(1) of the Constitution of India;

2. And whereas, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had, by its order dated 2nd May, 2002, in Civil Appeal

No. 7178 of 2001—Union of India Vs Association for Democratic Reforms and another, held as follows:—

"(1) the jurisdiction of the Election Commission is wide enough to include all powers necessary for smooth conduct of elections and the word 'elections' is used in a wide sense to include the entire process of election which consists of several stages and embraces many steps.

(2) The limitation on plenary character of power is when the Parliament or state legislature has made a valid law relating to or in connection with elections, the Commission is required to act in conformity with the said provisions. In case where law is silent, art 324 is a reservoir of power to act for the avowed purpose of having free and fair election. Constitution has taken care of leaving scope for exercise of residuary power by the Commission in its own right as a creature of the Constitution in the infinite variety of situations that may emerge from time to time in a large democracy, as every contingency could not be foreseen or anticipated by the enacted laws or the rules. By issuing necessary directions Commission can fill the vacuum till there is legislation on the subject. In *Kanhiya Lal Omar's* case (AIR 1986 SC 111), the court construed the expressions 'superintendence, direction and control' in art 324 (1) and held that a direction may mean an order issued to a particular individual or a precept which may have to follow and it may be a specific or a general order and such phrase should be construed liberally empowering the Election Commission to issue such orders.

(3) The word 'elections' includes the entire process of election which consists of several stages and it embraces many steps, some of which have an important bearing on the process of choosing a candidate. Fair election contemplates disclosure by the candidate of his past including the assets held by him so as to give a proper choice to the candidate (sic) (elector) according to his thinking and opinion. As stated earlier, in *Common Cause* case [(1996) 2 SCC 752], the court dealt with a contention that elections in the country are fought with the help of money power which is gathered from black sources and once elected to power, it becomes easy to collect tons of black money, which is used for retaining power and for re-election. If on affidavit

a candidate is required to disclose the assets held by him at the time of election, voter can decide whether he could be re-elected even in case where he has collected tons of money.

XXX XXX

- (4) To maintain the purity of elections and in particular to bring transparency in the process of election, the Commission can ask the candidates about the expenditure incurred by the political parties and this transparency in the process of election would include transparency of a candidate who seeks election or re-election. In a democracy, the electoral process has a strategic role. The little man of this country would have basic elementary right to know full particulars of a candidate who is to represent him in Parliament where laws to bind his liberty and property may be enacted.
- (5) The right to get information in democracy is recognised all throughout and it is natural right flowing from the concept of democracy. At this stage, we would refer to art 19(1) and (2) of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights which is as under:—
- (1) Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.
 - (2) Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.
- (6) Cumulative reading of plethora of decisions of this court as referred to, it is a clear that if the field meant for legislature and executive is left unoccupied detrimental to the public interest, this court would have ample jurisdiction under art 32 read with arts 141 and 142 of the Constitution to issue necessary directions to the executive to subserve public interest.
- (7) Under our Constitution, Art 19(1)(a) provides for freedom of speech and expression. Voters' speech or expression in case of election would include casting of votes that is to say, voter speaks out or expresses by casting vote. For this purpose, information about the candidate to be selected is must. Voter's (little man-citizen's) right to know election for MP or MLA is much

more fundamental and basic for survival of democracy. The little man may think over before making his choice of electing law breakers as law makers.”;

3. And whereas, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, by its aforesaid order dated 2nd May, 2002, had directed as follows:—

“The Election Commission is directed to call for information on affidavit by issuing necessary order in exercise of its power under art 324 of the Constitution of India from each candidate seeking election to Parliament or a state legislature as a necessary part of his nomination paper, furnishing therein, information on the following aspects in relation to his/her candidature:—

- (1) Whether the candidate is convicted/acquitted/discharged of any criminal offence in the past-if any, whether he is punished with imprisonment or fine?
- (2) Prior to six months of filing of nomination, whether the candidate is accused in any pending case, of any offence punishable with imprisonment for two years or more, and in which charge is framed or cognizance is taken by the court of law. If so, the details thereof.
- (3) The assets (immovable, movable, bank balances etc) of a candidate and of his/her spouse and that of dependents.
- (4) Liabilities, if any, particularly whether there are any over dues of any public financial institution or government dues.
- (5) The educational qualifications of the candidate.”;

4. And whereas, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its aforesaid order dated 2nd May, 2002, further observed that 'the Election Commission has from time to time issue instructions in order to meet with the situation where the field is unoccupied by the legislation' and had further directed that 'the norms and modalities to carry out and give effect to the aforesaid directions should be drawn up properly by the Election Commission as early as possible and in any case within two months';

5. And whereas, the Election Commission had, in pursuance of the above referred Judgement and Order dated 2nd May, 2002 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and in exercise of the powers, conferred on it by Article 324 of the Constitution, directed by an Order dated 28th June, 2002, inter alia, in para 14 of the said Order as follows:—

- (1) Every candidate at the time of filing his nomination paper for any election to the Council of States, House of the People, Legislative Assembly of a State or the Legislative Council of a State having such a council, shall furnish full and complete information in regard to all the five matters, specified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and quoted in para 5 above (reproduced in para 3 herein), in an affidavit, the format whereof is annexed hereto as Annexure-1 to this order.
- (2) The said affidavit by each candidate shall be duly sworn before a Magistrate of the First Class or a Notary Public or a Commissioner of Oaths appointed by the High Court of the State concerned.
- (3) Non-furnishing of the affidavit by any candidate shall be considered to be violation of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the nomination of the candidate concerned shall be liable to rejection by the returning officer at the time of scrutiny of nominations for such non-furnishing of the affidavit.
- (4) Furnishing of any wrong or incomplete information or suppression of any material information by any candidate in or from the said affidavit may also result in the rejection of his nomination paper where such wrong or incomplete information or suppression of material information is considered by the returning officer to be a defect of substantial character, apart from inviting penal consequences under the Indian Penal Code for furnishing wrong information to a public servant or suppression of material facts before him:

Provided that only such information shall be considered to be wrong or incomplete or amounting to suppression of material information as a capable of easy verification by the returning officer by reference to documentary proof adduced before him in the summary inquiry conducted by him at the time of scrutiny of nominations under section 36 (2) of the Representation of the People Act 1951, and only the information so verified shall be taken into account him for further consideration of the question whether the same is a defect of substantial character.

- (5) The information so furnished by each candidate in the aforesaid affidavit shall be disseminated by the respective returning officers by displaying

a copy of the affidavit on the notice board of his office and also by making the copies thereof available freely and liberally to all other candidates and the representatives of the print and electronic media.

- (6) If any rival candidate furnishes information to the contrary, by means of a duly sworn affidavit, then such affidavit of the rival candidate shall also be disseminated along with the affidavit of the candidate concerned in the manner directed above.”;

6. And whereas, the President of India promulgated the Representation of People (Amendment) Ordinance, 2002 (No. 4 of 2002) on the 24th August, 2002 further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 inserting Sections 33A and 33B and 125A and amending Section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951;

7. And whereas, by virtue of Section 33B of the said Ordinance, the Order of the Election Commission dated the 28th June, 2002 was rendered ineffective and the said Section 33B read as under:—

“Section 33B:— Notwithstanding anything contained in any judgement, decree or order of any court or any direction, order or any other instruction issued by the Election Commission, no candidate shall be liable to disclose or furnish any such information, in respect of his election, which is not required to be disclosed or furnished under this Act or the rules made thereunder.”;

8. And whereas, the Government of India by notification dated 3rd September, 2002 amended the Conduct of the Elections Rules, 1961 to give effect to the said Ordinance;

9. And whereas, the Association for Democratic Reforms, People's Union for Civil Liberties, and Lok Sabha, filed three separate writ petitions before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India challenging the constitutional validity of the Presidential Ordinance dated 24th August, 2002;

10. And whereas, by Notification dated the 28th December, 2002, the Representation of the People Act, 1951 was amended by the Representation of the People (Third Amendment) Act, 2002 which substituted the aforesaid Ordinance dated 24th August, 2002;

11. And whereas, the said petitioners filed applications to treat the said writ petitions as challenging the

constitutional validity of the Representation of the People (Third Amendment) Act, 2002;

12. And whereas, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order/judgement, dated the 13th March, 2003 declared Section 33B of the Amended Act as illegal, null and void;

13. And whereas, the following directions were issued in the Judgement of Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.V. Reddi, which was concurred by Mr. Justice D.M. Dharmadhikari:—

“xxxxxxxxxxxxx

6. The right to information provided for by the Parliament under Section 33A in regard to the pending criminal cases and past involvement in such cases is reasonably adequate to safeguard the right to information vested in the voter/citizen. However, there is no good reason for excluding the pending cases in which cognizance has been taken by Court from the ambit of disclosure.

xxxxxxxxxxxxx

9. The Election Commission has to issue revised instructions to ensure implementation of Section 33A subject to what is laid down in this judgement regarding the cases in which cognizance has been taken. The Election Commission's orders related to disclosure of assets and liabilities will still hold good and continue to be operative. However, direction No. 4 of para 14 insofar as verification of assets and liabilities by means of summary enquiry and rejection of nomination paper on the ground of furnishing wrong information or suppressing material information should not be enforced.”;

14. And whereas, the Judgment of Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.B. Shah, also held that Section 33B was illegal, null and void and further that the Election Commission would be required to revise its instructions in the light of the directions therein as under:—

“It is true that the aforesaid directions issued by the Election Commission is not under challenge but at the same time *Prime facie* it appears that the Election Commission is required to revise its instructions in the light of directions issued in *Association for Democratic Reforms case (supra)* and as provided under the Representation of the People act and its 3rd Amendment.”;

15. And whereas, by virtue of the Judgement dated 13th March, 2003 of the Supreme Court declaring Section 33B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to be illegal, null and void, the earlier instructions of the Election Commission dated 28th June, 2002 would continue to be operative subject to the aforementioned directions of the Supreme Court, and are therefore required to be revised and reissued;

16. Now, therefore, the Election Commission, in pursuance of the above referred order dated 13th March, 2003, of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and in exercise of the powers, conferred on it by Article 324 of the Constitution, of superintendence, direction and control, *inter alia*, of conduct of elections to Parliament and State Legislatures, hereby issues, in suppression of its earlier order dated 28th June, 2002, its revised directions as follows:—

- (1) Every candidate at the time of filing his nomination paper for any election to the Council of States, House of the People, Legislative Assembly of a State or the Legislative Council of a State having such a council, shall furnish full and complete information in regard to the matters specified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and quoted in paras 13 and 14 above, in an affidavit, for the format whereof is annexed hereto as Annexure-1 to this order.
- (2) The said affidavit by each candidate shall be duly sworn before Magistrate of the First Class or a Notary Public or a Commissioner of Oaths appointed by the High Court of the State concerned.
- (3) Non-furnishing of the affidavit by any candidate shall be considered to be violation of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the nomination of the candidate concerned shall be liable to rejection by the returning officer at the time of scrutiny of nominations for such non-furnishing of the affidavit.
- (4) The information so furnished by each candidate in the aforesaid affidavit shall be disseminated by the respective returning officers by displaying a copy of the affidavit on the notice board of his office and also by making the copies thereof available freely and liberally to all other candidates and the representatives of the print and electronic media.
- (5) If any revival candidate furnishes information to the contrary, by means of a duly sworn affidavit, then such affidavit of the revival candidate shall also be disseminated along with the affidavit of the candidate concerned in the manner directed above.

ANNEXURE I

17. For the removal of doubt, it is hereby clarified that the earlier direction contained in para 14(4) of the earlier order dated 28th June, 2002, in so far as verification of assets and liabilities by means of summary enquiry and rejection of nomination paper on the ground of furnishing wrong information or suppressing material information is not enforceable in pursuance of the order dated 13th March, 2003 of the Apex Court. It is further clarified that apart from the affidavit in Annexure-1 hereto referred to in para 16 (1) above, the candidate shall have to comply with all the other requirements as spelt out in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as amended by the Representation of the People (Third Amendment) Act, 2002, and the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, as amended by the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2002.

18. In so far as elections to the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council of the State of Jammu and Kashmir are concerned, the directions of the Election Commission contained in the preceding para 16 shall be deemed to have been issued under the provisions of section 138 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir which are akin to Article 324 (1) of the Constitution of India and vest the superintendence, direction and control of the conduct of all elections to either House of the Legislature of that State in the Election Commission.

19. All Returning Officers shall ensure that the copies of affidavit prescribed herein by the Commission shall be delivered to the candidates along with the forms of nomination papers as part of the nomination paper.

By order,

SD/-
(A.K. MAJUMDAR)
SECRETARY
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Affidavit to be furnished by candidate alongwith
nomination paper

Before the Returning Officer

for election to _____ (name of the House)
from _____ constituency
(name of the constituency)

I, _____ son/daughter/wife of
_____ aged _____ years, resident
of _____ candidate at the above election, do
hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under:—

(Strike out whichever not applicable)

(1) The following case(s) is/are pending against me
in which cognizance has been taken by the court:—

- (i) Section of the Act and description of the offence
for which cognizance taken:
- (ii) The Court which has taken cognizance:
- (iii) Case No.:
- (iv) Date of order of the Court taking cognizance:
- (v) Details of appeal(s)/application(s) for revision,
etc., if any, filed against above order taking
cognizance:

(2) That I give hereinbelow the details of the assets
(immovable, movable, bank balance, etc.) of myself, my
spouse and dependents*:

A. Details of movable assets.

(Assets in joint name indicating the extent of joint ownership will also have to be given)

S. No.	Description	Self	Spouse(s) Name(s):	Dependent-1 Name:	Dependent-2 Name:	Dependent-3, etc. Name:
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(i)	Cash					
(ii)	Deposits in Banks, Financial					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Institutions and Non-Banking Financial Companies					
(iii)	Bonds, Debentures and Shares in companies					
(iv)	Other Financial instruments NSS, Postal Savings, LIC, Policies, etc.					
(v)	Motor Vehicles (details of make, etc.)					
(vi)	Jewellery (give details of weight and value)					
(vii)	Other assets, such as value of claims/ interests					

Note: Value of Bonds/Shares/Debentures as per the latest market value in Stock Exchange in respect of listed companies and as per books in the case of non listed companies should be given.

*Dependent here means a person substantially depends on the income of the candidate.

B. Details of Immovable Assets

(Note: Properties in joint ownership indicating the extent of joint ownership will also have to be indicated)

S. No.	Description	Self	Spouse(s) Name(s):	Dependent-1 Name:	Dependent-2 Name:	Dependent-3, etc. Name:
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- (i) **Agricultural Land**
 - Location(s)
 - Survey number(s)
 - Extent (Total measurement)
 - current market value

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(ii)	Non-Agricultural Land					
	-Location(s)					
	-Survey number(s)					
	-Extent (Total measurement)					
	-current market value					
(iii)	Buildings (commercial and residential)					
	-Location(s)					
	-Survey/door number(s)					
	-Extent (Total measurement)					
	-current market value					
(iv)	Houses/Apartments, etc.					
	-Location(s)					
	-Survey/door number(s)					
	-Extent (Total measurement)					
	-current market value					
(v)	Others					
	(such as interest in property)					

(3) I give herein below the details of my liabilities/overdues to public financial institutions and government dues:—

(Note: Please give separate details for each item)

S. No.	Description	Name and address of Bank Financial Institution(s)/ Department(s)	Amount outstanding as on
(a)	(i) Loans from Banks		
	(ii) Loans from financial institutions		
	(iii) Government dues (other than income tax and wealth tax) (No Due Certificate to be enclosed in case holding or having held any public office)		
(b)	(i) Income Tax including surcharge [Also indicate the assessment year upto which Income Tax Return filed. Give also Permanent Account Number (PAN)]		
	(ii) Wealth Tax [Also indicate the assessment year upto which Wealth Tax return filed.]		
	(iii) Sales Tax [Only in case of proprietary business]		
	(iv) Property Tax		

(4) My educational qualifications are as under:—

(Give details of School and University Education)

(Name of School/University and the year in which the course was completed should also be given.)

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, the deponent abovenamed, do hereby verify and declare that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief; no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at _____ this the _____ day of _____, 200____.

DEPONENT

Tobacco Board

5848. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Tobacco Board was constituted;

(b) the manner in which the Tobacco Board is helping the tobacco growers in Karnataka;

(c) whether there is any proposal to close down the Tobacco Board and to allow private parties to deal with tobacco; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Tobacco Board was constituted on 01.01.1976.

(b) Tobacco Board regulates crop size in order to ensure remunerative prices to growers and operates auction platforms to enable its marketing. It also helps the growers by facilitating supply of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and spraying equipment analysis of soil and water, popularising high yielding and disease resistant varieties, adopting measures to reduce the residue levels in tobacco etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Pension Scheme for Public Sector Employees

5849. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all employees of public sector banks and insurance companies have not yet opted for pension scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons for not opting the same inspite of superior returns for life;

(c) whether the Government are considering a proposal to give one more chance to the employees of the public sector banks and insurance companies to opt for the employees pension scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) A large number of employees of Public Sector Banks and Insurance Companies have not opted for pension. It was probably felt by these employees that the existing scheme of Contributory Provident Fund was more beneficial to them. The proposal for giving one more option for pension was examined but the same was not found acceptable keeping in view the cost implications.

Shortage of Currency Notes in Rural Areas

5850. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of currency notes particularly in rural areas;

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

(c) the remedial measures the Government propose to take to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. There is no shortage of currency notes for circulation in the country.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Siphoning of Foreign Exchange

5851. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some companies viz. M/s. Macleods Pharmaceuticals, Vidyut Investments, Zee Telefilms have been involved in siphoning of foreign exchange;

(b) if so, whether any probe has been ordered by Government;

(c) if so, the outcome of the probe; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) M/s. Zee Telefilms Ltd., an authorised agent of M/s. Asia Today Ltd., Hongkong (owner of ZEE TV) were charged under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act (FERA), 1973 (since repealed) for collecting funds in India from ineligible exporters and non-eligible persons by way of advertisements for telecasting their products on ZEE TV Channel and remitting the foreign exchange outside India to M/s. Asia Today Ltd., Hongkong, in violation of the stipulations of the Reserve Bank of India in this regard. The case of M/s. Vidyut Investment, a subsidiary of M/s. Ranbaxy Ltd., is being investigated under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) in connection with certain transactions relating to the stock scam. No case relating to M/s. Macleods Pharmaceuticals has been investigated by the Directorate of Enforcement.

(b) to (d) Show Cause Notices have been issued to M/s. Zee Telefilms Ltd. and the matter is before the adjudicating authorities. In the case of M/s. Vidyut Investments, investigation initiated under FEMA is in progress.

[*Translation*]

NABARD Assistance to Bihar and Jharkhand

5852. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD have chalked out any plans for the rural artisan and Scheduled Tribes belonging to the State of Jharkhand particularly in the districts of Giridih, Bokaro and Dhanbad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the financial assistance provided to this State by the Bank under various schemes during the last three years; and

(d) the number of people benefited under this scheme in Jharkhand during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance support under investment credit to commercial banks, regional rural banks and co-operative banks in the country for financing various non-farm sector activities, including rural artisans, with a view to increasing credit flow to this sector. In addition refinance is also being extended to the Government sponsored programmes like Swamajayanthi Gram Swarojgar Yojana, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, etc. Besides providing refinance facilities, NABARD has also taken a number of promotional initiatives for promoting rural artisans and scheduled tribes in the States of Jharkhand through District Rural Industries Project (DRIP), Rural Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and by adopting cluster approach for rural industrialization.

(c) and (d) The details of the refinance assistance provided by NABARD to the State of Jharkhand under various schemes during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement. In addition, NABARD has sanctioned loans to the State Government to the tune of Rs. 214.27 crore under various tranches of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for creation of infrastructure projects viz. 72 irrigation projects, 2 rural bridges and 1 rural road. It is expected that 31,526 ha. of irrigation potential, 29,254 recurring employment generation and 46.32 lakh mandays of non-recurring, employment generation would accrue from these projects.

Statement

(Rs. Lakh)

S. No.	Purpose	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Minor Irrigation	1.56	0.85	310.11
2.	Land Development	0.00	0.00	7.75
3.	Farm Mechanisation	202.77	284.45	39.41

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Plantation & Horticulture	0.00	0.00	8.48
5.	Dairy Development	5.39	0.81	139.90
6.	Poultry	3.37	0.54	5.63
7.	Sheep/Goat/Piggery	0.00	0.00	158.16
8.	Fisheries	0.33	0.00	0.78
9.	Sericulture	0.00	0.00	0.78
10.	Storage Godowns	0.00	84.16	46.90
11.	SGSY	3318.67	2302.37	552.95
12.	Rural Non-farm Sector	880.34	1541.83	2423.06
13.	Self Help Groups	150.04	283.37	214.52
14.	Others	1.18	49.94	0.00
Total		4563.65	4528.32	3908.43

[English]

NABARD Funding for Irrigation Sector

5853. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of Rs. 150 crore has been sanctioned by NABARD for development of irrigation in Maharashtra;

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

(c) the names of districts in Maharashtra which will be benefited from this amount from NABARD in Maharashtra;

(d) whether there is any scheme of NABARD for development of irrigation in backward districts in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has disbursed refinance to the tune of Rs. 257.56 crore for minor irrigation to the cooperative banks, regional rural banks and commercial banks in the

State of Maharashtra under schematic lending. Besides, an amount of Rs. 1085.05 crore has been sanctioned by NABARD to Maharashtra State Government for development of irrigation in the State under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) tranches I-VIII.

(c) As reported by NABARD, all districts in the State have benefited from the financial assistance provided by it.

(d) and (e) The refinance facilities of NABARD are available to the banks for financing investment credit towards agriculture and allied activities including minor irrigation throughout the country including those in the backward districts of States. In addition to this, loans are granted to State Governments for various infrastructure development projects including irrigation projects under RIDF. However, RIDF schemes are prioritized by the State Government and forwarded to NABARD for sanction.

[Translation]

Private Sector in the Field of Pension

5854. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow participation of the private companies in the field of pension;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Government has decided to introduce a defined contribution pension scheme for new entrants to Government service, except to the armed forces in the first stage, which will also be available on a voluntarily basis, to others. Contribution will be shared in the case of Government employees between the Government and the employees. However, there will be no contribution from the Government in respect of individuals who are not Government employees. The new pension scheme will be portable, allowing transfer of the benefits in case of change of employment and will go into 'individual pension accounts' with Pension Funds. Pension Funds will be regulated through a new and independent Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority. The pension assets would be managed by

pension fund managers (PFMs) each of whom would offer a variety of schemes. At least one of the PFMs would be in the public sector. In addition, private pension fund managers, with sound experience in fund management and risk management, would be chosen through an open and transparent procedure.

[English]

Additional Grants to Orissa

5855. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had reviewed any memorandum for providing additional grants to the States of Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons given by State Governments of Orissa; and

(c) the decision of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) The Government of Orissa had represented that the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) had under assessed their committed expenditure and over-pitched the receipts (non-Plan grants).

(c) The Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) recommended devolution to States after making a holistic assessment of the revenue receipts and non-Plan revenue expenditure of both the States and the Centre, keeping in view the need for vertical and horizontal equity. The Government of India have since accepted the recommendations of EFC. The reopening of recommendations of EFC on any issue is neither feasible nor desirable.

Cases Against Employees of Central Excise

5856. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has booked a number of officials of Central Excise, Delhi involvement in export racket in February, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts in detail;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the loss of revenue to Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guilty officials and for recovery of the revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Six persons including one Superintendent and one Inspector of Central Excise involved in an export racket, detected in February, 2003, have been arrested on 05.03.2003. The following five firms had exported sub-standard readymade garments through ACTL, Ballabgarh:—

- (i) M/s Dig-Dig Creations;
- (ii) M/s Anu Exports;
- (iii) M/s Amico International;
- (iv) M/s Zebra Inc; and
- (v) M/s Prayas Enterprises.

The export cargo was claimed to have been factory stuffed at Faridabad in a rented premises owned by M/s Jwala Steel Corporation, a manufacturer of steel pipes. The Central Excise officers took premium quality garments samples from the local market as the representative samples and not only connived with the exporters in stuffing/examination of sub-standard garments but also helped in taking the factory premises on rent. No manufacturing of export consignment had taken place at the rented premises. No permission for factory stuffing was granted to M/s Prayas Enterprises and M/s Zebra Inc. Investigations revealed that the addresses of all the said firms were fictitious.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The assessed loss of revenue is to the tune of Rs. 1.04 crores out of which the Department has already recovered/frozen bank accounts of Rs. 50 lakhs approximately. Complaints against all the six persons have been filed in the Hon'ble Court of ACMM, Patiala House, New Delhi.

Rejection of Indian Edible Products

5857. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of rejection of Indian edible product consignments in International market are increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main reasons for rejection of our consignments; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the quality of Indian edible products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) All edible products are required to conform to international standards/standards of importing countries. As trade is being conducted between private parties, details of consignments are not ordinarily maintained by the Government. Instances of such rejections brought to the notice of the Government indicate that reasons for rejections include high levels of aflatoxin, pesticide residues above Minimum Residue Levels (MRLs) etc.

(c) The Government through its export development boards and agencies are encouraging greater attention to quality through a variety of schemes including adoption of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), Technical process upgradation, training, assistance to improve sanitary and hygienic conditions etc.

Mutual Fund Investments of Banks

5858. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks have resorted to redeeming of their mutual funds investments in order to spruce up their balance sheets;

(b) whether most of these investments have caused losses while redeeming; and

(c) the bank-wise approximate amount of loss involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Sarvapriya Yojana

5859. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where Sarvapriya Yojana is being implemented;

(b) the main features of this scheme;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend the 'Sarvapriya Yojana' in the other States of the country also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India had launched a scheme entitled 'Sarvapriya' in July, 2000. The scheme envisages distribution of eleven selected commodities of daily use, namely Arhar Dal, Gram Dal, Masoor Dal, Urad Whole, Salt, Tea, Toilet Soap, Detergent Cake, Exercise Notebooks, Edible Oil, and Toothpaste, to be distributed to the consumers through the existing PDS retail outlets and the retail outlets of the State Consumers' Cooperative Federations, State Civil Supplies Corporations, and the Consumer Cooperative Societies in the States. The scheme is a voluntary and involves no subsidy. Initially, the States of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura and Pondicherry participated in the scheme. At present, only the three States of Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh are operating the scheme.

(c) and (d) The Hon. Union Minister, CAFPD had written a D.O. letter on 26.12.2002 addressed to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories requested them to avail of this Scheme. They have also been requested to dovetail the State Schemes, for utilizing the facilities provided under the Sarvapriya Scheme, wherever possible. The NCCF has agreed to include more items of common use to the eleven items mentioned, provided the State Governments/ State Agencies agree to place orders for adequate volume.

Import of Palm Oil

5860. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

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

(a) the date from which palm oil has been brought under Open General Licence (OGL) and the reasons therefor;

(b) the quantity of palm oil imported during 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 so far and the countries from which it has been imported alongwith rate thereof, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to restrict its import in the interest of the farmers and oil industry of the country;

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the other food items which have been brought under the OGL and the reasons therefor?

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

of RBD Palm oil was made free w.e.f. 31.3.1999. This is as part of the economic liberalization programme of the Government and also in terms of International obligation.

(b) The quantity and value of palm oil imported during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (upto December) and the countries from which it has been imported are Annexed as Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Restrictions on import of items are being removed as part of the economic liberalization programme of the Government and also in terms of international obligation.

(e) Some food items such as frogs' legs, natural food casings and some spices have been made free w.e.f. 31.3.2003.

Statement

Year	Articles	Countries	Quantity (kg)	Value (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
2001-2002	Crude Palm Oil & its fractions	Argentina	745000	11506323
		Australia	234250	2356840
		Brazil	67460000	123397168
		Indonesia	885865553	12230601972
		Japan	2520000	38145105
		Malaysia	776026994	11146155219
		Nepal	24170	580080
		Singapore	648088	9215973
		Slovenia	2496000	40101359
		Thailand	37508070	577529995
		U. Arab Emts.	250000	3738465
U.S.A.	1000000	15100953		
	Unspecified	12434000	1622441944	
2001-2002	Refined Palm Oil & its fractions	Argentina	500000	5521824
		Indonesia	412482070	5303374937
		Malaysia	576853359	7633218507

1	2	3	4	5
		Panama Rep.	7999370	117678011
		Singapore	6385713	92675334
		Thailand	440000	6144337
		U.S.A.	458374	6287426
		Vietnam		
		SOC Rep.	1501686	26420666
2002-2003	Crude Palm Oil	Argentina	999660	19993374
(upto December)	& its fractions	Brazil	4699136	123653535
		Chinese		
		Taipei	93000	1725648
		Iceland	780557	15377370
		Indonesia	1030486628	18772335603
		Malaysia	985450399	18863692575
		Myanmar	5500000	107220645
		Morocco	15843000	137665379
		Nepal	10000	118393
		Singapore	2039100	34956146
		Slovenia	1750000	34145872
		South Africa	5245000	47149841
		Sri Lanka	643000	12483074
		Thailand	126000	1355917
		U.S.A.	2248640	38830862
		Unspecified	5524225	114443268
2002-2003	Refined Palm	China PRP	75	2925
(upto December)	Oil & its fractions	Indonesia	149911066	2929224086
		Malaysia	88828214	1648591742
		Saudi Arab	2000	30587
		U.S.A.	200	16116

Pending Patent Applications

5861. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large number of patent applications pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date and since when these are pending; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear the pending applications at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) 46,248 applications for patents are pending for substantive examinations as on 31 March, 2003. In all these cases, preliminary scrutiny reports have been issued. Out of 46,248 applications, 4,441 applications have been filed under section 5(2) of the Patents Act and these cannot be taken up for examination till 01 January, 2005. These applications pertain to the year 1997-98 to 2002-03.

(c) The Government has taken up comprehensive upgradation and modernisation of patent administration including clearance of backlog of pending applications. This is inclusive of initiatives for simplification and re-engineering of work procedures, development of databases to facilitate on-line search, computerisation of operations, development of work manuals, recruitment of additional staff and its training, etc. The modernisation initiatives have also started showing improvements in the performance of the Patent Offices. The Patent Offices which examined only 2,824 applications in the year 1999-2000 have examined 9,538 applications in the year 2002-03. With the deferred examination system being brought into force shortly with the operationalisation of the Patents (Amendment) Act, 2002 and Patents Rules, 2003, the existing backlog would be fully cleared. With further consolidation of modernisation initiatives, the overall performance of Patent Offices will improve further and it would be possible to ensure grant of patents rights within a time frame comparable to international standards and consistent with statutory provisions.

[*Translation*]

Wheat Missing from FCI Godowns

5862. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI SA'YAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

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

(a) whether 50 lakh tonnes of wheat was found missing from the godowns of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of the wheat found missing;

(d) whether an inquiry has been ordered to look into the whole matter;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the inquiry report has since been received;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(h) the action taken against the officers responsible for the said loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Managing Director, Food Corporation of India (FCI) had detected a discrepancy of about 50 lakh MTs in the stocks of wheat stored with the State Agencies in Punjab, as on 1st January, 2003, as reported by the Regional Office of FCI, Punjab.

(d) to (h) As per the information made available by the FCI, a Committee of officers of the FCI has visited Punjab and their investigations have revealed that the discrepancies arose due to deficiencies in the stock reporting system. The Government has already issued directions to the FCI to streamline the stock reporting system.

Textiles Export Target

5863. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have fixed a target to export the textiles worth 50 billion dollar till the year 2010;

(b) if so, the new job opportunities likely to be generated every year on this account; and

(c) the steps being taken to technically modernise the textile industries and to remove the procedural hurdles in order to achieve this target?

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Since achievement of the target is attendant on achievement of technological upgradation of the textile industry, which would necessarily change the existing export basket, the unit value realization, the wage structure and the existing pattern of employment, it is difficult to predict with any degree of accuracy the new job opportunities likely to be generated.

(c) Government have taken the following important steps to modernize of textile industries and remove procedural hurdles to achieve the export target:

- (i) Launch of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of textile industry;
- (ii) Launch of Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme for upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres;
- (iii) Launching of a programme as part of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of weaving capacities;
- (iv) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route in the textile sector with certain exceptions;
- (v) Announcement in two consecutive Budgets aiming inter-alia at further rationalisation of duty structure in the textile sector and reducing costs of machinery critical to technology upgradation;
- (vi) Launch of Technology Mission on the Cotton to achieve increasing cotton productivity and upgrade its quality upto international standards;
- (vii) De-reservation of woven readymade garment sector from SSI;
- (viii) Setting up of Apparel Parks and providing facilities therein concerning labour, infrastructure and duty structure for encouraging growth and competitiveness in global market.

[English]

Surplus Foodgrains

5864. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:
DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:

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

(a) the foodgrains produced in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the current stock of surplus foodgrains with the Government agencies in the country; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to utilize the surplus foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The total foodgrain produced during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 was 2098.00 lakh tonnes, 1995.30 lakh tonnes and 2120.20 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) A quantity of 170.02 lakh tonnes was surplus in the Central Pool, as on 1.4.2003.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to utilize the surplus foodgrains are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Measures taken to increase offtake of foodgrains

- (i) The sale of issue for Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Households under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been increased from ₹ 25 kg per household per month to ₹ 35 kg. per household per month;
- (ii) Additional allocation are made for Welfare Institutions and Hostels at BPL CIPs ₹ 5% of the BPL allocation with effect from 1.4.2002;
- (iii) Open market sales are allowed without quantitative restrictions at prices to be determined by the existing high Level Committee of the Food Corporation of India (FCI);
- (iv) Rice, wheat and wheat products are allowed for export without quantitative restrictions, subject to the condition that the stocks in the Central Pool will not be lower than the buffer stock of 243 lakh MTs. (100 lakh MTs of rice and 143 lakh MTs of wheat) at any point of time; WTO compatible subsidies to continue based on the recommendations of the High Level Committee of the FCI, as per the existing practice; and
- (v) Entering into counter trade and/or extend commodity assistance in the form of foodgrains

to other countries on terms to be decided on a case-to-case basis.

[*Translation*]

Decline in FD Scheme of Banks

5865. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in Fixed deposits business of the public sector bank from June, 2002 to February, 2003;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to encourage fixed depositors?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to improve flexibility, banks have been given freedom to decide the period of reset on variable rate deposits. Banks are also encouraged to make efforts to popularise flexible deposit schemes among the depositors as these are in the long-term interest of banks as well as depositors.

[*English*]

Formulation of National Storage Policy

5866. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a "National Storage Policy" with a view to give infrastructure status to bulk handling of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private parties are being encouraged to set up godowns under the scheme;

(d) if so, whether fiscal and other incentives are given to them to attract investment in construction of godowns; and

(e) the total amount earmarked, sanctioned and spent under the scheme so far?

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

(b) The details of the policy are:—

(i) encouragement of mechanical harvesting; cleaning and drying at farm and market level.

(ii) transportation of grains from farm to silos by specially designed trucks.

(iii) construction of a chain of silos at receipt as well as distribution points.

(iv) transportation of grain from silos to railhead and thereafter to pre-determined destinations by specifically designed trucks/rail wagons (with top filling and bottom discharge mechanism)/ dedicated trains.

(v) declaration of foodgrains storage as infrastructure.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The FCI will give business guarantee for utilization of space for a period of seven years. The investment would be made by private parties.

Fiscal Condition of States

5867. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any high level committee is being constituted by the Union Government to improve the fiscal condition of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of States which are proposed to be provided with loans under the first phase of concessional credit scheme?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import of Refined Bleached Palmolein

5868. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of refined bleached and deoderant palmolein for distribution through PDS has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat has sought permission for import of 18000 tonnes of crude palmolein through STC with 45 per cent duty under the TRQ; and

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

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

(b) In view of the easy availability of edible oils at comparable prices in domestic market, it has been decided for the time being not to import edible oils (RBD Palmolein) on the Central Government account for the PDS. The States/UTs have been advised to avail of the Tariff Rate Quota as notified by Department of Commerce, for the year 2002-03, for the purpose of importing specified edible oil for the PDS through the designated canalizing agencies, if felt, necessary by them.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The request of the State Government of Gujarat for reduction in import duty was forwarded to the concerned Ministries i.e. Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

[Translation]

Legal Literacy

5869. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to increase the legal literacy among the citizens; and

(b) the Role of Government/media in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Publicity of Legal Aid Scheme/Programmes to make people aware of Legal Aid facilities is one of the major programmes for which funds are allocated by the National Legal Services Authority to the State Legal Services Authorities, NGOs, etc. The State Legal Services Authorities and NGOs conduct Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programmes at State/District Taluk levels amongst people about rights, benefits and privileges guaranteed by Social Welfare Legislations, etc.

As a part of mass publicity awareness campaign about legal aid programmes/schemes, 9th November every year is observed as 'Legal Services Day' by all State Legal Services Authorities. Advertisements in this regard are made in all vernacular languages in the major newspapers of the country.

[English]

Bail on Forged Documents

5870. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many criminals get released on bail on the basis of forged documents and by obtaining sureties through touts operating in court premises in the country, particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government consider the existing mechanism is insufficient for fool-proof verification;

(e) if so, whether the Government contemplate any alternate mechanism for a comprehensive system for a fool-proof verification; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (f) No, Sir. However, in case of

doubt that an attempt is being made to present an impersonator in support of bogus document, then concerned police station is directed to register the case.

Anti Corruption branch of Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi also takes the following steps to prevent corruption/malpractices.

- (i) conducting raids on specific complaints.
- (ii) Creating awareness in the general public by issuing advertisements in the press.
- (iii) Ensuring that the departments put up boards indicating names and phone numbers of officers of the Anti Corruption Branch where the cases of corruption/malpractices can be reported.

Harassment by I.T. Officials

5871. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are instances of tax assesseees being harassed and forced to disclose hidden income during raids, surveys and seizures by Income-Tax officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new Income Tax rules bar Income Tax officials from obtaining confession under duress during a survey, raid or seizure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with the action taken against such officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The assesseees have sometimes been claiming that they have been forced to confess undisclosed income during the search/seizure and survey operations. On the other hand, the authorized officers have taken a stand that such disclosures are voluntary. The Department has no records which could establish that the assesseees were forced to disclose additional income. However, with a view to end the controversy, the departmental officers have been advised that no attempt should be made to obtain confession of the undisclosed income during the course of search/seizure and survey actions.

[*Translation*]

Loan through RRBs

5872. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the profit/loss of each Regional Rural Banks during the last three years;

(b) the amount of loans distributed by each of the RRBs in the country during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) whether due to the rampant corruption in RRBs farmers are not getting benefit of the banks; and

(d) if so, the effective measures taken by the Government in this regard and also to improve the performance of these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[*English*]

Bilateral Package for Textile Products

5873. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Union Trade Commissioner visited India in March, 2003;

(b) whether he had number of discussions with the Commerce and Textile Ministers in this regard;

(c) if so, the details and other issue discussed with the outcome thereof;

(d) whether any bilateral agreement signed for textile industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the meeting between European Union Trade Commissioner and Minister of Commerce and Industry on textiles held in New Delhi on 13th March 2003 the following issues relating to textiles were discussed:—

- European Union Trade Commissioner was categorical that the quotas would be phased out as scheduled.
- As regards the GSP - drug facility for Pakistan, European Union Trade Commissioner informed that both sides could continue with the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) route. He indicated that the question of market diversion is not supported by EC data and mentioned that the data is being evaluated and Pakistan could be graduated in clothing sector by 2004.
- As regards bed linen, European Union Trade Commissioner informed that the anti-dumping enquiries are being held under normal European Union (EU) rules. He reiterated that India is not specifically targeted.
- Indian side mentioned about the good scope for increase in bilateral trade in textiles as India imports large volume of quality fabrics from EU for the garment industry. Indian side also highlighted the reductions made in textile tariff earlier. European Union Trade Commissioner informed that India is welcome to hold further discussions with EC in this matter.

In addition, multilateral and bilateral issues were also discussed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Performance of Exim Bank and IDBI

5874. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total loan amount disbursed by Exim Bank and Industrial Development Bank of India during each of the last three years; State-wise;

(b) the performance of Exim Bank and IDBI during the last three years and the profit earned therefor;

(c) the total value of loan dues to be collected by these banks; and

(d) the steps taken to collect the loan dues with interest from the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[Translation]

Industrial Units in SEZs

5875. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) the number of industrial units were in operation in Special Economic Zones in each State up to December, 2002;

(b) the total production made by these units during the period April, 2002 to December, 2002 and the goods exported out of the total production; and

(c) the percentage of the export made by these units constitute the total export made from the country during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) 659 units were in operation in eight Special Economic Zones (SEZs) located at Kandla and Surat (Gujarat), Santa Cruz (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Falta (West Bengal) and Noida (U.P.) as on December, 2002. Value of production made by the units in the SEZs, production exported and percentage contribution of exports from SEZs in the total exports of the country during April-December, 2002 are given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Value of Production	Value of production exported	Percentage of exports from SEZs in the total exports of the country
7787.44	7548.33	4.08

*[English]***Import of Inferior Tea**

5876. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many tea factories in the country are lying closed due to import of inferior quality of tea in the name of re-export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposals from the State Governments to revive the ailing tea industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Closure of some of the tea gardens in the country is not at all due to import of tea for re-export. The continuous fall in prices of tea, coupled with high cost of production has adversely affected the economy of the tea plantations resulting in some tea gardens being abandoned or under lock out in various States. The tea imports into the country are only about 2% of the total indigenous production and more than 95% of the tea imported is re-exported after certain value addition. Import of tea is allowed for re-export in order to increase the price competitiveness of Indian tea in the international market and also to cater to requirements of international buyers. The teas being imported are not necessarily inferior teas and the practice of blending with Indian teas often serves the purpose of providing teas as per customers' choice and making them price-competitive in international markets.

(c) and (d) Government of Kerala had submitted a representation highlighting various issues concerning the plantation industry in Kerala which covered certain proposals for helping the Indian tea industry like abolition

of excise duty on tea, suspension of import of plantation crops for re-export, reliefs regarding bank credit, correction of distortions in the primary marketing of tea, subsidy for re-plantation, export subsidy for orthodox tea etc. The major steps taken by the Government to revive the tea industry include notification of the Tea Marketing (Control) Order 2003 and changes in the auction rules to provide for a more transparent price discovery mechanism for tea, abolition of the excise duty of Re. 1/- per Kg. and replacing it by an additional duty of excise of Re. 1/- per Kg. by way of surcharge for creating a separate fund for development, modernisation and rehabilitation of the tea plantation sector, implementation of a relief package announced by the RBI which provides for restructuring/reschedulement of the loans outstanding in the tea sector from the commercial banks etc., implementation of a factory upgradation scheme, implementation of a medium term export strategy, financial incentives for exporters of tea for meeting part of cost of handling, packaging, transport/freight charges, implementation of a Quality Upgradation Programme etc.

Serious Fraud Investigation Office

5877. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Govt. propose to establish a Serious Frauds Investigation Office keeping in view the recent series of scams;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms of reference of SFIO along with its composition; and

(d) the date by which this office is proposed to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government has approved setting up of a Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) in the Department of Company Affairs. The SFIO is conceived as a multi-disciplinary unit capable of investigating white collar crime professionally. The Office would consist of professionals from different fields such as Company Law, Taxation, Information Technology, etc., and will be functional soon.

[Translation]

Export of Silk

5878. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of silk exported during the last three years till date alongwith the foreign exchange earned through it during the said period; and

(b) the target fixed for export of silk during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:
(a) The quantum of silk exported/foreign exchange earned during the last three years and upto Jan., 2003 is given below:

Year	Rs. in crores	US \$ in million
1999-2000	1755.55	404.97
2000-2001	2421.98	530.21
2001-2002*	2236.38	469.23
2002-2003 (upto Jan., 03)	1776.51	365.99

*Provisional

(b) A target of US \$ 500 million has been fixed for export of silk goods during the current financial year i.e. 2003-2004.

[English]

Investment in Agriculture Sector

5879. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to formulate and unfold guidelines for incentives that will be provided to induce corporate and big companies for farm infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have decided to extend facilities to big companies to invest in farm infrastructure, processing, packaging, storage, R&D and agricultural extension to enable them to become producers instead of being traders and processors;

(c) if so, the details of the guidelines; and

(d) the details of the projects that will be undertaken by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Taking into account various factors that limit agricultural productivity, quality of produce etc. such as inadequate investments in the sector, the Government contemplates facilitating and promoting association of corporates in the implementation of agri-export zones (AEZ). For this purpose, appropriate incentives may be provided, subject to their feasibility.

[Translation]

Complaints against Explosive Articles

5880. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints against trade practices of "Explosive Articles Procedures" and "Distributors";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government on those complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No complaints have been received by this Department against trade practices of "Explosive Article Procedures" and "Distributors".

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

New Rating System for Security

5881. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether General Insurance Corporation (GIC) will devise an all new rating system for securities in consultation with Asian re-insurance companies of China, Japan, Korea, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for having the new rating system and problems being faced in the existing system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) As a follow up of the decisions taken in the third Summit of the Asian Reinsurers held in Mumbai in February, 2003, a Committee consisting of representatives from Japan, China, Korea, Malaysia and India was constituted by the Asian Reinsurers to examine their rating system. GIC on its own will not devise any new rating system.

(c) Most of the Asian Reinsurers including that from India are rated as "BB" (Marginal) by Standard & Poor's (S&L) as it does not give companies a rating higher than the sovereign rating. Since India has been rated "BB" by S&P, General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) has also been downgraded to BB (Marginal). Similar is the position of other Reinsurers in Asia. To overcome this problem and to increase the retention of business within Asian region, it was felt necessary by the Asian Reinsurers to explore the possibility of devising an "Asian Rating". This will result in utilizing the full capacity of the Asian Reinsurers and in optimum retention of business within the region.

Hardships Faced by Marine Exporters

5882. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of India's Sea Food Exports indicating the details of the production, shortage, if any, caused thereof and the quantum of exports and target fixed by Marine Products Exports Development Authority for 2003-04;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the hardships faced by marine exporters due to the necessity of a declaration which they had to make in regard to DEPB;

(c) if so, the action taken to relieve them;

(d) whether the declaration made in this regard during that period has earned them hardship with Revenue Intelligence Department; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) As per provisional export figures provided by the Marine Products Exports Development Authority

(MPEDA), the exports of our marine products during 2002-03 has increased by 10.38% in Rupee term and 8.49% in Dollar term. The quantity and value-wise export of marine products during the last two years have been as follows:—

	2001-02	2002-03 (Provisional)
Quantity in MT	424470	421921
Value (in Rs. crore)	5957.05	6575.30
Value (in Million US \$)	1253.35	1359.71

The target for export of marine products for 2003-04 has not yet been fixed by the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The stipulation regarding declaration has been done away with from 1-4-2002.

(d) and (e) The representations received from exporters of marine products on this issue have been forwarded to Department of Revenue for their consideration.

Exports Affected due to War

5883. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether Indian ships carrying large quantity of sugar and other foodgrains like wheat, rice etc. were stopped at Umm Qasr Port of Southern Iraq;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar shipments to Gulf countries are also affected due to the ongoing war in Iraq; and

(d) if so, the remedial action taken by the Government to providing relief to the exporters in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) Exporters of foodgrains have not submitted any representation. However, some export consignments were diverted to other ports in the Gulf.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Share Market

5884. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain companies have indulged in irregularities in the share market;

(b) if so, the name of such companies identified during the last two years;

(c) the name of the companies against whom the Government have taken action and the rules under which such action has been taken;

(d) the details of safeguards provided to save the interests of small investors in the share market;

(e) whether the provisions of these safeguards are complied with; and

(f) if not, the reasons for the same?

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

[English]

Allotment Policy for Primary Schools

5885. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no uniform policy which allotting the Residential Primary School by Ministry of Tribal Affairs; and

(b) whether in last meeting some schools are sanctioned as Residential Primary School and some schools are allotted as a non-residential primary schools; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) No, Sir. The Ministry has a well defined scheme of Grants in aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, under which grants in aid are released to Non-Governmental Organizations for setting up and running among other projects, Residential Primary Schools for Scheduled Tribes. The selection of NGOs and the release of grants are made as per the recommendations of the State Govt. and the Project Screening Committee at the Ministry.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Project Screening Committee scrutinized and examined the proposals recommended by various State Governments and identified the organizations for allotment of Residential and Non-Residential Schools based on their financial capability and experience in the field of education, besides keeping in mind the availability of funds under the scheme with the Ministry.

(c) The Project Screening Committee recommended the sanction of Non-Residential Schools to some organizations against their proposal of Residential Schools, where it was felt by the Project Screening Committee that, at the proposed location, a Non-Residential School can serve the purpose and the organization was given the option to accept or refuse the same depending upon their willingness to run the Non Residential School.

Handloom Development Centres

5886. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dying Units have been set up in Gujarat with central grants for benefit of handloom weavers of the State;

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

(c) the measures initiated for the overall development of handloom sector in Gujarat?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 7 Handloom Development Centres were sanctioned to be set up in Gujarat out of which 5 Centres are working in Mehsana, Dang, Kutch, Sabarkantha and Amreli Districts. Two Societies at Banaskantha and Mehsana could not set up the Centres and the funds released by the Government of India have been refunded by the State Government.

(c) The Government of India has been implementing various schemes for the overall development of the handloom sector of the country including the State of Gujarat through the following programmes:—

1. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY)
2. Marketing Promotion Programme.
3. Handloom Export Scheme.
4. Thrift Fund Scheme
5. Insurance Scheme.
6. Health Package Scheme.
7. Design Development Training programme.
8. Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.
9. Mill Gate Price Scheme.
10. Scheme for Reimbursement of Cenvat on Hank Yarn.
11. Implementation of the Handloom (Reservation of Article for Production) Act, 1985.

Trade Agreement with Russia

5887. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to boost flagging bilateral trade, India and Russia have agreed to explore Joint possibilities of regional trade and economic cooperation agreements with other countries in harmony with their respective national interests;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement reached in this regard between the two countries; and

(c) the extent to which the efforts have been made to improve the trade with other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) A Joint Declaration on Strengthening and Enhancing Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation was signed on 4th December 2002 by the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation. Inter-alia, it has been stated that "the two Governments will jointly explore possibilities of regional trade and economic cooperation arrangements

with other countries in a manner that is in harmony with their respective national interests".

(b) There is no specific proposal under consideration in this regard.

(c) Government of India has taken a number of steps to improve the trade with other countries which include:

- promotion of dialogue including discussions at the highest level;
- constant review of bilateral trade at the Government level through Joint Commission/ Working Group/Sub-Group meetings.
- promotion of direct business contacts by way of exchange of delegations, Joint Business Councils, holding of and participation in exhibitions, fairs, buyer-seller meets etc.

Import of Silk Products

5888. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the silk yarn and other silk products being imported are largely affecting the domestic industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any requests/suggestions from the domestic traders and Central Silk Board to protect the silk industry in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with the reaction by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) to (d) Increasing imports of raw silk mainly from China at sharply falling prices since 2001-02 had an adverse impact on the domestic prices of cocoons and silk yarn, thus causing undue hardship to farmers and reelers. Reelers Associations filed a petition before the Directorate General of Antidumping and Allied Duties, alleging injury from the dumping of mulberry raw silk (not thrown) originating in or exported from China.

The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping conducted preliminary investigations and recommended the imposition of antidumping duty. Government of India vide Customs' Notification No.2/2003 dated 2nd January, 2003 imposed

provisional antidumping duty equivalent to the difference between the amount of US \$ 33.19 per kg and the landed value of imported mulberry raw silk (not thrown), 2A grade and below, originating in, or exported from, Peoples' Republic of China.

[Translation]

Seizure of Property of Narcotics Smugglers

5889 YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the value of property seized by the Narcotics Control Bureau in respect of the individuals involved in trafficking of narcotics during the last three years;

(b) the amount of money recovered from those persons during this period;

(c) whether the percentage of the property so seized and accounted for in the account is very less as compared to the actual seizures made; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Setting of Consumers Courts

5890. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have allocated funds for setting up of consumer courts in the State;

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

(c) whether the State Governments diverted funds meant for this purpose or have not utilized it properly;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (e) Under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forums are to be established by the State Governments. The proper functioning of these agencies is, therefore, the responsibility of the State Governments. However, to supplement the efforts to the State Governments/UT Administrations, the Central Government provided One-Time Grant of Rs. 61.80 crores to strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer disputes redressal agencies. Some of the States/UTs have fully utilized the grant for the purpose for which it has been given. The utilisation of the fund by other States/UTs is still in progress. The States/UTs have been advised to utilize the funds strictly for the purpose for which it has been provided.

[English]

Interest Rate on Central Loan

5891. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Rajasthan to reduce the interest rate on Central Loan given to Rajasthan i.e. 70 percent of Plan Assistance and other loans on which interest rate is still 11.5 percent; and

(b) if so, the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Government of India has reduced the interest rate on Plan Loans from 11.50 percent during 2002-03 to 10.50 percent during 2003-04 with effect from 1.4.2003.

Problems of Sericulturists

5892. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sericulture farmers and reelers of Karnataka and other parts of the country are facing a lot of problems due to the drastic fall of price of cocoons and silk;

(b) if so, whether an all party delegation from Karnataka have submitted any memorandum to the Union Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action the Government propose to take to save the sericulture industry in the country?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The sericulture farmers and reelers of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and J & K etc. suffered financial losses due to drastic fall of prices of cocoons and raw silk.

(b) and (c) An all party delegation led by Chief Minister of Karnataka submitted a memorandum to the Union Government requesting for Government's intervention in the matter, by enhancement of import duty on raw silk, greater vigilance on international borders to check illegal entry to silk into the country from Nepal and Bangladesh, more financial and technical support from CSB for development activities, creation of a revolving fund for operating an incentive scheme for cocoon rearers and a grant of Rs. 5.00 crores from CSB to Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation Ltd. (KSIC) for cocoon purchase.

(d) The Government has taken the following steps to protect the interests of silk growers and prevent market disruption:—

1. The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping conducted preliminary investigations and recommended the imposition of antidumping duty. Government of India vide Customs' Notification No. 2/2003 dated 2nd January, 2003 imposed provisional antidumping duty equivalent to the difference between the amount of US \$ 33.19 per kg and the landed value of imported mulberry raw silk (not thrown), 2A grade and below, originating in, or exported from, People's Republic of China.
2. CSB operates Raw Material Banks and provides Margin Money Loan to the State Marketing Agencies to ensure fair to primary farmers. Besides, in the major markets, State Government Agencies such as the Karnataka Silk Marketing Board play a stabilizing role by their presence in the Market;

3. During 2002-03 some State Governments provided incentive of Rs. 10/- per kg. of cocoons to farmers on cost sharing basis by the Centre and the respective State in the ratio of 50:50, in order to provide relief to farmers from falling prices and encourage them to continue in sericulture;

4. During the X plan period enhanced plan provision over the IX plan period has been made i.e. Rs. 450/- crores for development of Research & Technology and implementation of Central and Centrally Sponsored programmes. Under the Central & Centrally sponsored programmes, Central Silk Board assists the State Governments and beneficiaries by way of grants-in-aid and technology support for quality and quantitative enhancement of production of silk.

Cotton/Fibre Mills

5893. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cotton and man made fibre mills functioning in Andhra Pradesh as on date, separately;

(b) the production made by the above mills during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken for the modernisation of these mills in the State?

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

(a) and (b) There were 54 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) functioning in the State of Andhra Pradesh as on 28th Feb. 2003 and their production during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Production of spun yarn (Mn. kg.)
2000-01	138
2001-02	145
2002-03 (P)	133

P: Provisional

Separate details of cotton and man-made fibre mills are not maintained, as there is a complete flexibility in production of yarn/fibre in these mills.

(c) With a view to improve the overall viability of the textile and jute industries and to enable to meet the global challenges, Government has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textile and Jute Industries, w.e.f. 1.4.1999 for a period of 5 years, i.e. upto 31st March 2004. The Scheme covers the whole of India including Andhra Pradesh. The main feature of the scheme is that it provides a reimbursement of 5% point on the interest charged by the nodal agency/co-opted banks on the projects of technology upgradation of textile industry, which are eligible as per the scheme. These mills are free to approach nodal agency/co-opted banks with their modernisation projects to seek assistance under the Scheme. As on February 28, 2003, in the State of Andhra Pradesh, 40 applications with project cost of Rs. 613 crore and loan requirement of Rs. 361 crore have been received. 31 applications have been sanctioned a loan amount of Rs. 229 crore and Rs. 170 crore has been disbursed against 26 applications.

Misuse of Funds by Companies

5894. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that more than 309 companies based in the State of Gujarat and their promoters have mis-appropriated public money by misusing the funds raised from public issue of shares and debentures;

(b) if so, the names of the promoter with their companies;

(c) the amount misused/siphoned off by the promoters of these companies; and

(d) the steps the Government have taken or propose to take against the defaulters under the Companies Act, 1956?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

'Motor Accident Claims Tribunals'

5895. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accepted the Supreme Court verdict regarding awarding of

compensation to road accidental victims by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunals;

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

(c) whether the insurance companies pays compensation to the third party in such cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Pending Taxation Cases

5896. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases relating to taxation are being delayed inordinately;

(b) if so, the number of such cases pending since October, 2001 and number of cases pending for the last three, six and nine months separately; and

(c) the steps taken to settle these cases at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) **Income Tax**

The income tax assessment/reassessments are completed within the statutory time limits prescribed therefore under the Income Tax Act. Hence, these cases are not being delayed inordinately.

Central Excise and Customs

Separate details have not been maintained in respect of cases pending adjudication since October 2001 and those pending for the last 9 months. However, the information as on 31.12.2002 is given below:—

Central Excise—Number of cases pending adjudication for

less than	3 to 6	1 to 3
3 months	months	years
6898	4183	5611

Customs—Number of cases pending adjudication for

less than	3 to 6	1 to 2
3 months	months	years
610	402	725

(c) Legal provisions now provide for time-bound adjudication of cases. The disposal of such cases is also monitored regularly.

National Integrated Development Scheme

5987. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated National integrated Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the allocation made under the head; and

(c) the expenditure proposed to be incurred therefrom, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) According to information received from the Planning Commission, no Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Functioning of SEBI

5898. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI has been found guilty of failing in its role as market watchdog; and

(b) if so, the action Government have taken or propose to take against officials of SEBI responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) SEBI has been performing its role and functions for development and regulation of the Securities Markets. As part of this role, SEBI has taken several far reaching initiatives. To build a fair, transparent and efficacious market, some of the significant initiatives taken recently by SEBI are:

- Setting up of Central Listing Authority
- Corporate Governance Rating
- Settlement Cycles contraction to T+2 Rolling from T+5
- Global benchmarking of functioning of the Stock Exchanges, Process and Risk Management System
- Simultaneous offering
- Central Registry and
- Strengthening of Surveillance

As part of its enforcement activities, SEBI has been taking action against erring entities and intermediaries.

(b) Does not arise.

Supply of Foodgrains

5899. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI has stopped supplying foodgrains to export agencies after collecting more than Rs. 60 crore from them as reported in the *Statesman* dated March 11, 2003;

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

(c) the reasons for stopping supply of foodgrains by the FCI to these exporters;

(d) whether those PSUs which had tied up with private parties for exporting foodgrains are incurring huge losses as a result of such decision of FCI;

(e) if so, the manner in which FCI propose to compensate these PSUs; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) To encourage export of foodgrains from the Central Pool, exporters are permitted to deposit the amounts for lifting the stocks from any part of the country, as per their choice. However, Food Corporation of India (FCI) imposes temporary restrictions for lifting of stocks from such regions which do not have sufficient stocks with them for meeting local Public Distribution System requirements. Other than these, FCI is continuing to make available foodgrains for export purposes.

FCI has not issued any directions to "District Magistrate" working under the Government of West Bengal.

(d) to (f) PSUs undertake exports in their commercial judgement and FCI does not compensate for losses, if any.

'Duplicate Bond Papers'

5900. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have seized duplicate Bond papers worth crores of rupees recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps taken/being taken by the Government to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Monthly Ration for BPL Families

5901. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that families below poverty line are unable to purchase their monthly quota of ration at one stroke; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) In view of the low purchasing power of the families living Below the Poverty Line, a provision for weekly drawal of ration by card holders has been made in the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 notified on 31st August, 2001.

Black Money

5902. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4083 dated December 14, 2001 regarding Black Money in coal belt and state:

(a) whether the enquiry assessment assured against certain persons mentioned in the reply has been completed;

(b) if so, the details of the findings;

(c) if not, the steps taken on that;

(d) whether there are several other groups in Dhanbad known as "Coal Mafia" possessing wealth beyond their legal earning; and

(e) if so, the steps taken against that mafia?

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

(b) The cases of the following persons for Assessment year 1999-2000 were scrutinized and additional income as mentioned against their names was assessed in their hands:

	Name of the Person	Additional Income Assessed
1.	M/s Kalyaneswari Briquelette Udyog	Rs. 4,38,490/-
2.	M/s Kalyaneswari Coke (P) Ltd.	Rs. 3,96,770/-
3.	M/s Kalyaneswari Vastralaya	Rs. 12,180/-

Penalty proceedings for concealment of Income have been initiated in these cases.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Such information is not available with the Income Tax Department.

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

Subsidy for Tea

5903. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are granting subsidies for growing tea in the non-traditional areas;

(b) if so, the States where these subsidies have been given for growing tea;

(c) whether any incentive has been given for growing tea in the State of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) During formulation of 10th Plan schemes, emphasis has been given on renovation of field assets, improving productivity and quality from the existing area rather than expansion with a view to maintain a parity between demand and supply situation. The expansion programme for growing teas in the non-traditional States has been kept at 1,250 hectares during 10th Plan period.

(d) During the 10th Plan, the tea expansion programme would be limited for small tea growers (holding upto 10.12 hectares) of non-traditional areas located in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim and the State of Uttaranchal.

(c) No tea expansion programme in Orissa has been contemplated with financial incentives from the Tea Board during the 10th Plan period.

(d) Does not arise.

Outstanding Income in Tax Tamil Nadu

5904. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding income tax yet to be recovered from the Individual/Partnership companies/Trusts/Boards/Business Houses from Tamil Nadu as on 31.3.2003;

(b) whether the Government have conducted or plan to conduct any special drive to recover the income tax dues;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have sufficient work force or man power to execute the recovery of income tax dues; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The outstanding income tax yet to be recovered from the persons assessed in Tamil Nadu as on 31.3.2003 is Rs. 1906.45 crores. Separate figures for individuals, partnership firms, companies, Trusts, Boards etc are not maintained.

(b) No Sir, no special drive to recover the outstanding income tax dues has been conducted or is proposed to be conducted. The Income Tax Department has taken regular steps for recovery of dues as provided under the Income Tax Act.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is a shortage of manpower in Tamil Nadu Region in various levels.

(e) Out of the sanctioned strength of 4,669 officials in Tamil Nadu Region, there are 528 posts vacant in various levels.

Violation of BIS mark Labels in Andhra Pradesh

5905. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of cases detected with regard to violation of BIS mark labels in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the action taken by the Government against those who have violated the laws; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The details of number of cases detected with regard to misuse of BIS Mark in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years are as under:—

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
No. of cases detected	04	04	Nil

(b) The action taken by the Government against those who had violated the laws for the above cases are as under:

	2000-2001 By BIS	2001-2002 By Police	2002-2003
Prosecution Launched	02	01	01
Under Investigation	01	01	01
Cases Closed	01	Nil	Nil

(c) Bureau of Indian Standards conducts Nation wide market survey/campaign/consumer awareness programmes through its Regional/Branch Offices from time to time. Regional/Branch Offices organize Buyers/Sellers meet as well as Meetings with the traders and manufacturers which help in curbing misuse of ISI mark.

[Translation]

New Body for BIFR

5906. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a new body after disbanding the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) The Companies Act, 1956 has been amended through Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 2002 providing, *inter-alia*, for setting up of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). All matters relating to revival and rehabilitation of sick industrial companies will be dealt by the NCLT after repeal of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 and consequent abolition of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)/ Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR).

[English]

Procurement of Coarse Cereals

5907. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI's role is confined to procurement of major cereals for Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether procurement of coarse cereals rests with the concerned State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether his Ministry has requested the Ministry of Agriculture to entrust this tasks of procurement of coarse cereals through NAFED; and

(e) if so, the alternate arrangements made for procurement of coarse cereals which are in plenty in some States?

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

(b) and (c) The present practice being followed for procurement and disposal of coarse grains is as under:—

(i) the State Governments/Agencies procure the foodgrains at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) on behalf of the FCI/Government of India;

(ii) the State Governments retain the quantity procured to the extent of their requirement for the Public Distribution System (PDS) and the balance is disposed off by FCI on "as is where is basis" by open auction/tender; and

(iii) the difference between the economic cost and disposal/issue price is paid as subsidy to the State Government.

(d) Yes, Sir. However, the Ministry of Agriculture was not in a position to agree to the request of this Department due to managerial and financial constraints.

(e) The existing arrangements as detailed in the reply to parts (b) and (c) above are being continued.

[*Translation*]

Fake Currency Note in SBI Branches

5908. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a lot of fake currency notes printed in Pakistan and Bangladesh have been found in various branches of State Bank of India functioning in North-Eastern States and whether these notes were circulated in the market by ULFA;

(b) if so, the value of fake currency notes found in above branches during the last one year; and

(c) the effective steps being taken by the Government to check the Pakistan ISI' motive to paralyse the Indian economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) During April, 2002-March, 2003, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Guwahati found fake currency notes amounting to Rs. 4,12,600/- in the soiled note remittances of currency chests of State Bank of India and its associate bank branches in the North-eastern region. However it is difficult to attribute definitely the source of circulation of the fake currency.

(c) The measures taken by the Government include stepping up of vigilance by the Border Security Force/ Customs authorities to prevent smuggling of fake currency, setting up a special unit in the Central Bureau of Investigation exclusively for investigation of counterfeit currency notes, incorporation of special security features in high denomination notes, dissemination of information on security features available in Indian bank notes through print and electronic media for the benefit of the public. RBI has instructed all the currency chest banks to carefully examine the notes received by them in order to segregate and impound fake notes in the remittances, to equip bank branches with Ultra Violet Lamps for detection of counterfeit notes, and to set up Forged Note Vigilance Cell at the head offices of the banks for monitoring the implementation of RBI's instructions etc., on forged notes.

[*English*]

Export of Sugar

5909. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian sugar exporters have found new markets in the Gulf countries like Egypt for the export of sugar;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals have been finalised in this regard;

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

(d) the quantity of sugar to be exported to the Gulf countries and at what rate; and

(e) the names of the other countries where the sugar is being exported by India and how far the prices of the Indian sugar compare with the other sugar exporting countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (e) The export of sugar is allowed under the Open General Licence (O.G.L.) under the present EXIM policy and as such various sugar mills/exporters are exporting sugar as their commercial judgement. India is not in competition with any country regarding export of sugar.

As per DGCI&S during financial year 2002-2003, sugar was exported mainly to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, U.A.E. and Yemen.

Criminal Cases Lodged by SEBI and CBSL

5910. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI and CBSL have filed criminal complaints against various companies for forgery and putting in circulation duplicate and additional shares through DEMAT process;

(b) if so, the details of companies with action taken thereon; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government to stop such type of incidents in future by any other companies?

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

Liquidity Crunch in ICICI

5911. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ICICI bank have sought the intervention of RBI in order to overcome from liquidity crunch recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ICICI disbursed excessive amount to the real estates and housing sector;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether RBI has insisted that all its guidelines be followed by banks to avail its help;

(f) if so, the details of its guidelines; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to help the ICICI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) In order to meet the anticipated extra demand of funds at branches and ATMs in Gujarat and certain other centers and also in view of the bunching of holidays ICICI Bank Ltd. had requested Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on April 12, 2003 for temporary liquidity support as a measure of abundant caution. RBI had provided Special Collateralised Liquidity Facility amounting to Rs. 809 crore against the collateral of Rs. 850 crore (face value) of Government of India securities on April 12, 2003. The entire amount has been repaid by ICICI Bank on April 16, 2003. Further, RBI had clarified through a press release on the same day that ICICI Bank's financial position is sound and it has sufficient liquidity, including in its current account with the RBI, to meet the requirements of its depositors.

(c) and (d) ICICI Bank makes housing loan disbursements in the normal course of its retail business, primarily to individuals for buying residential property. There exposure to real estates is within the RBI norms.

(e) and (g) All the banks, including the private sector banks, are required to follow RBI's guidelines. Government does not intervene in the day-to-day operational matters of the banks.

Cooperative Banks Dealing with NBFC

5912. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has banned cooperative banks from entering ready forward contracts with non-banking financial companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether cooperative banks have not heeded to this and many other directives of the RBI; and

(d) if so, the punitive action initiated against cooperative banks who have repeatedly violated rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Under the extant instructions of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on ready forward contracts, co-operative banks are not permitted to enter into Ready Forward Contracts (RFCs) with Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). They are prohibited from providing any financial accommodation to NBFCs. However, only the scheduled urban co-operative banks are permitted to provide finance to NBFCs in respect of the finance made by them to small truck operators and agro-based industries, which is reckoned as indirect finance to the priority sector RFCs are collateralized borrowings and allowing the co-operative banks to enter into RFC with NBFCs would allow the NBFCs to have access to the funds of the cooperatives under the guise of Ready Forward Contracts, which could be detrimental to the interests of depositors of these banks.

(c) RBI has reported that no instances of violation of its guidelines have come to their notice.

(d) Do not arise in view of above.

[Translation]

Recession in Indian Economy

5913. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recession in the world economy is likely to have serious impact on our economy, export and domestic market;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) According to the latest World Economic Outlook (April 2003) of the international Monetary Fund (IMF), the Indian economy is expected to grow by 5.1 percent in 2003. This growth rate of the Indian economy will be higher than the projected growth rates for the world economy (3.2 percent), advanced economies (1.9 percent) and developing countries (5.0 percent). According to provisional estimates released by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), India's exports during 2002-03 grew at a robust rate of 18.05 percent (in US dollar terms). The domestic economy was also upbeat on account of buoyant performance by industry and services. The fundamentals of the economy have remained strong despite subdued growth of world trade and a weak global recovery. The latest Union Budget (2003-04), formulated against the backdrop of growing geo-political uncertainties and a sluggish global economic recovery, has announced initiatives for stimulating infrastructure development, agriculture, manufacturing sector efficiency and exports. These initiatives are expected to sustain and accelerate the growth momentum in the domestic economy.

Cut in Assistant to Powerloom Sector

5914. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have effected a heavy cut in the assistance given to powerloom sector under the new textile policy;

(b) whether priority is being given to weaving of cloth from automatic machines in place of powerlooms;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is likely to affect employment;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Priority is being given to the technological upgradation of the powerloom sector. Almost 93% of the 18 lakh powerlooms in the country are located in the decentralised industry in units of an average size of 4.5 looms each. An estimated 16.36 lakh powerlooms are plain looms, not capable of producing defect free fabric at very low level of productivity. Considering that it accounts for 60% of the fabric production of the country and 4.3 million jobs, this sector requires an urgent and concerted effort to modernize its loomage to improve in competitiveness and quality.

(d) and (e) The assessment is that modernization of the textile sector, including that of the weaving sector, would bring about changes in the existing employment pattern of the industry, but will also bring in investment and growth, leading to creation of new employment opportunities in the textile chain far exceeding the perceived loss of jobs in inefficient units.

(f) Government has taken several initiatives to facilitate growth in the powerloom industry. These include:

(i) A programme for induction of 50,000 shuttleless and for 2.50 lakh semi automatic and automatic looms in the decentralised powerloom sector has been announced. Incentives have been made available under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) whereby the powerloom owner can reduce the cost of borrowing capital either by availing 12% upfront Capital Linked Subsidy or by obtaining 5% interest reimbursement of on the loan availed.

(ii) Import duty on shuttleless looms has been reduced and excise duty exemption has been given to indigenous automatic looms. Accelerated depreciation benefits at the rate of 50% have been extended on the weaving machinery installed under TUFS.

(iii) Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs), established to provide various services, such as skill upgradation and testing facilities to powerloom weavers have been upgraded with modern looms, other machinery and equipments to improve the quality of services and facilitation for modernisation.

(iv) Computer Aided Design Centres in Powerloom Service Centers have been established to provide value addition through design inputs into powerloom production.

- (v) Powerloom Export Entitlement (PEE) quota has been provided to encourage powerloom exports.
- (vi) A Special Group Insurance Scheme has been approved to provide cover to the powerloom workers against death, accident and disability.

Removal of Restrictions on Imports

5915. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

- (a) whether restrictions on certain items have been lifted for export and import under the revised Exim Policy for 2002-2007 as amended on 31 March, 2003;
- (b) if so, the names of such items along with its likely impact on the business scenario;
- (c) the number of items on which import-export restrictions have been lifted since 2000-2001 to till date;
- (d) the number of the items on which restrictions are to be lifted in the future; and
- (e) the time by which export and import are proposed to be made restriction-free as per the WTO agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) India has been following a consistent Policy for gradual removal of restrictions on imports & exports since 1991. Import restrictions on items as notified to WTO for BOP reasons have been completely phased out. The present restrictions on imports are being maintained for national security reason, protection of plant, animal & human health, etc. which are permissible under the WTO Agreement. The restrictions on 5 items of exports and 69 items of import have been removed with effect from 31st March 03. The Government has been reviewing such restrictions from time to time with a view to making the Indian economy more competitive & to take it on a higher growth path.

[English]

Funds to Jharkhand for Integrated Tribal Development Projects

5916. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to State of Jharkhand under Integrated Tribal Development Projects during the last three years and as on date;

(b) whether State Government has utilized the amount for the purpose for which the same was allocated;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch any special programmes in tribal dominated State of Jharkhand;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs allocates funds to various States under two schemes, namely, Special Central Assistance to the Tribal Sub-Plan and Grants-in-aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution. The details of funds allocated to the State of Jharkhand during the last three years (2000-01 to 2002-03) and the utilization reported by the State Government under these two schemes are at Statement-I.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements several schemes/programmes for the welfare and development of tribals in all the States/UTs including the State of Jharkhand. A list of the schemes/programmes is at Statement-II. As these schemes/programmes already cater to the tribals of the State of Jharkhand, this Ministry has no proposal to launch any special programme exclusively for the tribals in Jharkhand.

Statement I

Funds allocated to State of Jharkhand under SCA to TSP and Article 275(1) of the Constitution and utilized by the State Government during the years 2000-01 to 2002-03

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	SCA to TSP		Article 275(1) of the Constitution	
	Amount allocated	Amount utilised	Amount allocated	Amount utilised
2000-01	3422.62	1345.37	1320.00	651.03
2001-02	5870.24	1259.34	2208.15	0.00
2002-03	5870.24	0.00	2808.00	0.00
Total	15163.10	2604.71	5736.15	651.03

Statement II*Major Schemes/Programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the Welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes*

1. Special Central Assistance to the Tribal Sub Plan
2. Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution
3. Girls Hostel for Scheduled Tribes
4. Boys Hostel for Scheduled Tribes
5. Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas
6. Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs
7. Research & Training
8. Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations of Minor Forest Produce
9. Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of ST Girls in Tribal Areas.
10. Vocational Training in Tribal Areas
11. Village Grain Bank Scheme
12. Development of Primitive Tribal Group
13. Post-Matric Scholarship for ST Students
14. National Overseas Scholarship for ST Students
15. Coaching and Allied Scheme for STs
16. Upgradation of Merit of ST Students
17. Book Bank for ST Students
18. State Tribal Development Finance Corporation
19. Exchange of Visits by Tribals.

[Translation]

Base Depots in Madhya Pradesh

5917. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether every district of Madhya Pradesh has base depots and issue centres of the Food Corporation of India;

(b) if not, the number of districts in the State without base depots and issue centres;

(c) whether the foodgrains are supplied from these base depots and issue centres only for public distribution system;

(d) if so, whether any such arrangements are proposed to be made to enable these centres to give foodgrains for all Central Schemes; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Food Corporation of India (FCI) has 29 Base Depots and 10 Issue Centres to cater to 45 Revenue Districts of the State of Madhya Pradesh. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) For meeting the requirements of Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) and other Welfare Schemes (OWS), foodgrains are issued from all the 29 Base Depots.

The 10 Issue Centres cater to the needs of remote areas, which are not linked with rail and issue foodgrains under BPL, Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Mid Day Meal (MDM) schemes.

In addition, FCI also issues foodgrains under TPDS and OWS from godowns hired from State Agencies, which are rail linked.

There is no proposal to issue foodgrains under all schemes from all Issue Centres.

Statement

Name of FCI District	Name of Revenue District	Name of Issue Centres for BPL/APL/MDM	Base Depots for all Schemes
1	2	3	4
Gwalior	Gwalior Bhind Datia Shivpuri		Gwalior Datia

1	2	3	4
	Morena Sheopurkalan Guna	Sheopurkalan	Morena Ashok Nagar
Indore	Indore Dhar Barwani Jhabua Khandwa Khargone	Dhamnod Alirajpur Khargone	Indore Meghnagar Khandwa
Ujjain	Ujjain Shajapur Ratlam Neemuch Mandsaur Dewas		Ujjain Ujjain/Dewas Ratlam Dewas
Bhopal	Bhopal Sehore Rajgarh Betul Hoshangabad Harda		Bhopal Bhopal/Itarsi Bhopal/Dewas Betul Itarsi
Sagar	Sagar Damoh Vidisha Raisen Narsingpur		Sagar Bina Damoh Vidisha Vidishha/Sagar/Bhopal Narsingpur Gadarwara
Satna	Satna Panna Sidhi Rewa Tikamgarh Chhatarpur	Sidhi	Satna Satna/Katni Rewa Niwari Harpalpur
Jabalpur	Jabalpur Mandla Dindori Seoni Balaghat Katni Chhindwara Shahdol Umeria	Mandla Dindori Shahpura Seoni Lakhnadone	Jabalpur Balaghat (non Railhead) Katni Chhindwara Panduma Shahdol Shadol/Katni

[English]

Issue Price of Palm Oil

5918. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to reduce the issue price of Palmolein;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date from which the reduction is likely to take place;

(c) whether the Union Government are providing Palmolein to the States on different rates;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the rate of issue, State-wise; and

(e) the extent to which it is likely to help the poor in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No allocation of Palmolein oil has been made to any State/UT for Public Distribution System (PDS) after December, 2000 as it had been decided not to procure/import Palmolein oil for PDS in view of prevailing market conditions.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Cases Pending in I.T. Appellates Tribunals

5919. DR. BALIRAM:
DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of cases are pending before various Income Tax Appellates Tribunals throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to expedite the process?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) As on 1st April, 2003, one lakh, eighty thousand, five hundred and seventy nine cases were pending before the 53 benches of Income-tax Appellate Tribunal in the country.

(c) Following measures have been adopted to reduce pendency of cases in ITAT:

(i) Government sanctioned 15 additional benches for ITAT in 1997 and all these benches have been made functional.

(ii) Cases involving similar issues are clubbed; small cases and covered cases, i.e. cases covered by decisions of Hon'ble Supreme Court, High Courts and ITAT are identified and these cases are posted out of turn and disposed regularly.

(iii) The limit for appeals to be heard by Single Members has been raised from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs.

(iv) Direct filing of appeals in High Courts under amended provisions of Section 260(A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(v) A special drive to dispose of Single Member Cases has been ordered by the President of ITAT, for all benches throughout the country where pendency is more with effect from 17.03.2003 for period of three weeks.

External Aided Projects in Punjab

5920. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of external aided projects undertaken at present in the State of Punjab; and

(b) the amount involved in all those projects and the amount released so far during the present fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) At present there are four ongoing State sector externally aided projects in Punjab.

(b) The details are as under:

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Chattisgarh		4626.18	2689.50	13.61	--	120.35	9.73	--	--	198.29	32.67	6.21	21.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7718.04
Goa		3800.91	2250.00	73.44	6.64	34.59	26.35	--	--	20.00	--	10.25	--	--	--	--	6.00	1.95	--	--	6362.13
Haryana Pradesh		643.53	80.00	53.08	2.90	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10.21	--	790.72
Jammu & Kashmir		971.94	316.00	94.01	--	47.72	--	--	--	--	6.50	7.00	2.10	--	--	--	0.44	--	--	--	1437.71
Jharkhand		5870.24	2808.00	386.18	--	--	--	--	--	365.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	6.00	--	--	--	9415.42
10 Karnataka		771.33	904.35	252.46	1.76	32.03	--	--	--	61.75	75.30	20.00	--	--	--	130.00	--	--	40.00	10.00	2319.06
11 Kerala		273.70	500.00	30.00	--	--	--	25.00	--	3.45	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.90	1.04	--	5.00	1129.67
12 Madhya Pradesh		7833.22	4052.32	68.44	--	44.16	92.46	--	712.16	105.02	--	30.14	25.00	440.00	422.00	600.00	101.04	--	--	10.00	14630.76
13 Maharashtra		3723.83	2825.00	67.59	--	--	11.13	--	--	127.00	105.02	--	--	--	--	--	6.00	--	100.00	--	7125.57
14 Manipur		761.96	424.55	130.07	--	4.00	--	--	--	114.1	60.11	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.00	--	2155.70
15 Meghalaya		--	555.00	295.77	--	2.40	--	100.00	--	--	665.00	--	--	13.75	13.75	--	--	--	--	5.00	1791.05
16 Mizoram		--	240.00	86.46	--	36.00	--	--	--	--	370.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	730.44
17 Nagaland		--	--	42.00	--	20.56	--	--	--	--	607.19	--	--	32.50	32.50	--	--	--	--	--	634.35
18 Orissa		6495.30	3641.00	300.00	4.02	67.44	141.90	400.00	--	50.50	--	5.02	10.20	--	--	--	3.04	--	--	--	11157.44
19 Rajasthan		3649.56	2224.40	51.52	--	--	34.47	119.37	--	114.23	131.05	5.20	4.45	--	--	--	10.70	1.03	--	--	6347.04
20 Sikkim		100.02	63.00	15.26	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.75	--	--	--	--	--	--	13.79	280.02
21 Tamil Nadu		323.32	216.00	62.06	0.20	2.40	0.30	--	--	45.00	--	2.04	--	--	--	--	6.97	--	--	--	652.00
22 Tripura		1041.03	665.50	15.72	--	54.00	--	122.00	--	15.74	--	1.40	2.40	--	--	--	5.00	1.95	27.00	--	1851.03
23 Uttaranchal		92.91	78.00	51.03	2.67	--	--	--	--	10.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	234.61
24 Uttar Pradesh		32.10	27.00	47.33	0.63	--	11.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	110.00
25 West Bengal		2292.57	1543.00	242.67	--	6.13	42.10	53.63	20.00	15.00	--	2.05	6.30	--	5.00	--	40.40	--	--	20.00	4900.90
26 Delhi		--	--	62.50	0.79	--	3.70	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	65.15
27 A & N Islands		200.05	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.50	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20.50	--	231.04
28 Daman & Diu		90.15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.05	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	100.20
29 Dadra & Nagar Haveli		--	--	2.93	--	2.40	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5.33
Total		50000.00	30000.00	3003.67	40.14	631.43	590.92	1500.00	910.01	1375.00	5150.04	140.00	92.05	634.25	715.75	600.00	220.50	11.96	200.00	90.00	9250.32

[English]

Motor Accident Claims of Four Wheelers

5922. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of public sector general insurance companies operating in the country;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that these public sector general insurance companies entertain bogus claims of vehicle accidents

and settle them at a faster speed while genuine claims are kept pending for long;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in regard thereto;

(d) the number of claims in respect of four wheeler vehicle accidents are pending with each public sector general insurance company in Nagpur Region of Maharashtra as on March 31, 2003; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) There are four public sector general insurance companies operating in the country viz. (i) National Insurance Co. Ltd., (ii) New India Assurance Co. Ltd., (iii) Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. and (iv) Untied India Insurance Co. Ltd.

(b) and (c) The public sector general insurance companies are having Vigilance Departments headed by Chief Vigilance Officers who are appointed by the Government in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission. The Vigilance Departments conduct regular/surprise inspections and take up cases of settlement of bogus claims brought to their notice. Cases on select basis are also referred to CBI. The public sector general insurance companies have also grievance redressal mechanism to expedite settlement of genuine claims.

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

Non-Lifting of Grains

5923. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the poorest amongst poor are not lifting their grains from the Public Distribution System under

Annapurna and Antodaya Scheme due to weak purchasing power;

(b) the stock of foodgrains as on March 31, 2003 commodity-wise in each State yet to be lifted by respective States; and

(c) the reasons for not lifting the foodgrains by respective States under PDS during stipulated period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No, Sir. Under Annapurna Scheme, foodgrains are allotted to the beneficiaries free of cost and lifting is, therefore, not related to weak purchasing power. The offtake of foodgrains under Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) has been more than 80% of the allocation during the last two years.

(b) A statement showing stocks of foodgrains (rice & wheat) allotted under Annapurna and AAY from 1-4-2002 to 31-3-2003 in each State and the quantities yet to be lifted is at enclosed statement.

(c) The offtake of foodgrains by States/UTs under Public Distribution System depends on several factors such as parity between the issue prices of the foodgrains and the open market prices, availability of foodgrains in the open market, purchasing power of PDS consumers, quality considerations and the eating habits of the people in the different regions of the country.

Statement

Stocks of Foodgrains (Rice & Wheat) Allotted under Annapurna and Antodaya Anna Yojana from 1-4-2002 to 31.3.2003 in each State and the quantities yet to be lifted

(In '000 tonnes)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Annapurna				Antyodaya Anna Yojana			
		Rice		Wheat		Rice		Wheat	
		Allotted	Unlifted	Allotted	Unlifted	Allotted	Unlifted	Allotted	Unlifted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.18	1.67	0.00	-0.01	261.58	26.93	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	-0.73	0.00	0.00	6.35	0.64	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	-1.65	0.00	0.00	118.24	13.31	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	7.630	2.51	11.440	4.17	168.00	37.28	252.00	48.81
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	120.71	116.05	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	3.74	0.59	9.70	1.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7.	Goa	0.09	0.05	0.00	0.00	3.07	0.82	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.30	3.72	109.20	17.24
9.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	46.97	4.07
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.76	-0.01	0.00	0.00	18.97	0.11	14.09	0.32
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.22	1.22	0.00	0.00	36.07	12.14	11.35	3.06
12.	Jharkhand	6.52	2.23	0.00	0.00	71.42	23.00	82.52	21.23
13.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	160.30	15.73	40.08	4.70
14.	Kerala	0.00	-4.89	0.00	0.00	100.04	0.52	0.00	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	-0.55	0.00	-2.18	68.74	1.09	196.87	12.89
16.	Maharashtra	1.20	1.07	0.00	-0.08	147.25	19.95	273.47	37.09
17.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.72	-0.25	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	1.11	0.47	0.00	0.00	11.81	0.93	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	0.31	0.31	0.00	0.00	4.42	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	0.00	-0.40	0.00	0.00	6.38	0.00	1.56	-0.01
21.	Orissa	7.77	0.93	0.00	0.00	212.32	30.62	0.00	0.00
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.12	14.91
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	12.63	0.01	1.80	1.43	154.69	5.92
24.	Sikkim	0.30	0.30	0.00	0.00	2.82	-0.06	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	8.63	1.25	0.00	0.00	290.50	2.94	0.00	0.00
26.	Tripura	1.78	0.01	0.00	0.00	19.00	0.15	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	-35.06	230.24	83.50	455.18	124.90
28.	Uttaranchal	0.00	-0.60	0.00	0.00	22.48	15.51	9.58	3.58
29.	West Bengal	5.16	2.04	0.00	0.00	153.89	57.83	153.90	46.39
30.	A & N Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.30	1.30	0.50	0.50
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.89	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.16	0.34	0.15
33.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.07	0.08	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.17	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.85	0.71	0.00	0.00
Total		53.700	5.270	24.090	-33.130	2285.33	466.88	1842.19	347.01

Note: The quantities remaining unlifted is in negative in case of some States as these States lifted their unlifted allocation of 2001-02 during 2002-03.

Decentralisation of Procurement Scheme

5924. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various State Governments has not agreed to decentralised the procurement scheme;
- (b) if so, the objection raised by each State;
- (c) whether the Union Government have given its assent to share the financial burden;
- (d) if so, details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Union Government to resolve issue regarding decentralization of procurement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The Decentralised Procurement Scheme is already being undertaken by the State Government of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Uttaranchal. The State Governments of Assam and Tripura have also evinced interest in the Scheme. No specific objections have been received from the State Governments and the Central Government has been encouraging other States, which have potential for procurement, to step up their procurement efforts.

(c) to (e) Under the Decentralised Procurement Scheme the Central Government undertakes to meet the entire expenditure incurred by the State Governments on the operations of procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains as per the approved costing.

(f) Does not arise.

Ineffective Distribution of Foodgrains

5925. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain States are facing problems arising out of excess foodgrains and some States are facing shortage of foodgrains causing starvation deaths;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps initiated by the Union Government for supply of foodgrains to these States and also ensure that such a situation does not recur in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) No Sir. No starvation death has been reported by any State Government/Union Territories Administration.

The total stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool is held by FCI in various godowns located through out the country. The requirement of foodgrains of various States/UTs is met from the Central Pool under TPDS, Welfare Schemes etc. as per the approved criteria and guidelines.

[Translation]

Sugar Mills in Bihar

5926. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise number of sugar mills particularly in Bihar under his Ministry;
- (b) the performance of these mills during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government propose to privatise these mills or to hand over to cooperative societies of sugarcane growers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken to revive these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (d) Ministry of Textiles is not managing any sugar mills at present.

[English]

Ban on use of Pesticides in Tea Growing

5927. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the European Union Countries have issued fresh guidelines banning more than 300 pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers that cannot be used in growing tea;

(b) if so, whether the guidelines stipulate permissible residual levels of such pesticides/insecticides/fertilizers to be within 3 mgs for a kilo of tea;

(c) whether Sri Lanka and Indonesia are already ahead in complying with the new EU standards on tea growing; and

(d) if so, India's present position in relation thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Pesticide Residue limits fixed by European Union for tea as on 16.12.02 covered about 200 chemicals. In most of the cases Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) are fixed at the lowest detectable levels. However, there is no banned list of chemicals from the European Union. The limits for chlorinated hydrocarbon compounds are very stringent and this group of chemicals is totally discouraged for application.

(c) The position in respect of compliance of EU regulations by Sri Lanka and Indonesia is not known.

(d) India is making all out efforts to satisfy MRLs fixed by European Union. The guidelines of European Union have already been circulated to the tea industry for information and compliance. The overall position regarding compliance of EU regulations on residue is quite satisfactory in case of Indian teas exported to European Union.

Funds for Infrastructure

5928. SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:
SHR RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is provision to spend Rs. 64,000 crore under infrastructural head in the year 2003-2004;

(b) if so, the details of the various heads, State-wise;

(c) whether the Infrastructural Equity fund of Rs. 1,000 crore promised in the last budget is yet to take shape;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons for delay;

(e) whether on the infrastructural front many projects continue to suffer heavily under time and cost over run;

(f) if so, the reasons for the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) A lump sum provision of Rs. 2000 crore for 'Assistance for Infrastructure' has been included in the Budget proposals for 2003-2004 to leverage investment of Rs. 60,000 crore in the Infrastructure Sector. The provision is not allocable State-wise.

(c) and (d) Contributions by the IDFC, IDBI, ICICI and RBI and other details for operationalising the Infrastructure Equity Fund are being finalised.

(e) to (g) Some of the infrastructure projects do suffer from time and cost over-runs. The reasons for such time and cost over-runs are project-specific. To improve the situation, regular monitoring of such projects is being done at every level of the Project authorities and the Government.

Cash Deposit Facility to Credit Card Holders

5929. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the State Bank of India does not accept cash deposits from the "Credit Card" holder as being done by other banks in the metropolitan cities and insist payments by cheques;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce such a facility in the State Bank of India to "Credit Card" holders; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

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

(b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that the credit cards are issued by SBI Cards and Payment Services Private Limited (SBICPSL), a registered NBFC, a Joint Venture with GE USA and is a separate entity.

They have not made arrangements for acceptance of cash against credit card dues for the following reasons:

- (i) Delay involved in remitting the amount received by the branches to Gurgaon.
- (ii) Reluctance of the cardholders to pay the Bank charges to remit the money to Gurgaon.
- (iii) Ensure that the dues are remitted by the cardholders only.

SBICPSL have installed cheque collection boxes at major branches of SBI at all the 41 centres, where the Credit cards are issued and the cardholders can deposit cheques drawn on any bank participating in clearing in any of the 41 centres. The cardholders are given credit from the date of receipt of the cheque for full value of the cheque without any charges even though cheques are realised later. The cardholder is spared the work of drawing cash from his account and deposit in the cash counter of the bank.

(c) and (d) As the existing facility is more beneficial and convenient to card holders, the need for introducing the facility of accepting cash deposits for Credit card dues at branches of SBI is not felt.

[Translation]

NPA of IFCI

5930. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the NPA of Industrial Finance Corporation of India as on March 31, 2003;
- (b) whether the IFCI have taken any action to recover this amount;
- (c) if so, the details of the action taken against the defaulters which have not repaid the loan; and
- (d) the amount of loan recovered as a result of the action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Details of NPAs of Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. are as under:

Total Loan Assets (Gross)	As on 31st March		
	2000	2001	2002
Total loan Assets (Gross)	21661.97	20894.63	20223.78
Provisions and write-offs	1821.65	2139.69	2675.97
Total loan Assets (net)	19840.32	18754.94	17547.81
Net NPAs	4102.56	3937.06	3897.64
Net NPAs as % of net loan assets	20.68	20.99	22.21

Note: The data of NPA as on 31.3.2003 is under compilation, since audit is underway. The same would be available only after finalisation of accounts.

(b) to (d) (i) In order to reduce the existing NPAs as also prevent further slippage of performing assets into NPA, aggressive restructuring is being resorted to by IFCI Ltd. During 2001-2002, restructuring programmes have been formulated in 103 cases involving an amount of Rs. 4139 crore. During the year 2002-2003, restructuring programmes have been formulated in 72 cases involving an amount of Rs. 5074 crore.

- (ii) In case of projects, where the prospects of recovery of dues are remote in the normal course, aggressive steps are taken for reaching Negotiated/One Time Settlement of dues. During 2001-2002, One Time Settlement was entered into 76 cases for a settled amount of Rs. 491 crore.
- (iii) The IFCI Ltd. has initiated legal action/issued notices to 45 companies and have conveyed consent to other creditors in respect of another 36 concerns upto 31.3.2003, involving an aggregate amount of Rs. 5501.34 crore. While many companies have some forward with proposals to settle/restructure dues, etc., six companies have, so far, deposited an aggregate sum of Rs. 10.95 crore in token of their willingness for settlement of their dues.
- (iv) As a result of vigorous follow-up of cases before DRTs/Courts (781 cases as on 30.9.2002 involving an aggregate amount of Rs. 10,302.32

crore). IFCI Ltd. has received recovery certificates in 131 cases for an amount of Rs. 1038.68 crore.

- (v) Efforts are also being made to intensify the recovery of dues through the Corporate Debt Restructuring Scheme introduced by RBI.
- (vi) Restructuring efforts and One Time Settlement are being continued during the current year also.

[English]

Foreign Audit Company

5931. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether multinational corporations are doing surrogate audit work in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases came to the notice of the Government during the last one year;
- (c) the action taken against such companies;
- (d) the details of foreign companies allowed to do the audit work in the country;
- (e) whether the Government have reviewed their working recently; and
- (f) if not, the reasons thereto?

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

(b) No instance of a non-member, or a person/firm not holding a certificate of practice from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), itself conducting audit as required under the Companies Act, 1956 has come to the notice of the Central Government.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

Loans to SSI and Small Farmers

5932. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks are providing credit for motor car easily but not for tractor and motor pumps;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to direct the banks to change their attitude towards the agriculture and small scale sectors;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the response of banks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Credit Facilities to Farmers

5933. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the credit flow from the banks to the small and medium farmers are quite inadequate;
- (b) whether the Government have made any estimate of the percentage of total credit flow to these segments of the farming community;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (d) the corrective action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the credit to small and marginal farmers constitutes 46.94%, 46.18% and 46.13% of the total agricultural loans given by commercial banks as at the end of June 1999, June 2000 and June 2001 respectively.

(d) With a view to strengthening the flow of credit to small and marginal farmers, commercial banks have been advised certain relaxations by RBI in regard to margin money requirements, security norms etc. to such borrowers under priority sectors. These relaxations include non-insistence on margin money upto Rs. 10,000/-, non-insistence on collateral security/third party guarantee upto Rs. 10,000/-, insisting upon payment of interest only at the time of repayment of loan instalments, non-compounding of interest on current dues in respect of long duration crop loans, not exceeding the total interest

debited against the principal amount in respect of short term advances, introduction of Special one-time settlement scheme for small and marginal farmers, etc.

Re-Insurance of High Value Project Export

5934. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation has requested the Union Government to re-insure high-value project exports, as re-insurance from the markets is usually not available for projects executed in many developing countries;

(b) if so, the main points submitted by them to the Government;

(c) whether the Government have considered the request; and

(d) if so, the extent to which it has been helpful to the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. (ECGC) has not requested the Government to reinsure high value project exports in developing countries, in the absence of reinsurance from the market.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

NOC for Petrol Pumps

5935. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

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

(a) the number of No Objection Certificate issued to applicants (Dealers) for the concerned oil companies to start new petrol pumps by the 'explosive department' from January, 2003 to till date particularly in the month of March, 2003;

(b) whether the Department of Explosive demands the grant of issue of NOC for a particular site in the name of concerned oil company for the grant of licence to install petrol pump;

(c) if so, whether the NOC issued for a particular site in the name of one oil company can be utilised by the other oil company in case the earlier company is not willing to instal pump on that particular site;

(d) if not, the detailed guidelines/rules/provisions described by the Explosives Department in this regard;

(e) whether the Department of Explosives would be directed to make the rules/practice rational to avoid the unnecessary harassment and delay as the NOC by the district magistrates is granted for particular site and not for the oil company; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The number of licences issued by Department of Explosives to start new petrol pumps from January, 2003 till date are 737. A total number of 334 licences have been issued in the month of March, 2003.

(b) to (d) Under Rule 144 of the Petroleum Rules, 2002, No Objection Certificate from district authority for a particular site is required in the name of applicant be it an oil company or otherwise. NOC issued for a particular site in the name of one oil company can be utilised by other oil company in case the earlier company is not willing to instal the pump on that particular site provided the earlier company gives consent in favour of other oil company. Specific provisions are contained in the Rule 156 of the Petroleum Rules, 2002.

(e) and (f) Petroleum Rules, 2002 provide for transfer of licence within its validity period. Since, No Objection Certificate granted by the district magistrates is meant for the site and due to provision of transfer of licence in the Petroleum Rules, 2002, no fresh NOC for that particular site is required.

[English]

Leather Goods Export Park

5936. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to set up a leather goods export park in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the locations identified of the same;

(c) whether there has been a demand to give a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) status to this proposed park; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

World Bank Report on Global Development

5937. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the Global Development Finance report released by the World Bank recently;

(b) if so, the details of remarks made in the report in regard to India;

(c) whether as per report a prolonged war in Iraq could adversely affect India's growth prospects in the new fiscal year; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

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

(b) The Report comments favourably about India and takes note of increase in private consumption with recovery in agricultural incomes, upturn in manufacturing performance and attractiveness to investors in non-financial services. The report also states that India is expected to lead in the increase in FDI in South Asia if economic reforms and the government's efforts to attract foreign investment continue over the next three years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Revamping IDBI and IFCI

5938. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to revamp IDBI and IFCI in order to strengthen them and make them more effective in protecting the interest of small investors; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Industrial Development Bank of India (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 2002 has been introduced in Lok Sabha. The Bill contains provisions to give effect to the proposal to corporatize the IDBI and to vest the emerging corporate entity with banking licence. The Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Finance. Government are awaiting the recommendations of the Standing Committee before a course of action can be decided.

In addition, the Government of India, in consultation with Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions, have agreed to restructure liabilities of IDBI and IFCI.

[English]

Voter List of MP

5939. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the directions of Election Commission to Madhya Pradesh Government for suspension of 5 officials have not yet been implemented by the State Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether correction in voters list has started; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the voters whose name has been struck out can re-apply to become a voter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

NABARD Assistance to A.P.

5940. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD has decided to extend financial assistance of Rs 1,300 crore to Andhra Pradesh Government for implementing rural development programmes;

(b) if so, whether the Bank has decided to give term loans amounting to Rs. 700 crore this year in comparison to Rs. 602 crore term loans extended last year;

(c) if so, to what extent the Andhra Pradesh Government has utilized this loan;

(d) to what extent the rural development schemes under this loan have so far been implemented; and

(e) the total number of people benefited in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) extends loans to State Governments under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). Till March 2003, NABARD has sanctioned projects worth Rs. 3650.88 crore to Andhra Pradesh Government since 1995-96 under all the tranches of RIDF I to VIII.

(b) NABARD has reported to have disbursed Rs. 602.13 crore to the participating banks in Andhra Pradesh towards refinancing term loans for financing agriculture and allied activities during the year 2001-02. For the year 2002-03, NABARD has disbursed Rs. 761.34 crore to the banks for these purposes.

(c) Loans sanctioned under RIDF have a disbursement phasing of three years. As reported by NABARD, out of the total sanctions of Rs. 3650.88 crore made under all the tranches of RIDF to Andhra Pradesh, disbursements to the tune of Rs. 2169.02 crore have been made to the State Government.

(d) and (e) As reported by NABARD, 9738 projects covering irrigation, roads, bridges, soil & moisture conservation, etc. have been sanctioned in Andhra

Pradesh. These projects have the potential for generation of recurring and non-recurring employment opportunities of 165.60 lakh mandays and 4728.80 lakh mandays respectively besides creation of additional irrigation potential and rural connectivity through network of rural roads and bridges.

Avoidance of Anti-Dumping Duty by EOUs/EPZ Units

5941. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Export Oriented Units and Export Processing Zones are avoiding Anti-Dumping Duty payment as they sell the imported produce in the domestic tariff area which is badly affecting the domestic pharmaceutical companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the policy of the Government is not clear in this direction;

(d) whether Indian Drug Manufacturers Association has brought to the notice of the Government about this anomaly; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to alleviate the problems of pharmaceutical companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Export Oriented Units and the units in Export Processing Zones (since converted into Special Economic Zones) are entitled to import without payment of customs duty, including anti-dumping duty, all types of goods for export production. The units are also entitled to sell a part of the manufactured products in the Domestic Tariff Area in terms of Export and Import Policy on payment of applicable duties. Since manufactured goods, and not imported inputs, are sold in the domestic tariff area, it is seen that there is no avoidance of payment of anti dumping duty as represented by the Drugs Manufacturers Association. Further, no domestic sale is being granted at present to EOU engaged in compacting/micronization.

Directors of Banks/FI

5942. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of directors appointed in the various public sector banks and financial institutions during the last three years;

(b) the number of Directors belong to SC/ST category out of it, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any reservation for SC/ST candidates in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) There is no reservation provided in the relevant Acts for appointments of SC/STs candidates as Directors on the Board of public sector banks/financial institutions.

[*Translation*]

Export of Tobacco

5943. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of various kinds of tobacco and tobacco products exported from the country during each of the last three years, variety-wise and product-wise;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the said period;

(c) whether the Government propose to boost export of tobacco;

(d) if so, the projection made for 2003-04 and for entire Tenth Plan; and

(e) the steps being taken to achieve the goal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) (i) Exports of different varieties of unmanufactured tobacco for last three years are as under:

Quantity in tons; Value Rupees in lakhs

Variety	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003*	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Flue Cured Virginia	64638	50997.02	57126	48273.07	59650	48579.45
Burley	9810	6510.55	11036	5584.72	13543	7465.85
Sun Cured Natu	6670	2924.78	5354	2412.49	3055	1279.68
Top leaf/Jutty	4923	2062.50	1734	772.70	2020	741.30
Lal Chopadia	6869	2398.94	6026	1665.25	5182	1430.46
Judi	2656	649.79	2287	453.53	1403	328.24
Others	4971	2160.29	2447	1126.88	2061	1086.22
Total	100537	67703.87	86010	60288.64	86914	60911.20

(Source: Tobacco Board)*April-February, 2003

(ii) Exports of tobacco products for the last three years:

Quantity in tons; Value Rupees in lakhs

Product	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003*	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cigarettes	2016	5651.53	2883	8488.30	4199	10937.93
Bidis	962	3295.88	961	3337.48	959	3251.53
Chewing tobacco	1953	9433.38	2640	12494.05	1976	9995.89

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hookah Tobacco Paste	9543	3423.08	8910	3482.85	9281	3304.60
Cut Tobacco	907	803.98	663	714.34	1277	1078.04
Others	12	26.56	19	45.71	48	58.17
Total	15393	22634.49	16076	28562.73	17740	28626.16

(Source: Tobacco Board)*April-February, 2003

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Tobacco Board has projected exports for tobacco and tobacco products for 2003-04 at the same level as far 2002-03 viz. around 115,000 tons valued at Rs. 980 crores. For the entire 10th Plan period, the projected figures are 686,300 tons valued at Rs. 5769 crores.

(e) Steps taken to enhance exports of tobacco include, inter alia, reorientation of production of tobacco to meet changing international demands, enhancement of quality and productivity levels, monitoring control of pesticide residues, aligning grading to international standards, sponsoring of trade delegations to potential importing countries participation in tobacco fairs etc.

[English]

Income Tax Exemptions

5944. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from Government of Gujarat to extend the time limit of exemption under 80(G) of the Income Tax Act for receipt and utilisation of donation made to the NGO's and charitable trusts for relief and rehabilitation of earth quake affected areas of Gujarat; and

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

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

(b) The Government of Gujarat has requested that the time limit for utilisation of donations received by charitable trusts, institutions and funds for providing relief

to the victims of the Gujarat earth-quake may be extended by another year to 31.3.2004. The representation is under consideration.

Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme

5945. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received under the Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme from the Government of Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years; and

(b) the decision taken/proposed by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Applications under TUFs are submitted by promoters and not by the State/Central Government.

Since the inception of the Scheme, as on 28.02.2003, under TUFs, 34 applications have been received from mills located in the State of Uttar Pradesh for modernization projects, requiring Rs. 932.58 crore with loan requirement of Rs. 496.87 crore. Of these, 27 applications have been sanctioned a loan amount of Rs. 346.75 crore and Rs. 226.97 crore has been disbursed in respect of 23 applications.

[Translation]

Assistance to NGO

5946. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the State-wise names of the non-Governmental Organisation provided financial assistance for development of Primitive Tribal Groups during the last three years alongwith the amount of assistance provided?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): A statement indicating the names, State-wise, of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the funds

released to them during the last three years, under the Central Sector Scheme of Development of Primitive Tribal Groups is enclosed.

Statement

Funds provided to NGOs under the Central Sector Scheme for Development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) during 2000-2001, 2001-02 & 2002-03

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the States	Name of implementing Agency States/NGOs	Amount Released During		
			2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Sewa Bharati, Khamam, A.P.	13.37	6.18	11.31
		2. Sri Saraswatividhyapeetham, Hyderabad	16.00	—	13.30
2.	Chhattisgarh	3. Akhil Bharitya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Jashpur, Nagar	4.81	—	5.78
		4. Eternal Care, Bhopal	—	6.244	4.46
		5. Gandhi Seva Ashram, Narsinghpur, Distt. Bilaspur	—	11.98	—
		6. Vishwas, Narayanpur, Distt. Bastar	—	10.79	—
		7. Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Narayanpur, Distt. Bastar	—	25.00	—
		8. INRECA, Dedia Pada, Distt. Narmada	—	25.00	—
		9. Swami Vivekananda Sewa Trust, Jamshedpur	13.59	—	42.18
4.	Jharkhand	10. Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Sonari, Jamshedpur	37.77	70.13	156.10
		11. Rama Krishna Mission Ashram, Morabadi, Ranchi	—	3.30	—
		12. Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Ghatsila, Distt. E. Singhbhum	—	48.86	75.63
		13. Vikas Bharti, Gumla, E. Singhbhum	—	24.748	13.07
5.	Karnataka	14. Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Pakur	—	—	58.02
		15. Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, Mysore Distt.	—	16.89	1.75
		16. Vivekananda Foundation (R) Mysore	—	8.85	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Kerala	17. Nehru Yuvak Kendra, Kozhikode	12.40	—	—
7.	Madhya Pradesh	18. Madhya Pradesh Vigyan Sabha Bhopal	—	4.266	—
		19. Sewa Bharati, Bhopal	80.61	—	45.70
		20. Bonded Liberation Fund, New Delhi	—	—	15.45
8.	Maharashtra	21. Vidharba Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Nagpur	26.21	—	—
		22. Maharashtra State Tribal Empowerment Society, Pune	—	35.12	—
		23. Tribal and Weaker Section Empowerment Society, Pune	—	—	27.00
9.	Manipur	24. Integrated Rural Development Welfare Association, Imphal	9.74	—	—
		25. Senapati Economic Development Association, Senapati	—	—	6.25
10.	Orissa	26. Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology Bhubaneswar	—	23.00	—
		27. OSCARD, Bhubaneswar	—	4.59	—
		28. PRAKALPA, Keonjhar Distt.	—	10.34	—
		29. Society for Welfare of Weaker Sections, Parlakhemundi	—	4.41	—
		30. Vanvasi Sewa Prakalpa, Distt. Kalahandi	18.31	—	—
		31. Vanvasi Sewa Prakalpa, Distt. Keonjhar	18.31	—	—
		32. Chuktia Bhunjia Development Agency, Sunabeda Distt. Nuapada	—	23.54	—
		33. Paudi Bhuyan Development Agency, Khutagaon, Distt. Sundergarh	—	26.824	—
		34. Research & Analysis Consultant (RAC), Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar	—	28.246	—
11.	Rajasthan	35. SWRC, Tilonia, Ajmer	—	—	24.00
12.	Tripura	36. Ramakrishna Mission, Agartala	9.40	—	—
13.	West Bengal	37. Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Dokra, Distt. Midnapore	19.50	—	—
Grand Total			280.011	418.31	500.00

*[English]***Irregularities in Transport Subsidy Scheme**

5947. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether review of the Transport Subsidy Scheme revealed several serious shortcomings leading to irregular and excess reimbursements to industrial units;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Audit had undertaken a review of the Transport Subsidy Scheme for the period 1994-95 to 1999-2000. The related Audit examinations have been included under Chapter 1.1 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2000 (No. 2 of 2001) and the Report has been placed on the Table of the House. The Government have taken steps to effect recovery of the excess payments made against the provisions of the Scheme.

(d) The following steps have been taken to prevent irregularities and monitor the implementation of the Scheme more effectively:

- (i) Procedural changes have been introduced by way of detailed check list and scrutiny at all levels with a view to eliminate the ineligible claims.
- (ii) Pre-audit of the claims is being carried out in most of the cases depending upon the quantum of claims.
- (iii) Sanctions and disbursements of Transport Subsidy are put up on the website of the D/o Industrial Policy & Promotion with a view to ensure transparency and check any irregularities.

Revival of State Financial Corporations

5948. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to revive the State Financial Corporations which are running in losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government so far to revive them, particularly the Orissa State Financial Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The G.P. Gupta Committee has made recommendations for restructuring of State Financial Corporations (SFCs). The report was sent to various SFCs for taking immediate action on recommendations that do not involve any financial support, such as operational and organizational restructuring. SFCs, being State entities, the State Governments are the principal stakeholders. They are thus expected to consider steps for improving the performance and recapitalisation of SFCs. State Governments including the Government of Orissa have been requested to take steps for improving the performance of SFCs.

*[Translation]***Anti-Dumping Investigations**

5949. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the WTO report of 2002 has revealed that India is the 5th country which has been required to start inquiry in respect of anti-dumping; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents so that the damage being done to the Indian industries may be minimized and eliminated slowly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) There is no mention in the WTO Report of 2002 that requires India to start inquiry in respect of anti-dumping.

(b) Does not arise.

Percentage of Tribal Population

5950. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of tribal population in the country and the State-wise details thereof;

(b) the names of the tribe-dominant States;

(c) the amount allocated State-wise for the development of adivasis during the last three years; and

(d) the schemes and programmes implemented for development of adivasis in these States during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) According to the 1991 census, the Scheduled Tribes population was 67.76 million, constituting 8.08% of the total population of the country. A statement showing, the State-wise percentage of the Scheduled Tribe population is at Statement I.

(b) Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland have a tribal majority.

(c) Funds are allocated State-wise by this Ministry under Article 275(1) of the Constitution and SCA to TSP. A statement showing funds allocated to the States/UTs under these schemes for the development of Scheduled Tribes during the last three years is at Statement II.

(d) In addition to the various State sectoral programmes being implemented by the States/UTs, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has provided assistance to the States/UTs during the last three years under the following schemes/programmes:

- (i) Special Central Assistance (SCA) for the Tribal Sub Plan
- (ii) Grants under the First Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution
- (iii) Grants-in-aid to Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs),
- (iv) A Coaching and 'Allied' scheme for Scheduled Tribes
- (v) Vocational Training in Tribal Areas
- (vi) Educational Complexes in Low Literacy Pockets for the Development of Women's Literacy in Tribal Areas
- (vii) Grants-in-aid to the State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations (STDCs) Establishment of Village Grain Banks
- (viii) Establishment of Village Grain Banks
- (ix) Development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGS)
- (x) Post-Matric Scholarships to the students belonging to Scheduled Tribes for studies in India
- (xi) Book Banks for Scheduled Tribes students
- (xii) A Central Sector Scheme for upgradation of merits of Scheduled Tribes students
- (xiii) Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes
- (xiv) Boys Hostels for Scheduled Tribes
- (xv) Establishment of Ashram Schools in the Tribal Sub-Plan Area
- (xvi) Research and Training
- (xvii) Exchange of Visits of Tribals
- (xviii) Assistance to the State Scheduled Tribe Development Corporations (STDCs)
- (xix) Special incentives to NGOs.

Statement I

Sl. No.	State/UTs	1991 Census		
		Total population	ST population	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	66508008	4199481	6.31
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	864558	550351	63.66

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	22414322	2874441	12.82
4.	Bihar	86374465	6616914	7.60
5.	Goa	1169793	376	0.03
6.	Gujarat	41309582	6161775	14.92
7.	Haryana	16463648	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5170877	218349	4.22
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
10.	Karnataka	44977201	1915691	4.26
11.	Kerala	29098518	320967	1.10
12.	Madhya Pradesh	66181170	15399034	23.27
13.	Maharashtra	78937187	7318281	9.27
14.	Manipur	1837149	632173	34.41
15.	Meghalaya	1774778	1517927	85.53
16.	Mizoram	689756	653565	94.75
17.	Nagaland	1209546	1060822	87.70
18.	Orissa	31659736	7032214	22.21
19.	Punjab	20281969	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	44005990	5474881	12.44
21.	Sikkim	406457	90901	22.36
22.	Tamil Nadu	55858946	574194	1.03
23.	Tripura	2757205	453345	30.95
24.	Uttar Pradesh	139112287	287901	0.21
25.	West Bengal	68077965	3808760	5.60
26.	A & N Islands	280661	26770	9.54
27.	Chandigarh	642015	—	—
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	138477	109380	78.99
29.	Daman & Diu	101586	11724	11.54
30.	Delhi	9420644	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	51707	48163	93.15
32.	Pondicherry	807785	—	—
Total		838583988	67758380	8.08

Note:

- (i) The Census was not held in J & K in 1991.
(ii) '—' indicates that no Scheduled Tribes has been notified in the referred States/UTs.
(iii) N.A.-Not available.

Statement II*State-wise funds allocated to State/UTs for the development of Scheduled Tribes*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S No.	States/UTs	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1.	A.P.	2643.44	5448.15	4893.10
2.	Assam	2886.90	3904.55	4082.39
3.	Bihar	1711.06	765.91	765.56
4.	Gujarat	5389.98	6980.91	6180.91
5.	Himachal Pradesh	613.55	721.53	723.53
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	966.88	1474.88	1289.94
7.	Karnataka	1036.13	2085.70	1675.68
8.	Kerala	218.63	391.20	861.70
9.	Madhya Pradesh	8314.92	12179.28	11885.54
10.	Maharashtra	4578.07	6396.33	6648.83
11.	Manipur	1258.65	991.96	1186.51
12.	Orissa	8145.50	10600.21	10136.90
13.	Rajasthan	4615.24	6199.56	5874.04
14.	Sikkim	414.18	347.40	191.02
15.	Tamil Nadu	321.27	728.32	533.32
16.	Tripura	1119.07	1503.53	1706.53
17.	Uttar Pradesh	51.43	209.05	59.10
18.	West Bengal	2594.90	3609.24	3745.57
19.	Jharkhand	4742.62	8078.39	8678.24
20.	Chhattisgarh	5225.96	6712.95	7315.68
21.	Uttaranchal	104.92	170.96	170.91
22.	Arunchal Pradesh	376.6	200.00	300.00
23.	Meghalaya	477.0	0.00	555.00
24.	Mizoram	72.0	0.00	240.00
25.	Nagaland	950.0	0.00	0.00
26.	A & N Islands	233.90	230.85	200.85
27.	Daman & Diu	66.10	99.15	99.15
	Total	59128.85	80030.01	80000.00

*[English]***Reservation Policy for OBC**

5951. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is strictly following the reservation policy in providing jobs for the persons belonging to OBC in the Government Departments and Autonomous institutions as well as attached offices, Research and Development institutions and other PSUs coming under his Ministry in as far as the Gazetted jobs or class I and Class II employments are concerned;

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

(c) the number of posts not filled so far and the reason for not filling up of some reserved posts (Class I and Class II in both Government sector and Public Sector) designated for the persons belonging to OBC; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill up such vacant posts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The relevant instructions relating to reservation in posts in case of persons belonging to the OBCs are duly kept in view and followed in all the administrative offices of the Ministry of Finance. Since these offices are scattered all over India, no centralized data is maintained regarding recruitments made and vacant posts, if any, in such offices. All efforts are made to fill up vacant posts in terms of the extant guidelines relating to filling up of vacancies.

Visit of Australian Trade Minister

5952. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India sought Australia's co-operation in mining, agriculture, food processing, pharmaceuticals and information technology during the visit of the Australian Trade Minister to India in February, 2003; and

(b) if so, the area of agreement signed with regard to these matters between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The 8th session of India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission was held in New Delhi on 17-19 February 2003. Shri Arun Jaitley, Commerce & Industry Minister, led the Indian delegation. Shri Mark Vaile, Australian Trade Minister led the Australian mining, textiles, information technology, telecommunications, tourism, food processing, agriculture, fish and fisheries, banking and education.

(b) No agreement was signed during the visit.

External Borrowing

5953. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of external borrowings by State Governments from World Bank and foreign financial institutions like ADB during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether any borrowing limit has been set for any State in this regard;

(c) whether any warning has been issued by the Union Government to any State on its excessive borrowings from World Bank and other institutions; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to make available cheap credit to State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Under the provisions of the Constitution, the executive powers of a State extend to borrowing only within the territory of India. Also, under the VII Schedule of the Constitution, 'Foreign Loans' come under the Union list. Thus, State Governments cannot receive financial assistance from foreign countries/institutions directly. The external assistance in respect of projects implemented in various States are obtained by the Central Government and passed on to the States as Additional Central Assistance.

The details of loan taken from foreign financial institutions by the Central Government are as under:

(Figures in Rs. crore)

Institution	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
International Development Association (IDA)	4338.21	4264.44	5260.05
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	713.46	799.38	969.39
International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)	0.00	70.13	0.00
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	6452.13	5713.47	5836.05

(b) to (d) Do not arise, in view of reply given to part (a) above.

Banks Indulging in Securities Trade

5954. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has warned all banks against indulging in circular trade in Government securities;

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

(c) whether some banks have been found violating rules through trading in securities during the last three years;

(d) if so, the names of such banks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that the issue regarding circular trading in Government Securities by commercial banks was recently discussed in a meeting taken by it with CMDs/CEOs of select banks. In the meeting the bankers were informed that it had come to RBI's notice that some banks are entering into preset transactions in Government Securities to book profit on account of appreciation in their value without actually off-loading the same in the market. The bankers were advised to avoid such transactions since it was not a desirable practice.

Involvement of Foreign Companies in India's Export

5955. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of foreign companies have entered in the country and trade sector of the country;

(b) if so, whether as a result of this, the export from the country has increased;

(c) if so, the extent of contribution made by the companies in the said increase;

(d) whether any assessment has been made or proposed to be made in regard to benefit accrued due to entry of foreign companies in India;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of foreign exchange earned therefrom?

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

(b) to (f) While contribution of Foreign Direct Investment to exports as a whole is not monitored, Foreign Direct Investment supplements domestic efforts by providing additional capital alongwith foreign technology, best management practices and market access among other things. Based on secondary information, it is seen that FDI has led to significant increase in exports in sectors such as automobiles and automotive components, electronics, etc.

Weeding Out of Plan Schemes

5956. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission had recommended weeding out of some plan schemes like Save Grain Campaign (SGC) Indian Grain Management Research Institute (IGMRI) and Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL) during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry represented to the Planning Commission for continuance of these schemes;

(d) if so, the response of the Planning Commission;

(e) whether the Government have made any alternative arrangements in absence of these schemes to check post harvest losses and for quality control; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) While considering the zero based budgeting in respect to the Plan Scheme of the Department of Food and Public Distribution, the Planning Commission had recommended that the Save Grain Campaign scheme can be discontinued in the 10th Plan while the Indian Grain Management Research Institute (IGMRI) and Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL) schemes can be transferred to the Non-Plan category.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry had represented to the Planning Commission during February 2002 and October 2002 to allow either the continuance of these Plan schemes during the 10th Plan period or to allow this Ministry to convert the Plan scheme into Non-Plan scheme.

(d) The Planning Commission has agreed that the IGMRI and CGAL schemes should continue to operate as Non-Plan schemes. For this, the Ministry should take up the matter with the Finance Ministry.

(e) and (f) With a view to minimize post harvest losses and for quality control of foodgrains, the Ministry has decided to continue the non-plan component of IGMRI, SGC and CGAL.

Export of Marine Products

5957. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing difficulty in export of the marine products, dye and dyeing material and leather products due to imposition of environment related restriction on these items by the western countries;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The difficulties being faced in the export of marine products, dye and dyeing material to the Western countries:

(i) Shrimp caught from the sea and wild by mechanised shrimp trawlers not fitted with Turtle Exclude Devices (TED) cannot be exported to USA. However, aqua cultured shrimp and shrimp produced through artisanal fishings can be exported to USA provided it is accompanied by a certificate from Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) stating that the shrimp is produced through aquaculture or by artisanal means or from cold waters where there are no turtles, etc.

(ii) Stringent environmental rules are imposed by the Pollution Control Board, New Delhi based on WTO norms on export of dye and dyeing material.

No recent environmental related problem has been brought to the notice of the Government either by the Council for Leather Exports or the leather exporters in respect of export of leather.

(c) The Government of India and State Governments have now made use of the TED mandatory in certain parts of the sea off the coasts of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. MPEDA has so far fabricated around 2900 TED and made these available to the State Governments for distribution amongst mechanized fishing vessel operators, free of cost. Exports to USA of aqua cultured shrimp and shrimp caught through artisanal fishing are being facilitated by the MPEDA by issuing certificates. Some of the States including Andhra Pradesh and Orissa have demonstrated the use of TED on board fishing vessels for training the crew on proper installation of TED. MPEDA also organizes workshops and training camps, in association with all other concerned, on fabrication and installation to educate the boat owners and the crew.

Closure of Handloom and Powerloom Sector

5958. SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom and powerloom sector is on the verge of closure in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the traditional weavers are facing acute financial difficulties as a result of closure of the handloom and powerlooms units in the region;

(c) whether the Handloom Corporation of India have failed to come to the rescue of the large number of weavers because of the paucity of funds;

(d) whether the sops offered by the Government by way of Janata Cloth Scheme in 1976 and grant of subsidy has been withdrawn;

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to revive the handloom and powerloom industry which is the pride of Vidarbha region; and

(f) the financial assistance package being provided to the various State Governments for the revival of this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:
(a) and (b) Ministry of Textiles has not received any report from any State Government stating that the handloom and powerloom units are on the verge of closure.

(c) The National Handloom Development Corporation is engaged in supply of yarn, dyes & chemical to the handloom organizations. This work is not affected due to paucity of funds.

(d) The Janata Cloth Scheme was discontinued during the end of 1997-98, and does not have any impact on the handloom sector at present.

(e) The Government of India is implementing the following Schemes for the overall development of the handloom sector and for the welfare of handloom weavers throughout the country including in Maharashtra:—

1. Design Development & Training Programme
2. Marketing Promotion Programme
3. Mill Gate Price Scheme
4. Deen Dayal Hathkarga Prothshahan Yojana
5. Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme
6. Weavers Welfare Scheme
7. Handloom Export Scheme
8. Implementation of Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

As far as powerloom sector is concerned, Government has taken following initiatives to facilitate growth of the powerloom industry:—

- (i) A programme for induction of 50,000 shuttleless and for 2.50 lakh semi automatic and automatic looms in the decentralized powerloom sector has been announced. Incentives are available under the Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme where the powerloom owner can either avail 12% upfront Capital Linked subsidy or reduce cost of borrowing the capital by interest reimbursement of 5%.
- (ii) Forty-four Powerloom Service Centres, established to provide service, such as designs, training, skill up-gradation and the testing facilities to the powerloom weavers.
- (iii) Seventeen Computer Aided Design Centres in Powerloom Service Centres have been established to facilitate the creation of new designs and improve design and production.
- (iv) Powerloom Export Entitlement (PEE) quota has been provided to encourage exports of powerloom cloth; and
- (v) Welfare scheme for Insurance is being implemented for the powerloom weavers.

(f) Government of India has released Rs. 107.26 crores to various State Governments for the implementation of various handloom schemes during 2002-03. These schemes will be continued to be implemented during the current year with an outlay of Rs. 156.77 crores.

[Translation]

Kelkar Committee's Report on Export

5959. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee has given certain recommendations for giving impetus to exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether will these recommendations have been accepted by the Government; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) The report of the Task force on Indirect Taxes headed by Dr. Vijay Kelkar submitted to Ministry of Finance in December, 2002 contains various recommendations relating to Drawback, Special Economic Zones, Export Oriented Units and Advance Licensing Scheme. Some of the recommendations of the Committee like taking of CENVAT non avallment self declaration certificate for grant of drawback, release of an amount equivalent to All Industry drawback entitlement in cases of shipments under brand rate of drawback, acceptance of exporters declaration regarding the weight of constituent material in case of composite item and payment of interest in delayed cases of sanction of drawback beyond one month have already been accepted and implemented by Ministry of Finance.

[English]

Study by NIRD on PDS

5960. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad had recently made study on functioning, performance and leakage in Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details of the findings in the study;

(c) the recommendations made by NIRD for strengthening of PDS in States; and

(d) the measures to be undertaken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) to (d) The Study Report is yet to be received from National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad.

RBI Currency and Finance Report

5961. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the persisting and growing demand-supply imbalances in infrastructure services continues to cast shadow on industrial performance;

(b) if so, whether according to the RBI Currency and Finance Report for 2001-02, supply has declined to 2.6 per cent of gross domestic product during the 1990s from 2.9 per cent during the preceding decade;

(c) if so, the main reasons for the same; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As per the analysis made by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on infrastructure constraints on industrial performance, and published in their Report on currency and Finance 2001-02, industry continues to be hampered by physical infrastructure bottlenecks with the demand-supply imbalances persisting and growing during the 1990's. The higher cost of operations of certain services such as power, railways and shipment has spilled over to the manufacturing sector in the form of high input costs.

(b) As per the National Accounts Statistics, Central Statistical Organisation, Government of India, the real gross capital formation as a percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 'electricity, gas and water supply sector has declined to 2.6 per cent during 1990's from 2.9 per cent during 1980's and real gross capital formation in infrastructure sectors as per cent of GDP has declined to 5.8 per cent during 1990's from 6.1 per cent during 1980's.

(c) The decline in real gross capital formation in infrastructure sectors is attributable amongst others to insufficient resource mobilization by public infrastructure entities and inadequate private investment in infrastructure sectors as a result of non-rational user charges in some segments.

(d) In the Union budget 2003-04 several steps have been announced to improve the situation. These include the following:

- A major thrust to innovative funding mechanisms to be provided for 48 new road projects, renovation and modernization of airports, setting up of two international convention centers of global standards, funding of National Rail Vikas Yojana products.

- Additional funds to be made available for rural roads through additional cess on diesel of 50 paise.
- The mega power project policy to be liberalized further by extending all the benefits to any power project that fulfils the conditions already prescribed for mega projects.
- A special allocation of Rs. 20 crore to CSIR for launching incentive driven research in fields of solar energy, wind turbines, hydrogen fuel as alternative to fossil fuels.
- Water supply projects totally exempt in regard to capital goods and machinery both from customs and excise duties. In addition, pipes exempted from excise duty for bringing raw water from source to the treatment plant and for conveying treated plant water to the storage plant.

[Translation]

Bogus TDS Claims

5962. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Vigilance Agency has unearthed a big scam involving cheating of crores of rupees in the name of bogus tax deduction at source in the Income Tax Department during second week of April, 2003;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The CBI has registered three cases i.e. RCs.1(A)/2003, 2(A)/2003 and 6(A)/2003 in ACB, Chandigarh branch relating to bogus refunds claimed on the basis of the forged Tax Deducted at Source certificates.

(b) As per enclosed statements.

(c) To counter any malpractices relating to refund claims, the Central Board of Direct Taxes has issued instructions from time to time, for streamlining the procedure. Some such measures include issue of refunds by Registered Post, chronological processing of refund claims etc. Further, the computerisation of Income Tax

Department, which is at an advanced stage, will gradually eliminate human intervention.

Details of Bogus Refunds Claimed on the Basis of Forged T.D.S. Certificates at Rohtak, Bhiwani and Jagraon (Punjab)

Case RC. 1(A)/03 has been registered on 27.01.2003 against Shri M.C. Sharma the then ITO Rohtak, Shri A.K. Mehta the then ITO Rohtak and Shri D.S. Narwal U.D.C., Shri V.K. Gupta, U.D.C. who entered into criminal conspiracy with each other and with Shri S.K. Bansal, Chartered Accountant r/o 1061/23 D.L.F. Colony Rohtak and Shri Naresh Gupta r/o 81, Adarsh Nagar, Bhiwani who after floating fictitious companies filed income tax returns in the name of said companies claiming TDS refunds on the basis of forged and fictitious TDS certificates reportedly to have been issued by existent and non-existent companies based at Surat, Mumbai, Thane, New Delhi etc. and defrauded the Income Tax Department to the tune of Rs. 11,17,566/- during the year 1996-2000.

Case RC.2(A)/03 has been registered on 27.01.2003 against Shri R.S. Ranga the then ITO Bhiwani, Sh. V.K. Jain, TA, Sh. Ashok K., U.D.C., Shri Anil Singla, U.D.C., Sh. Pawan Sharma, U.D.C., who entered into a criminal conspiracy with each other and Sh. S.K. Bansal Chartered Accountant r/o 1061/23 D.L.F. Colony Rohtak and Sh. Naresh Gupta r/o 81, Adarsh Nagar, Bhiwani who after floating fictitious companies filed income tax returns in the name of said companies claiming TDS refunds on the basis of forged and fictitious TDS certificates reportedly to have been issued by existent and non-existent companies based at Dispur (Assam), Guwahati, Kohipurati, Surat, Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Meerut etc. and defrauded the Income Tax Department to the tune of Rs. 43,38,424/- during the year 1994-1999.

Case RC.6(A)/03 has been registered on 10.03.2003 against Sh. R.S. Ranga, the then ITO Jagraon, Sh. Paramjit singh, the then I.T.O. Jagraon, Sh. Hari Chand, the then Sr. T.A., Sh. Sadhu Singh, the then T.A., Sh. Ram Lubhaya, the then T.A. who entered into a criminal conspiracy with each other and Sh. Amrajit Singh Taneja, Advocate, Jagraon, Sh. Hukum Chand Gupta, Advocate, Faridkot, and Sh. Naresh Gupta r/o 81, Adarsh Nagar, Bhiwani who filed Income Tax returns in the names of individuals claiming T.D.S. refunds on the basis of forged and fictitious T.D.S. certificates purportedly to have been issued by existent and non existent companies/firms based at Mumbai, Kolkata, New Delhi, Lucknow etc. and defrauded the Income Tax Department to the tune of Rs. 22,37,266/-.

In this case an attempt was also made by the above named accused persons to claim TDS refunds in the similar fashion, but the same was foiled as refund advices were withheld and the accused persons could not succeed in getting refund that is to the tune of Rs. 13,46,390/-.

Declaration of Gifts

5963. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make it mandatory for the sports persons to declare the gifts received by them from other countries in view of incidents of match fixing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. These types of regulations fall within the purview of the national federations of the respective sports. However, goods imported by any person are required to be declared to the Customs authorities.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Special Deposit Scheme

5964. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to wind up the special deposit scheme of the Government launched in 1975;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the redemption obligation of the Government?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1743 DATED 28.11.2002 REGARDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES BY IOCL

In the reply to the parts (a) to (e) of the Unstarred Question No. 1743 for 28.11.2002, asked by Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, Member of Parliament, regarding Community Development Programmes by IOCL, the amount spent by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) towards various community development programmes in different States during the years 2001-2002 and the amount that was estimated to be spent during 2002-2003, which were shown as Rs. 52 lakh and Rs. 86 lakh respectively, may please be read as Rs. 4.52 crore and Rs. 2.77 crore. A copy of the corrected reply to parts (a) to (e) of the question is enclosed.

(SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

(a) to (e) Community Development Programmes (CDPs) are mostly undertaken by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) near its installations, mainly in the areas of drinking water, expansion of education, health, medical care, etc., as a measure of discharging the Corporation's social responsibility towards the neighbouring community. These programmes are undertaken by IOC in most of the States, including the State of Maharashtra, where the Corporation has many installations.

During the year 2001-2002, IOC has spent an amount of about Rs. 4.52 crore towards various CDPs in different States, including Maharashtra. During the year 2002-2003, such programmes being undertaken by IOC in a number of States are estimated to cost Rs. 2.77 crore.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table—

(*) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 396 of the Companies Act, 1956.

- (i) The Rajasthan State Mineral Development Corporation Limited and the Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Limited (Amalgamation) Order, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 207(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7595/2003]

- (ii) The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Industrial Infrastructure Development Limited (TACID) and State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) Amalgamation Order, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 217(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7596/2003]

- (2) A copy of the Director's Relatives (Office or Place of Profit) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 89(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7597/2003]

- (3) A copy of the Cost and Works Accountants (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. CWR (1) 2002 in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2003, under sub-section (5) of section 39 of the Cost of Works Accountants Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7598/2003]

- (4) A copy of the Thirty-first Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the execution of the provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 for the period from 1st January, 2001 to 31st December, 2001, under section 62 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7599/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMANLAL GUPTA): Sir, on behalf of Shri George Fernandes, I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy each of the following Papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mazagon Dock Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7600/2003]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7601/2003]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Goa Shipyard Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7602/2003]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Electronics Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7603/2003]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7604/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): Sir, I beg to lay on Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Annual Report of the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7605/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Sir, on behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the International Law Association Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Seventieth Biennial Conference held in New Delhi in April, 2002.
- (ii) A copy of the International Law Association Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Seventieth Biennial Conference held in New Delhi in April, 2002, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the International Law Association of the Seventieth Biennial Conference held in New Delhi in April, 2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7606/2003]

- (3) A copy of the Delimitation of Council Constituencies (Bihar) Amendment Order, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 433 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Representation of People Act, 1950.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7607/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, NOIDA, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, NOIDA, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7608/2003]

[English]

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

RAO): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 426(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2003 notifying the Sreem Sri Papers Limited Yeditha Village, Mandapeta, East Godavari District, in the State of Andhra Pradesh as a mill producing newsprint under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7609/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ginge N. Ramachandran, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 15 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7610/2003]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:—
- (i) The Punjab and Sind Bank Officers Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. PSB/DAC/2003 in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 2003.
- (ii) The United Bank of India (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. 2/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 9th November, 2002.
- (iii) The Punjab and Sind Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. PSB/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 6th November, 2002.
- (iv) The Dena Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. IR/Amend/04/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2002.
- (v) The Indian Overseas Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in

Notification No. PAD/SUP/177 in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2002.

- (vi) The Indian Bank Officers' Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. F. SRC/223 in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2003.
 - (vii) The Andhra Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. 666/20/P/359 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 2003.
 - (viii) The Corporation Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. PAD:IR:PEN: Amend:570:2002-2003 in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2003.
 - (ix) The Corporation Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. PAD:IR:PEN: Amend:571:2002-2003 in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2003.
 - (x) The Indian Bank Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. F.SRC 47 in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2003.
 - (xi) The Indian Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. Pension: 3/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2002.
 - (xii) The Punjab National Bank Employees' Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. Pension: Misc/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2002.
- (4) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii to iv) of (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7611/2003]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—
- (i) The Central Excise (First Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 102(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 2003, together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (ii) The Central Excise (Third Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 215(E)

in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2003, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (iii) The CENVAT credit (Third Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 216(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2003, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iv) The Central Excise (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 334(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2003, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (v) The CENVAT credit (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 335(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2003, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vi) The CENVAT credit (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 337(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 2003, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7612/2003]

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 336(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe the amount of credit on inputs in terms of provisions of rule 9A of the CENVAT Credit Rules, 2002 issued under section 9A of the Central Excise Rules, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7613/2003]

- (7) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 279(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th March, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum laying down that the Transfer Pricing Officer shall be subordinate to the Director of Income Tax (Transfer Pricing) who in turn will be subordinate to the Director General of Income Tax (International Taxation) issued under section 118 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7614/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Sir I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Plastics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of

- the Plastics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7615/2003]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7616/2003]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the CAPEXCIL, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the CAPEXCIL, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7617/2003]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 2001-2002.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7618/2003]
- (9) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7619/2003]
- (11) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—
- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the PEC Limited and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2003-2004.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7620/2003]
- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the State Trading Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2003-2004.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7621/2003]
- (12) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 221(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 2003 regarding appointment of the Commissioner for Agriculture, Government of Karnataka as member of the Tobacco Board till the 25th July, 2004 and also to amend the Notification No. S.O. 5417 dated the 7th December, 1975, issued under section 4 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7622/2003]
- (13) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 8 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975:—
- (i) S.O. 1388(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2002 authorising the Tobacco Board to admit the regular and registered traders and dealers to purchase at its auction platforms in Karnataka the unauthorized tobacco produced by unregistered farmers in the State of Karnataka subject to certain conditions mentioned therein.
- (ii) S.O. 1389(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2002 relaxing the operation of the provision of the section 10 of the Tobacco

Board Act, 1975 in the State of Karnataka till 28th February, 2003, and also permitting the sale of unauthorized Flue Cured Virginia tobacco crop at the auction platforms authorised by the Tobacco Board.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7623/2003]

12.01 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Fifty-fourth to Sixtieth Reports

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce:—

- (1) 54th Report on Foreign Direct Investment;
- (2) 55th Report on Export of Gems and Jewellery;
- (3) 56th Report on Development of Woollen Sector;
- (4) 57th Report on Development of Jute;
- (5) 58th Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce and Industry);
- (6) 59th Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (Ministry of Commerce and Industry); and
- (7) 60th Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Textiles.

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

One Hundred-twelfth to One Hundred-seventeenth Reports

[Translation]

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT (Janjgir): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports

(Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests:—

- (1) One Hundred-twelfth Reports on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
- (2) One Hundred-thirteenth Reports on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research.
- (3) One Hundred-fourteenth Reports on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Space.
- (4) One Hundred-fifteenth Reports on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Ocean Development.
- (5) One Hundred-sixteenth Reports on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Biotechnology.
- (6) One Hundred-seventeenth Reports on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Science & Technology.

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 5th May, 2003 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Govt. Business carried over from today's order paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:—
 - (i) The Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2003
 - (ii) The Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003
 - (iii) The Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 2003 as passed by Rajya Sabha

- (iv) The Constitution (Ninety-fifth Amendment) Bill, 2003
 - (v) The Constitution (Ninety-sixth Amendment) Bill, 2003
 - (vi) The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000
3. Consideration and passing of the Foreigners (Amendment) Bill, 1998 after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha
 4. Discussion on the Science & Technology Policy, 2003
 5. I may also inform the House that the Constitution (Ninety-fifth Amendment) Bill, 2003 and the Constitution (Ninety-sixth Amendment) Bill, 2003 will be taken up for consideration and passing on Tuesday, the 6th May, 2003.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, BSNL mobile telephone service should be immediately introduced in Dindori, Kalwan, Satana, Niphad Tehsil of Nasik district Maharashtra.

Nasik district is a hilly and rural area where telephone facility is not available at several places. The telephone service should be immediately introduced there.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the stoppage of 33, 34 and 36 Bilaspur-Delhi local train should be provided at Nawagaon (Silka) railway station under Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh so that passengers may avail the facilities.

Central University status should be provided to Guru Ghosi University, Bilaspur where medical, engineering, Computer, Bio Technology BED and PED education is provided and which is located in the area predominantly inhabited by Scheduled Caste population in the newly covered State of Chhattisgarh.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, every year life and property is being damaged in Northern Bihar due to flood coming from Nepal. There are no embankments over Bagmati and Adhbara group of rivers in Sitamarhi district and it is on account of this that every year crops of the farmers, roads, bridges, culverts are damaged due to flood. No compensation is paid to farmers by the Centre or the State Government for their damaged crops. Discussion should be held with the Nepal Government for flood

control, building dams and finding permanent solution to all the problems arising due to flood.

It is due to poor condition of telephone exchange in the bordering district of Sitamarhi of North Bihar that the local and STD telephone service always remain disrupted and the consumers have to face much difficulties. Special discussion should be held to give SSA status to Sitamarhi telephone Exchange.

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion should be held in the House for legislation to reduce working hours due to increase of work load on the workers at workplaces on account of the increasing automation.

Discussion should be held in the House to bring legislation to check the suicides on account of increasing unemployment and poverty in the country and to launch the remove riches (Amiri Hatao) programme in order to alleviate poverty as well as eradicate unemployment.

[*English*]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. The problems faced by the coconut cultivators in the country due to the reduction of import duty on palm oil.
2. Various difficulties being faced by the common people due to the loopholes in the Public Distribution System in the country.

12.08 hrs.

MOTION RE: FIFTIETH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Fiftieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the Home on the 30th April, 2003".

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fiftieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the Home on the 30th April, 2003."

The motion was adopted.

12.09 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER*

Recent Developments regarding Indo-Pak relations

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I received a telephone call on the evening of 28th April, from Shri Jamali, P.M. of Pakistan.

P.M. Shri Jamali conveyed his appreciation and thanks for the comments I had made in Srinagar and my remarks about India-Pakistan relations contained in my statement in the two Houses of Parliament. He also condemned terrorism.

As hon. Members are aware, we are committed to the improvement of relations with Pakistan, and are willing to grasp every opportunity for doing so. However, we have repeatedly expressed the need to create a conducive atmosphere for a sustained dialogue, which necessary requires an end to cross border terrorism and the dismantling of its infrastructure.

We discussed ways of carrying forward our bilateral relations. In this regard, I emphasized the importance of economic cooperation, cultural exchanges, people-to-people contacts and civil aviation links. These would create an environment in which difficult issues in our bilateral relations could be addressed. PM Jamali suggested resumption of sporting links between the two countries. We agreed that, as a beginning, these measures could be considered.

In this context, it has been decided to appoint a High Commissioner to Pakistan and to restore the civil aviation links on a reciprocal basis.

I also emphasized the importance of substantive progress on the decisions for regional trade and economic cooperation taken at the SAARC Kathmandu Summit. Agreements arrived at Kathmandu must be implemented....(Interruptions)

*[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7624/2003]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The normal practice has been that we do not permit questions on such type of statements. In our House there is no practice of allowing such questions.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious subject. Entire country is concerned over it. Pakistan is encouraging terrorism unabatedly and providing chemical weapons to the terrorists. What is the rationale behind holding talks with Pakistan in such a situation. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Khiri): Parliament had passed a resolution in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to discuss this issue, you can come to the Business Advisory Committee and get the time. But, as a very special case. I am permitting Shri Shivraj Patil to put a question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister has to go to the other House at 12.30 p.m. So, please do not take the time of the House unnecessarily by interruptions.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, permission be given to ask questions from the hon. Prime Minister.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, please sit down. If we get the time, you will be allowed to ask a question.

[Translation]

Why are you wasting the time of the House in this manner.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): The Leader of the Opposition and the Congress Party have been saying that dialogue is one of the routes which has to be taken

by our country to solve the problem between India and Pakistan. Having said this, I would request yourself that this issue should be taken up on the floor of the House and all other hon. Members also should be allowed to make their statements at a later stage, convenient to both the sides.

I have one or two questions to ask the hon. Prime Minister and I hope that he would enlighten us on these questions. Gen. Jay Garner is alleged to have made a statement with regard to the Kashmir issue. It is reported in *The Indian Express* and *Asian Age*. I seek your permission to read out a portion of it to the House.

"We will ensure that a permanent solution of the perennial Kashmir problem is in place by December 2004 at the latest. US Government has decided to solve this problem once and for all. South Asia is the world's most volatile region, especially because of the proven weapons of mass destruction it possesses. It is even more dangerous than North Korea because of the history. A Kashmir roadmap will follow in the wake of the West Asia roadmap aimed at resolving the Palestinian issue."

Has the Government seen this report? Would the Government ascertain if such a statement has been made, and what would be the reaction of the Government to such a statement, if it is true?

We would request the hon. Prime Minister to enlighten us on this issue. This has relevance to the talk between India and Pakistan.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, House will always be taken into confidence regarding the ongoing talks with Pakistan, Government do not intend to conceal anything. However the insistence to reveal all, which is being discussed will not be of any help in the discussion. I am ready to hold a discussion on Indo-Pak relations if the House wants so and it is upto Mr. Speaker to allot time for it.

MR. SPEAKER: Business Advisory Committee is also there.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The House accepts the proposal of hon. Prime Minister to hold a discussion on it next week.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You have to give the assurance that the number of Members present during the discussion should be fairly large.

Shri Patil Saheb has asked a question and has quoted some General Saheb. I have also seen that quote. I have tried to find out the truth regarding it. It will not be right to say that it is the attitude of the United States of America. Several speculations are being made at present. Several persons want to play the role of mediator but they are not clear about as to why and how they want to mediate. India consider the Kashmir issue as bilateral one and the intervention of a third party is neither desirable nor acceptable to us...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When Prime Minister has said here that firstly it will be approved by the Business Advisory Committee then it will be discussed. Right now, what is the need to raise questions on it. The Bill presented by Shri Arun Jaitley is to be introduced first, and Zero Hour would follow.

...(Interruptions)

12.19 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (NINETY-SIXTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003*

(Amendment of articles 81, 82, 170 and 330)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I introduce** the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 2.5.2003.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: There is notice of Shri G.M. Banatwallaji.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, mine is the first notice. This is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no first or second. I will give you permission to speak, I have not denied you.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very serious and worrisome situation is emerging. Innocent Muslims belonging to minority community are being harassed in the various parts of the country in the name of carrying out investigation and by labelling them as ISI agents or terrorists. Whether it be Ahmedabad or Godhara in Gujarat, village Borrivelli of Pardha of district Thane in Maharashtra, police is creating an atmosphere of terror at various places...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South-Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is happening in various States that is whether somebody is harassed or not, is not the concern of proceedings of the House and it is not related to centre any way...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Police is creating an atmosphere of terror...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, this is a State subject. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Muslim youths in large number are being harassed in the name of carrying out the investigation after the murder of Shri Haren Pandya. Police pick them up from their homes in the night and leave them after beating them blue. An atmosphere of terror is prevailing in Godhara after the arrest of Maulvi Hussain Overji there. He is a religious person who had enthusiastically participated in relief work and in representing the grievances of the oppressed persons. The entire details have been reported in the "Hindu" dated 20th April. It has been reported by the people's union for Democratic Rights that 124 persons had been arrested under POTA in a single case. An atmosphere of terror is prevailing. Similar atmosphere of terror is prevailing in the village Borivili of Pardha in Maharashtra. The police teams have been creating terror in the villages in the

name of investigating the bomb explosion in Mulund by embarking upon the villages in large number. People are terrorised and whether it is Natchin or Khot, youth are being harassed everywhere. The transport has come to a standstill in Bhivendi and Borivelli village. Police harass the people by blocking the vehicles midway. The Government cannot remain a mute spectator. Our Government should take necessary steps to check this harassment and persecution. Police has created an atmosphere of terror and fear and all Muslims are being labelled as terrorists. What sort of treatment it is? The Government should take necessary measures to promote communal harmony and to check the harassment of innocent people.

MR. SPEAKER: Ramji Lal Suman.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You had told that you will call Prabhunathji after him.

MR. SPEAKER: I have told that he will be called after the present speaker.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): They have to resolve their differences but we do not have any differences. Therefore, let me speak first...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Zero Hour notice is also to be taken up after this.

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are raising the matter of State and it is absolutely wrong...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: You have given me the permission to speak. Then how can they stop me...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this has become everyday's affair...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you replying them, you better make your submission.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not heard the subject. I have the right to hear. Later on you oppose otherwise I will deliver my decision.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the office of youth organisation of Samajwadi party i.e. Samajwadi Yuvajan Sabha, Uttar Pradesh which is situated at Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg in Lucknow...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: There is no relation with that...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is wrong this submission.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Why they interrupt my speech like this? What is this?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you looking at them. You better address the Chair and make your submission.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Ramji Lal Suman should be taught the decorum. He is unaware of the decorum. He speaks like this...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, afterwards you can oppose whatever he says.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has given a notice seeking permission to raise the matter during the 'Zero Hour'. We are accepting notices which seek permission to raise State matters during 'Zero Hour'.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you would not stop Shri Alvi and the continues like this, then how can I make my submission....(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all Shri Ramji Lal Suman should be educated about decorum...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I will learn decorum from you...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the office of Yuvajan Sabha i.e. youth organisation of Samajwadi Party was situated at

Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg in Lucknow. Earlier it used to be the State office of Samajwadi Party but gradually the party expanded and the space of that office appeared less therefore the party office was transferred to Vikramaditya Marg and that location remained as the office of Yuvajan Sabha.

Sir, the State Government have sent a notice to vacate it. We appealed against that notice in the Allahabad High Court bench of Lucknow Court. A news has also been published in this regard, which I would like to read "During the course of hearing it was requested that this case should not be heard by a single judge bench instead the hearing should be done in front of two Judge Bench"...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a State matter and it should not be raised in the House...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got decision of the court in my hand. It is written over it that no action should be taken in regard to vacate the office. This is the decision of Lucknow bench. Today is the date of hearing. Stay order have been obtained. Despite the stay order the house has been vacated by the U.P. Government and have been allocated to Amarmani Tripathi...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a State matter and it should not be allowed to discuss over here...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Sumanji, please conclude.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that house was vacated forcefully and was allotted to Shri Tripathi. We seek justice. The U.P. Government is committing injustice with us. It is a serious matter...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Suman, because it is a serious matter therefore, we have given you opportunity to speak but it does not mean that you keep on talking. Another Member of your party Kunwar Akhilesh Singh have also given notice. You are not allowing even him to speak. Who should speak and who should not is solely my discretion. I have given opportunity to Kunwar Akhilesh Singh.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite the orders of the court the office was vacated forcefully. It is a grave matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Would you not let the other Members of your party speak?

[English]

Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, you can speak on this issue. Your point should be restricted to this issue only.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a criminal Minister of Uttar Pradesh who was charged with Rs. 1 lakh fine by hon. High Court and presently who is in the Cabinet of Bhartiya Janata Party and who was put behind the bars by the Rajnath Singh Government in a case of kidnapping...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: How can he say that?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no allegations should be made against any person who is not present in the House. Hon. Member is allegedly making clear cut allegations. My request is that he should be restricted from this. We know that their party have some leaders against whom some 100 or 80 cases are pending...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that Lucknow bench of hon. High Court has granted stay order in this matter wherein the court ordered to maintain status quo in respect of Yuvajan Sabha Office of Samajwadi Party. But democracy was murdered in Lucknow. The police beat up leader of the opposition...*(Interruptions)* Shri Ahmed Hassan of Samajwadi Party in Legislative Council. He was dragged and taken into custody.

MR. SPEAKER: Alvi ji, you speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, let me complete...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Sir, I have also given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not give permission to everyone to speak. The issue has come up before the House and I will not allow everyone to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, I have no objection to Shri Alvi ji speaking. But, let me complete my speech. I would conclude within two minutes. Order of Lucknow Bench of the High Court was not complied with. In violation of the order of hon. High Court and at the behest of Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Leader of the Opposition, Shri Ahmed Hassan, in Legislative Council of Uttar Pradesh and several other legislators of Samajwadi Party were arrested...*(Interruptions)* office of Yuvajan Sabha was got vacated.

MR. SPEAKER: It would tantamount to Contempt of Court.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is the need of raising this issue here?

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, all the parties have their offices in all the States and if this practice is not checked...*(Interruptions)* office of any party will not be safe.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a State subject. Therefore, I would not allow anyone to speak on this issue in Lok Sabha.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can move court for this purpose.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Sir, I have given a notice too...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: See, there are many people to speak. Shri C.N. Singh, you are a mature person and a very good hon. Member.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, I would just like to submit that if decency and decorum are not maintained in Lok

Sabha and Parliament then there would be no meaning of a debate...(*Interruptions*) Sir, he is again interrupting.

MR. SPEAKER: If you feel he has no right to speak, I do not agree with you. Alvi ji, you speak, what all you speak will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Alvi ji, please do not get distracted. You say whatever you want to and conclude your speech soon.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Sir, you ordered me to sit down and I sat down. He should listen to others speeches too...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I asked him to sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, you may be as brief as possible.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have associated the names of the Shri C.N. Singh, Shri Ravi Prakash Verma and Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel with the motion which was moved by him.

[*Translation*]

He is associating.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Sir, my notice is separate...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If your notice is separate, I would give you an opportunity to speak later on.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have 22 notices. Do other hon. Members have no right to speak?

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Sir, please allow me to speak for half a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: Right now, I will not give you even half a minute. I would give you time later on.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot raise this matter here, court is the appropriate place.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I should have rejected it at the first instance itself. When I considered your case, you have no sympathy for other Members.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: If you insist that it is a very important matter, then I would say that it is a State subject and hence can be raised in Vidhan Sabha.

...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, Vidhan Sabha is not in session...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You may move court. There you will get relief and not here.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, you can only make a statement that this is all wrong. That is all.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, neither I would like to go in more detail, nor I would like to speak against any political party. First, I would start with my party. If I or Members of my party violate rules of Lok Sabha, you may take most stringent action...(*Interruptions*) Sir, he is again interrupting. If there is no decorum in Lok Sabha, then what would be the use of speaking or holding discussion. Lok Sabha is not wrestling arena...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: They are doing daily this thing in Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down, he did not name your party.

[English]

Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have my full protection, you can speak.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: The way all this is happening, it is not giving a good signal in the country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we need your protection. When there is no session of Vidhan Sabha where can we raise our issues? If you get Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha its session be convened, we will not trouble you by raising our issues here. We are ready to have discussion in Vidhan Sabha but if the leader of opposition is not allowed to speak on no-confidence motion and the budget is passed without any discussion then what alternative is left with us. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: For this you should take the protection of the Governor, why are you seeking protection here.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: If they are so much interested in issues pertaining to Assembly then they should be sent there. It will help to conduct the proceedings of Lok Sabha smoothly and they may also do whatever they like in the Assembly. I would request you to tell the MPs. I am not referring particularly to him, as to how the Lok Sabha function. Our forefathers...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: He will tell us how the Lok Sabha should be conducted? He has brought degradation to the Vidhan Sabha and the State and now he is giving you the advice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Don't you want to speak? I have given you the chance to speak thrice, but instead of speaking on the subject you are speaking on what procedure to be adopted in the Lok Sabha and in the

Legislative Assembly. This subject cannot be discussed in the Zero Hour. Both of you please sit down, Shri Prabhunath Singhji, you may speak now.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Please, let me speak, Hon'ble Speaker is calling me...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: It would be wrong if you would not allow me to speak. Please allow me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you address him?

[English]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, the House will be conducted by you and not by anybody else. When you have given me a chance, why are they creating this problem?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singhji, let him speak. You are not refuting the charges instead you are speaking vague. We will not make any discussion here regarding code of conduct, we will discuss this in the Committee.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I just want to say that the House should be conducted properly...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is not saying anything to you, why are you getting annoyed, you please sit down? Though, he is not saying anything to you even then you are getting up, what happened to you? Have you been annoyed with anyone.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: If the State matters are raised in the Lok Sabha everyday and if the adjournment motion are moved...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: They want to kill the democracy...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given him the permission to speak.

[English]

Please do not disturb him now.

[Translation]

You please sit down and don't interrupt the proceedings. There is no need to interrupt the

proceedings. Shri Rashid Alvi ji, you can speak now. Despite the fact that you are having the protection of Speaker, you are not speaking on the main issue.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you give permission to these people for moving adjournment motion everyday and they create chaos here. This is my only submission.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow you to speak on this subject because giving permission is my right and I am using this right. It is at my discretion to give or not to give permission to him and I will do that. You come to my chamber, and I will tell you what has to be done.

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: You should allow our leader to speak at least for two minutes...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving him full protection but he is not speaking on the subject.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: We are fully obeying your order but you are getting up every now and then...(*Interruptions*). Other Members speak on various issues related to country...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving protection to your leader but this does not mean that he.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Our leader may also be allowed to speak...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make one submission that we hear other members but when you call our names then they do not let us to speak and thus our time expires. These people should to create disturbance or else we will do the same. We will listen to their speeches therefore when you call our names they should also sit and listen our speeches. Why do they disturb. This is not proper...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is the last time I am giving you a warning that you must speak on this subject and not on anything else.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no intention to raise other issue in Zero Hour. I only want that the House should be conducted properly as per rules...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I totally agree with you and I support you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is wasting the time of the House...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House should be conducted properly as per rules...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Issues other than the main subject should not be allowed to be raised. This is my only submission. Besides this, I do not want to say anything else...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, this country obeys the law and law enables to administer the country...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am happy that everyone is talking about Law and rules.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

Re: Reported 'Lathi Rally' organised by the Bihar Government in Patna leading to Law and Order problem in the State

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Bihar State there is open violation of Law. 'Lathi rally' was organised by Rashtriya Janata Dal in the State on 30th April. Killings started day before 'Lathi Rally' was organised on 30th April. Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, leader of Bharatiya Janta Party was

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

murdered in a well planned manner. Anarchy prevails throughout Bihar, the atmosphere is tense and the Central Government is keeping mum over Bihar.

I would like to ask after all what for Article 356 has been enacted and under what circumstances it can be imposed? Today, the condition in Bihar is fit for application of Article 356 to impose President's Rule. Similarly, POTA should be used against any person perpetrating terrorism or creating terrorism like conditions. Though it can not be used against the Government of Bihar, it can surely be used against Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav. Therefore, my submission is that President's Rule be imposed in Bihar, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav should be arrested under POTA and sent to jail so that rule of law can be restored in Bihar and a healthy atmosphere is created.

Hon. Minister is sitting here. We try to apprise the Government about the condition prevailing in Bihar through newspapers and other forms of media and also by raising the matter in Lok Sabha. But the Government gives no response. I would like to ask hon. Sharad Yadav ji, the only senior Minister sitting here at present, as to what steps the Government propose to take in respect of Bihar or he too wants to keep silence over situation prevailing in Bihar. Anarchy has created tension in the villages. No businessman is in a position to conduct his business smoothly. Schools and colleges are getting closed down and parents are not in a position of sending their children to schools. We would like you to direct the Government to tell as to what action they propose to take in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too want to speak. I have been requesting you right from beginning of this session...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would associate your name.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: I associate. What I want to say is that right from beginning of the session I have been requesting to hold a discussion on Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav is directly involved in that murder as Shri Satyanarayan Sinha was dragged near the door of his Samadhi's house and murdered...*(Interruptions)* Terrorism prevail throughout Bihar today...*(Interruptions)* Yesterday, a BJP worker was shot at in Bihar creating riot like situation. Please are scared of terrorism. No shopkeeper could open his shop

because of Lathi Rally at Patna. No one dared to come on roads. I do agree with Shri Prabhunath Singhji that President's Rule should be imposed in Bihar, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav and his relatives should be arrested under POTA otherwise the situation in Bihar will become more serious...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kirti Jha Azad, you speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Sir, his voice is so loud that it would assimilate my voice, therefore, I associate...*(interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: Fortunately Shri Raghuvansh Babu is not here otherwise your voice would have become more dim.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, right from beginning of the session I have been requesting you to hold discussion on Bihar. I had apprised you of atrocities being committed on the people over there. People are killed in fake encounters. Now the condition has become such that after every week or ten days some or the other RJD Minister has to demerit the office as he is found involved either in kidnapping, rape or dacoity. Not only this, even there have been instances when defence personnel carrying money from banks have been shot at. A meager amount of even 2-3 thousand rupees they draw from banks is looted. People are murdered in fake encounters. We are not concerned about Lathies, the question is how to save the democracy? Shri Satyanarayan Sinha contested election and got killed. Lal Muni Choubey ji has told you where he was killed, I do agree that Article 356 should be imposed in Bihar. CBI should be asked to investigate the encounter deaths. Congress is mute spectator of anarchy, dacoity and rapes being committed in Bihar and it is supporting the Government. It means Congress is keeping mum and supports loot, rape etc...*(Interruptions)* Congress should introspect itself. Congress is supporting loot and rape. They should express their views in this regard. You see, he has come to this side on this issue, which means he himself does not support his party, that is why he has come to our side. My submission is that killings should be investigated by CBI...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Neither I have allowed discussion on this issue nor you have given a notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, has he given a notice?

MR. SPEAKER: I have not at all allowed him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: We want that Article 356 should be imposed. It is defaming the name of Congress also...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Kirti Azadji, please sit down.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: CBI inquiry should be held to investigate the deaths, especially of Shri Satyanarayan Sinha. And they should tell as to what action the Government propose to take...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot prevent Minister from speaking. Kirti Jha Azadji, you daily find it in newspapers, electronic media etc. How long will it go?

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Mr. Speaker Sir, as I am also a sufferer, so I associate my name also with it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I associate your name also with this issue.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, lady Member wants to speak...(Interruptions) It is a matter of ladies...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Issues of other hon. Members are also to be taken up.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Please give her only one minute.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: They kidnapped a married woman...(Interruptions) Chairperson of National Council for Women...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: I associate myself with the concern expressed by hon. Members, Shri Prabhunath Singh ji, Shri Chaubey and Shri Kirti Azad regarding bad state of affairs in Bihar and I want to tell you that if same condition prevails in Bihar and the Government of India remains a mute spectator then life of peoples' representatives like us would become difficult. Therefore, my submission is that Article 356 may be invoked in Bihar alongside imposition of President's rule and officers may be arrested under POTA and justice may be done with the people...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The condition in Uttar Pradesh, too, is bad...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed him.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH (Pratapgarh): I would like to bring to your notice that the Minister of Environment and Forests, Government of India, distributed a booklet...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue does not pertain to Bihar...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You speak on this issue only.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Bihar issue is very serious. Entire Bihar is burning. As has been mentioned just now murders have taken place. The greatest problem is demand of imposition of Article 356 which needs to be ratified in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha later on, whereas Congress openly supports Bihar Government. Earlier also, when Article 356 was imposed, Congress defeated that in Rajya Sabha creating a constitutional impasse. Corruption is rampant in Bihar, thousands of employees have not been paid salaries whereas Rs. 50 crore have been spent on Lathi Rally. Private buses were forcibly impounded which were used for carrying public to rally. Such a jungle rule prevails in Bihar. Under prevailing conditions, Congress is fully responsible for it as it is supporting them...(Interruptions) So much anarchy is going on there...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): They are creating all the problems. Why are they blaming the Congress?... (Interruptions) Why are they mentioning all this? They are creating a law and order problem.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: It is supporting the looters...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): I would intimate hon. Minister of Home Affairs regarding the issue raised by hon. Prabhunath ji.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Inform hon. Minister of Home Affairs regarding bad state of affairs in Uttar Pradesh. It is murder of democracy there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH (Pratapgarh): Sir, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, has issued a bulletin, *Montreal Protocol: India's success story*...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh ji, a lady is speaking, so let her speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: In this bulletin, the Government has written about the ozone depleting substances.

The UNDP has given the Government a lot of assistance so that these factories could be re-established and these ozone depleting substances could be phased out under a country programme. Our country has received over \$125 million from the UNDP to phase cut these ozone depleting substances but over the past few years it has been brought to our notice that fictitious companies are also being given these funds. These fictitious companies are not fulfilling the guidelines of the Government; only the Chartered Accountant's reports are submitted and they do not fall within the format. So, I would request the Ministry of Environment and Forests of the Government of India to take steps to see that the right type of companies get these funds.

SHRI V. VETRISILVAN (Krishnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for a long time, there has been a demand of the people of Tamil Nadu to declare Tamil language a classical language as well as an official language.

Tamil is the oldest language and it has a history of more than 2,000 years. This language fulfils all the codes such as age of the language, uniqueness, general

acceptability, neutrality and culture, no influence from other languages, etc., which are needed to declare any language a classical language. Out of 600 important languages of the world, only six languages have a history of 2,000 years or more, of which Tamil is one.

Our DMK leader, hon. Kalaingar Karunanidhi, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written a letter to the Prime Minister of India to declare Tamil a classical language. Apart from this, the Central Language Organisation in Mysore has also recommended declaring Tamil as a classical as well as an official language. So, I request the hon. Prime Minister to consider the demand of the people of Tamil Nadu our DMK leader on a priority basis and declare Tamil a classical language as well as an official language...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Sir, there has been a demand from the hon. Chief Minister also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members please take your seat.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, let me also associate myself.

The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has also written to the hon. Prime Minister and asked him to declare Tamil an official language. Time and again, we have been repeating this demand. It has been consistently ignored...*(Interruptions)* Almost about fifteen crore people speak Tamil.

MR. SPEAKER: You can only associate; you cannot give a speech.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, the Government has to respond to this demand because this has been a demand since Independence and there has been no action on this.

There were acrimonious scenes in the House because Tamil had been removed from the signboards on the National Highways. All these things are happening because Tamil has not been declared an official language. Therefore, we urge that it should be acceded to. The hon. Chief Minister has written to the hon. Prime Minister and we want a reply from the hon. Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, may I say something on this point?...*(Interruptions)*

It is the policy of the Government of India to help the people understand the signboards on roads. It is also the policy of the Government of India that three languages should be used. If in Tamil Nadu, people have difficulty in understanding the Hindi language used on the signboards, along with the Hindi language, I am repeating, along with the Hindi language, English also should be used to indicate where the road leads...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: We would like to clarify on this point. In several places only English and Hindi are used. We find only these two languages but the local people do not know these two languages...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This has already been agreed upon. The hon. Minister has already agreed to the three-language formula.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, there is a clarification. If English alone were to be added, there would be a lot of problems...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Sir, the Government must give preference to the Tamil language in Tamil Nadu...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It has been agreed to.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I think, last time also there was a discussion on the issue and the hon. Minister made a statement. You are all aware of it. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, it has not been restored back. This is my urge to the Government. Though the Government has assured, yet it has not been restored in any of the boards on the National Highways. Only English and Hindi boards have been formed, but Tamil speaking people do not know how to read them and where to go. This is a very serious situation because nowhere we find this...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the serious problems faced by the agricultural plantations in Kerala especially rubber, tea and coffee plantations. I agree that

the price of rubber is slightly improved but the situation in tea and coffee plantations. I agree that the price of rubber is slightly improved but the situation in tea and coffee plantations is very pathetic. These plantations are not even getting back their production cost. The Central Government has not yet taken any measures to get a fare price to these produces.

It is reported that the owners of coffee plantations are abandoning the plantations. Tea plantations are facing closure from the owners. Among the total plantations in the country, 45 per cent are in Kerala. In my constituency, Cannanore, a good percentage of Wayanad regions are filled with coffee and tea plantations. A very large number of people are working in this sector.

The hon. Minister of Commerce, Shri Arun Jaitely, made a promise in the Rajya Sabha in December last year that an Expert Committee will visit the tea plantations...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Abdullakutty, please conclude now. One thing, you cannot read in the House during the 'Zero Hour'. You have to only say whatever you want to say.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, I request through you to the Government that an Expert Committee should visit the tea plantations.

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Government to important recommendations of National Commission for Cattle. Under the directions of hon. Prime Minister this commission was constituted in 1991, within one year, the commission toured the country and conducted research works regarding protection and promotion of Indian breed of cows in various parts of India. The Commission submitted a 15-page report to the Government of India on 31 August, 2002. The commission based on various reasons, be it economic, social or religious, has warned the Government of India that Indian breed of cow is being annihilated under some sort of conspiracy. Therefore, it is in broader national interest to protect it. Thus, I would urge the Government of India to accept the recommendations of said Commission and put a blanket-ban on cow slaughter.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Government towards newly created Chhattisgarh State. Chhattisgarh as a new State

[Shri Punnulal Mohale]

was created out of Madhya Pradesh. Out of 90 MLAs in Chhattisgarh, 34 are from SCs and 9 from STs. The Central Government created this new State so that development of backward people of Chhattisgarh may take place. But pace of development in the State is negligible. The Government is busy in extravagant expenditure such air-travel, futile expenditure on Officers/employees and Government vehicles. No Government wants to spend from its Consolidated Fund. Some development work is being done out of funds allocated by the Central Government. Therefore, my submission is that the Central Government should announce a package of Rs. 300 crore to Chhattisgarh for tackling the famine and also for development of Scheduled Castes and other classes of Chhattisgarh.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, charges on telephone from landline to cellular have been increased from 1 May. As TRAI has informed and it has been reported in the newspapers as well that cell to cell incoming calls have become free. Now less people will opt for landline. If we telephone from landline to mobile, charges for three minute would be Rs. 7.20, i.e. it has increased by 6 points. Now more people would communicate by mobile. May be, it may have either been done by mobile-lobby or officers of MTNL and BSNL. As rates of MTNL and BSNL have increased, less people would use their phones. In view of monthly rental of Rs. 250, less people would use landline which means BSNL will go in loss, resulting in its disinvestment. BSNL is also under hon. Minister of Disinvestment. There may be some conspiracy as since it will go in loss, it will be sold out. It is injustice to the common man. Therefore, my submission is that monthly charges be reduced from Rs. 250 a month and status-quo may be maintained in respect of monthly rental. Earlier, 75 calls were free which have been reduced to 30. My party, Shiv Sena is also going to demonstrate against it. First, we will 'gherao' our hon. Minister as he is Minister of Disinvestment too. It is not good at all and is a great injustice to the people of the country.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to express concern over great injustice being done to farmers by Multinational Companies and other seed companies and I need your protection. I hail from where crops of farmers get damaged in large scale due to floods. They compensate it by maize crop. Cargil seeds, a multinational company sold maize-seeds on a large scale at quite high rates. Farmers

purchased Cargil seeds and the crop came in bloom but no grain grew on ear of its corn. Matter was investigated and it was found a case of connivance and the bad weather was blamed. A farmer in Muzaffarpur had sown maize crop in 30 acres but since not a grain grew on its ear of corn, the farmer committed suicide. My submission is that the matter may be investigated and the farmers may be given appropriate compensation.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, some States, such as Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are facing severe power crisis. The Central Government says it would supply adequate power to the States who have signed Reforms Act 2000. Madhya Pradesh is one of those States who first signed the said Act but power was not supplied to it. The State was told to divide the existing Electricity Board into five companies. We implemented that proposal even within two years yet we were not provided with power supply. Later on we were asked to increase our monthly revenue earnings, which we raised to Rs. 390 crore from Rs. 280 crore. Even then we were not provided with electricity. Then we were asked to sign MOU. We were told that 100 MW power will be supplied to us from NTP Oraiya. So far only 50 MW power has been supplied. Today, the condition is such the Madhya Pradesh is facing a severe power crisis. During 15 days, power generation in Korba or Vindhyachal Thermal Power Plant has dropped by 1100 MW. My submission is that power may be purchased from surplus power holders such as Eastern Region or National Grid Corporation and be supplied to Madhya Pradesh so that power crisis can be solved.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 P.M.

13.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

[English]

14.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No. 15, that is, Indian Council of World Affairs (Amendment) Bill for consideration and passing. The time allotted for the debate is two hours. Mr. Minister, you may move the Bill for consideration and passing and you can also make a brief speech.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001, be taken into consideration."

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) was established in 1943 as a society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. In March, 1947, the ICWA had the privilege to host the historical Asian Relations Conference. In 1949, the Government of India exempted the ICWA from payment of Income Tax on all donations received by it. In 1955, the ICWA sponsored the establishment of the Indian School of International Studies, currently a part of the JNU. In 1956, the ICWA acquired the consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The ICWA was then headed by dedicated scholars and eminent academicians and politicians like Dr. Hridayanath Kunjru. The ICWA as a concept was given by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru. The Secretary of the Council of the Sapru House was Dr. Appadorai, who was an eminent scholar and who was renowned for his international knowledge.

The Library of the Sapru House was known to be one of the best-stocked libraries not only in Delhi but perhaps, in the whole of India. This was an institution frequently visited by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, who is considered by this House and by this country as the father and founder of India's Foreign Policy. As you yourself remember, Sir, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1927, on behalf of the people of India, had gone to attend the 'League against Imperialism' at Brussels where he outlined India's foreign policy, and it is the same foreign policy which, with continuity and change, we have adopted. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, as Prime Minister, had been always a regular visitor to this Institute.

Why I am giving this background is because this is an Institute which had the privilege of being associated

with eminent scholars, Constitution-makers, law-makers and those who were related to the formulation of India's foreign policy. Eminent luminaries like Dr. S. Radhakrishnan and Dr. Zakir Hussain were also very closely associated with this Institute.

From its very inception, one of the important activities of the ICWA has been holding periodical lectures, meetings, and seminars. Besides Indian and foreign scholars and statesmen, visiting dignitaries of many foreign countries addressed the meetings of the Council. I will mention a few notables names: They are Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Henry Kissinger, Oscar Fischer, Alexi Kosygin, Dag Hammarskjold, S. Ramphal, Margaret Thatcher, Kurt Waldheim, V. K. Krishna Menon, Roy Jenkins, Morarji Desai, Chandra Shekhar, President Ortega of Nicaragua, President Sam Nujoma of Namibia, His Holiness Dalai Lama, and many others. These were the people who were invited to deliver lectures at the Institute.

As you are aware and as may be readily inferred from the aforementioned activities of ICWA, with the active participation of distinguished men of letters and under the Presidentship of leading personalities such as Tej Bahadur Sapru, N. Kunzru and Sardar Swaran Singh, the Council ran very well for the first 38 years of its existence.

However, things started deteriorating after the appointment of the Working President of the Council in 1981. The Working President firmly established his control on the ICWA, when in 1986 he was elected as its President and got himself re-elected term after term. Throughout the 80s and 90s numerous complaints had been received from academicians, scholars and staff members condemning activities of the then President of the ICWA. Articles and editorials criticizing his functioning and urging the Government to intervene and restore the ICWA to its erstwhile pre-eminence continued to appear in the national media.

With a view to arresting the decline and to restore ICWA to its pristine glory, ICWA Ordinance (No. 3 of 2000) was promulgated on the 1st of September, 2000, declaring it an institution of national importance. The ICWA Ordinance was subsequently replaced by an Act of Parliament on September 3, 2001.

A lot of activities with a view to fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the ICWA have been undertaken after its takeover by the Government. The ICWA revived the publications *India Quarterly* and *Foreign Affairs Reports*. The ICWA premises are now being used to

[Shri Digvijay Singh]

hold important seminars and conferences almost every week. Since February, 2001 over 70 seminars have been organised. The ICWA will also be the nodal agency for Track-II diplomacy funded by the Ministry of External Affairs. The Africa Centre has been set up which will undertake a variety of programmes for rekindling public interest in Africa. The Secretariat of Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) India Committee has also been relocated in the Sapru House premises.

The ICWA after its takeover by the Government has undertaken and envisioned many new initiatives and activities. These include provision of offering Fellowships for research work, to expand and update the once upon a time famous Library and to have an active interaction with ICWA's counterparts in select countries.

This is the reason why we have brought this amendment before the House. This is a very small amendment and I hope the House would extend its support to it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not fully agree with the statement that the hon. Minister has just now given. Shri J.N. Dixit who is an expert on the foreign affairs has submitted that I would like to read here:

[English]

Shri Dixit says:

"The Council was the brainchild of some eminent Indians like Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Jawaharlal Nehru, and it should be endowed with a non-partisan institution which would deal with its external relations and foreign policy in the global context in conceptual terms. In modern jargon, it was to be an autonomous think tank independent of the Government...."

I repeat the words 'independent of the Government'.

"...independent of the Government but which would play a valuable supporting role in the fashioning of India's foreign policy and in sharpening perceptions about international politics in the changing world."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently detailed discussion was held in the House regarding the demands of the Ministry of External Affairs. The foreign policy of the country is very important. I could not yet understand the objective of moving this Bill. As per the information that has been given to us there were some charges against Shri Harcharan Singh Josh who was the president of this society. I think it was politically motivated. If there were charges against him then it could have been investigated. However, the way he has been removed is not proper.

[English]

Mr. Josh says:

"After having saffronised the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), the Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) and the Indira Gandhi Art Centre, the Government was now eyeing the ICWA."

[Translation]

He has levelled a serious allegation. He further stated—

[English]

"Mr. Jagmohan has no *locus standi* who introduced the Bill regarding ICWA in Parliament as he was the Union Urban Development Minister, and the building in Sapru House was in possession of the Ministry of External Affairs."

[Translation]

The charges that Mr. Josh has levelled against Shri Jag Mohan are of serious nature. I would like to know if the Government have guts to hold inquiry against him then why not hold inquiry against Shri Jag Mohanji. I have great honour for Shri Jag Mohanji, however, the allegation that has been levelled against him is as follows—

[English]

"Mr. Jagmohan had asked him to make the BJP-led NDA Government at the Centre, partners of ICWA, which was then operating from the prime location property Sapru House at Barakhamba Road."

He further said:

"Mr. Jagmohan also advised him to join the BJP. Mr. Josh said that because he rejected both these

requests, Mr. Jagmohan launched a campaign of vendetta against him and ICWA."

[*Translation*]

There is nothing more to say about. I would like to submit that if you take over this organisation then will you make this organisation the Non-Governmental Organisation as it has been. Do the Government have guts to allow discussion on whatever has happened in Iraq on the ICWA platform. Do the Government have such courage. We expressed our non-partition views there. It has been submitted in its Constitution—

[*English*]

"Director General would be of the rank equivalent to Additional Secretary to the Government of India".

[*Translation*]

I would like that instead of appointing and Director General from among the officers, the experts of the fields should be appointed there and there should be no politicisation of the issue.

At the end, I would like to submit that since this issue is pending in the High Court so there should not be any panic and well-considered steps should be taken in this regard so that the foreign policy of the country is strengthened and a well knit think tank is set up.

[*English*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Indian Council of World Affairs (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

Sir, about two years back, in 2001, this Bill was introduced and I had the occasion to speak there. I would not go into the controversies which have been now raised by the hon. Member, Shri Lakshman Singh from the Congress party because these controversies were also raised at that time in a much more forceful manner. Shri H.S. Josh was the last President of that body. He was the President of that Body for 20 years. Instead of Sapru House being utilised for the purpose of discussion on International Affairs, it was hired out for Punjabi plays like: '*Kudi Jawan, Gawandi Pareshan*' etc.

So it is a very good thing done by Shri Jagmohan that it was brought under the control of the Government. When it was brought under the control of the Government

after the Bill was passed, five Members from this Lok Sabha were nominated to the Board of that Council. And, I was also one of those Members nominated to that Council. Shri Rupchand Pal, Shri Madan Lal Khurana and others were also nominated as members of this Body by this House.

But Sir, I was very surprised to find that for the last two years, no meeting had taken place. I went to Sapru House several times and I spoke to the Director-General there, and he said: "Yes, I have also received your name but no action has been initiated by the Government."

I do not know who are the others members. The full-fledged body of the Council has not been nominated. At that time, I also wrote letters to the then External Affairs Minister; but I did not know what happened.

I was also very sorry that even if some members were nominated from this House, the initiative was not taken to form the Council. Now I understand the reason as to why it took so long a time. I am very happy that the hon. Minister has brought in the amendments like removing the word 'selected' and introducing the word 'nominated'. Previously in clause 3(g) for the words 'either media personalities or representatives of organisations', the words 'either media personalities or persons from organisations' were substituted. 'Representatives of organisation' means that they would be selected—that again means, that we will have to hold elections there itself; then only somebody will be elected and represent the organisation in this Council.

In a similar way, previously representatives of business world were supposed to be selected for this Council. Now those words have been removed and 'somebody from the business world' will be nominated and not selected. So, it is a very good thing. At that time itself this should have been thought of. Why did it take such a long time? It is also a very good thing that the Director-General of that institution has also been included in this Council as Ex-Officio Secretary. When I met the Director-General, he said that he was nobody, though he was the Secretary-General; and how come he could tell me when the meeting would be held. So, I commend this Government for including the Director-General who is at least of the rank of Additional Secretary in this Body, as a Member-Secretary. I fully commend it.

I am very happy that, though after a delay of two years, the Government has initiated the move to make it a full-fledged body. In the mean time, I had received so many invitations from the Secretary-General to attend

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

seminars and discussions on various important matters relating to foreign affairs of India. I attend all those meetings.

I was very happy to find that it is an Institute of very high class. I was surprised to find how this organisation was not in the hands of the Government for the last 20 years, and how it was just allowed to be governed by a Cooperator who had arranged members who were even fruit-sellers and rickshaw-pullers. They were also members of the Indian Council of World Affairs. It is a very surprising thing that it escaped the notice of the Government and that it took 20 years to bring it under the aegis of the Government of India.

Finally, I will say this. Lakhs of books that the library which Sapru House is having, have somehow been sold or removed and some have been given to the Jawaharlal Nehru University. I would appeal to the hon. Minister that he should see to it that in this very valuable library the books should be replenished. All those old books which are very valuable books regarding foreign policy of India should be re-purchased so that it comes back to its pristine glory.

I again commend this Bill; and this Bill should be passed as quickly as possible so that a full-fledged body functions.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): As everybody knows, the Indian Council of World Affairs is a prestigious body. People like Prof. Sapru gave leadership for organising this body. It is well known that Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr. Radhakrishnan and such eminent figures of our nation are closely associated with this body. It is a fact that in later years it degenerated and three Standing Committee Reports are there recommending that the Government should intervene and take over. Subsequent to that, the Government intervened and took over this prestigious institution.

When Jawahar Lal Nehru University was formed, as was mentioned here, major chunk of books was transferred to the University. I understand that even though the Government gave some grant for replenishing the books, it was not utilised properly. So, the need of the hour is that this should be given autonomy, if the intention behind this legislation is to be achieved. The Minister was mentioning about the reactive diplomacy and all. If that aim is to be achieved, this organisation should have sufficient autonomy. But this Bill does not help that. That is my point.

The Director-General is to be appointed directly by the Government. Of course, the Government's yes-man will be appointed there. This should be a place where prominent academicians, prominent personalities of our country and also from foreign country, should come and interact so that people in our country and also foreign Governments should have respect about this body. In this type of arrangement, I think it is not possible to achieve this. So, my point is, the track record of this Government, as was pointed out earlier, as we have seen in the Indian Council of Historical Research and the Indian Council of Sociological Research, is that everywhere controversial persons were appointed and it was made to suit the scheme of things which the Government intend. So, it should not be like that.

This should be a body where those people who are connected with our Foreign Policy initiatives, who are behind the making of our Foreign Policy should come. They must associate with it. This should be a platform of people where everyone interested in all these activities should come and discuss matters.

The Library should also be such that any research scholar, any student of international affairs in this country or foreign country, can come and do research to help our country's foreign policy initiatives. So, this should be the aim of the Government, otherwise, it will be like any other organisation in the country. Without helping our Government on foreign policy initiatives, it will be an old wine in a new bottle, a white elephant spending Government money.

So, since this Bill does not help such broad initiatives, I am constraint to oppose this Bill.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Sir, this Bill, in a way, shows how the BJP Government is lacking the vision in policy-making as also in creating or running the institutions. This Bill had originated as an Ordinance and was subsequently placed before both the Houses of Parliament.

There was heated debate and exchange of ideas. Finally, there was some conclusion that within three months a body is to be constituted by the President of India. But this Government could not act even on their own Bill, which has been made as Act. It has given a particular time limit to constitute the body but they could not do even this stipulated work. For overcoming that defect, they have come forward with this particular Bill. Except that, there is nothing new in it.

At the same time, we would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that the very intention of creating this under the Societies Registration Act is to have a policy-making body, to have a free and fair discussion without any bias or without any colour or without any political mind. Purely on the basis of international affairs that discussion should go on. That is the main purpose. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru created it and he loved it very much as the hon. Minister had mentioned in this first speech. He visited it very often and he had discussion with many luminaries. There were many exchange of ideas. He could also contribute his own thinking on the creation of Non-Aligned countries, and policy making. He tried to create a third force in the world beyond the USA and the USSR. Such a body is now being made a part of the Government machinery. Really, it is a thing which gives pain to the diplomats and also the people who deal in international affairs.

Now, a Government servant, a person who is known to the political figures of the day is going to be appointed as the Director-General and he is to work as one of the bureaucrats. He is not going to have a free mind to allow people to exchange their ideas. We saw in today's newspapers how the Americans are ready to tell through a retired General of their own Army that they are having the road map for solving the problem of Kashmir. That is the position of the Indian Affairs. We are running our foreign affairs in a manner where a retired General is visiting Karachi for a conclave and he allows one person to give some message to the newspaper and it catches the headlines. We are very much bothered in our foreign affairs. Are we working in our own way? Are we the leaders of our foreign affairs? It was the very prestige of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Even before the days of Independence, we were controlling the policy for Indian affairs.

After Independence, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had given a very good force and fresh blood to the way of our thinking in regard to foreign affairs. We had created a third force. We led the world, especially the developing, under-developed and poor countries. We were the world leaders of these forces. Now, where do we stand? We are just hearing some advice given by the USA or by some other force who are calling themselves the policeman of the world. Are we going in a correct way? Are we thinking in a way which is helpful for our country and for the nation and which is based on our blessings and guidance? Are we in a position to give economic and political thinking to the entire world? This is the question.

According to us, this is not a simple Bill. The Congress expects that there should be a clear thinking from the political angle and there should be a free discussion whenever any foreign policy is made by this Government. But we are short of it. When this Bill is passed, then again there will not be any limit for the bureaucracy to appoint Director-General or to constitute a body and allow them to discuss anything. Therefore, we oppose it and we feel that there should be a proper thinking before enacting this type of Bill. An institution which have got a great reputation is now being made as one of the bones of contention in the political arena.

I would like to sum up that the Government is lacking a thinking regarding the foreign affairs. They want to have saffronisation in each and every aspect. They have already started doing it in the field of education, health, etc. Everywhere, they want to dominate. Now, they have started doing this in the foreign affairs also. With this, we feel that the days of the foreign affairs which were having very high reputation, are over.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am pleased that hon. Members have expressed their views on the Bill that I have moved with your permission. Hon. Lakshman Singh initiated the discussion. I feel that if he had detailed information regarding the issue there would not have been any doubt in his mind. Regarding the Indian Council of World Affairs Bill that has been moved in the House, Shri Suresh Kurup has rightly submitted that the Standing Committee of Parliament not once but thrice has submitted that what is happening in Indian Council of World Affairs is not good and the Government should take corrective measures. For this it was suggested that the Government should take it over as an eminent institution. The Government is doing the same thing that was suggested by the Parliament and the Standing Committee.

As I have submitted in my speech that there was confusion in the minds of intellectuals regarding the last 20 years of working of the Indian Council of World Affairs that what was going to happen to this institution. Several hon. Members also referred that the way the institution was functioning did not contribute to the intellectual pursuits. I am proud to say that I myself studied in that library. I was the student of Jawaharlal Nehru University. As I have stated in my speech that Jawaharlal Nehru University was set up out of the institution and once its parts was included in the University. As a student I myself

[Shri Digvijay Singh]

studied in that library. I felt pride in reading in that library. I had never thought that one day I would have the honour to pass the Bill in the House. This institution was founded by great men and whatever political parties they belonged to or wherever they were they commended respect among the people. Shri Tej Bahadur Sapru was the founder of the institution and the persons like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru felt pride in visiting the institution once a week. He did not go there to deliver speech rather he used to go there to interact with Ph.D. Scholars. He discussed with the students regarding the shape of the foreign policy. Panditji himself used to visit there in a week or ten days. I would like to tell you about the Members of the governing body of the institution which was set up for the said objective and which was founded by such eminent persons. I have just now mentioned one name. Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru who was its President. You have rightly said Shri Hridaya Nath Kunjuru and Shrimati Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit were the members of the governing body. Similarly Shri Amar Nath Jha, Dr. M.S. Vaidya, Shri Gopal Swami Ayangar, Shri Devdas Gandhi, Shri Meharchand Khanna, Shri Narayan Mehta, Shri S.P. Ramaswami, Shri Singhania, Shri Tek Chand etc. were the members of the governing body at that time. The House will be ashamed to hear if I mentioned the names of the Members who were in governing body in the year 1999-2000. I would not like to read those names. Our several colleagues have rightly said that there were members in governing body who had nothing to do with intellectual pursuit. It is true that some of the members were selling oil or fruits. If I mentioned those names then people will be ashamed to hear that such persons were attached to this organisation.

I would like to humbly submit to you that the Government had no intention to bring this Bill. One and a half crore was given by the Government for the organisation. It was started by us. I would like to submit that efforts have been made by us to appoint the Vice President of India as its ex-officio Chairman. If anyone doubts this intention then the power has been delegated to the Hon. Speaker to nominate five Members. The Government has given power to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha to nominate three Members. The efforts have been made to include all those scholars of the country who are contributing separately to the international policy of the country. We have decided that at least two vice chancellors should be included in the Committee. We have also decided that the eminent journalists, eminent professors of the country...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): They would have been included in that.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Should I read the names of the persons who were there in the institution before the introduction of the Bill?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: We did not object to the first Bill consciously because the Government at that time had promised that it would treat it as an institute of national importance and something worthwhile will happen there. But what has happened during the last two years? It is a totally *mala fide* action that the Government is now doing there. What changes are they bringing about and for what reason?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, are you yielding?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: If he is contributing something, then I am prepared to yield; otherwise, not.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He is speaking as if he is going to say something very important. In his speech he is posing as if he is going to do the great favour to the nation.

[English]

We know of its holy past. We know the lofty ideals with which this institute was set up and we wanted that those should flourish. That was precisely the reason why we had supported the Bill last time. But what has happened during this period? For two years they had taken up the responsibility of seeing it become a vibrant instrument of policy making and of discussing the international affairs. What has happened during this period?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister has yielded.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I have yielded for him to seek clarification, not to make a speech...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I am grateful to him that he has yielded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you have some query, you may please ask it. You are not to make a speech. He was replying to the debate. You were not here.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The time given for this Bill is one hour. This could not have been concluded before that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is all right. The debate has already taken place and he was replying to it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please hear me for a minute? The Bill was taken up for consideration. Hon. Members had taken part in the debate and the Minister was on his legs for giving reply to the debate. You were not there. I thought now you were seeking a clarification. In the initial stage, he was not yielding. Then he yielded. If you have any clarification, you kindly ask that clarification so that he can give the reply.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I am seeking a clarification only.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Let me complete my reply and then you can seek clarification.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was mentioning all these things because if Shri Bansal would have been present at the beginning of discussion, the doubt would not have arisen. The Government are not having any such intentions. It's meeting has not been held for last two years. We are really sorry for it. We do not hesitate in saying this. We want to correct ourselves, so that no hindrance is caused in its processing. I have mentioned about the post of D.G. and I want that it should function smoothly. As I said earlier people see ulterior motive in it, but who can interference in Government's business in presence of Vice-President, Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Five Members of this House would be appointed by the Speaker and they will represent the entire House. The Member of Rajya Sabha would also be included in it and they will also represent the entire House. The Government is not going to interfere at any stage. It does not want to make amendments in the list prepared so far and the amendment is about D.G. only. The Government are not making any changes in the Bill. Eminent journalists, Vice-Chancellors and all other people would be included in the Committee. I would like to say that if anybody is having doubt on Government's intentions, the Government are ready for discussion in the House. The House would be given full liberty and right to hold discussion as it is done when discussion on Grant of this Ministry is held. As I said earlier, the Government want that there should

be one more agency, besides Government which should play major role regarding our foreign policy. Therefore, 60-70 seminars have been held till now, they helped us in formulation of foreign policy. They have contributed a lot in the policy formulation. The seminars held by this council have played important role for taking initiative regarding Africa. Therefore, it is not a fact that the Government want to destroy its existence by interfering in its matters or want to destroy its sovereignty. The Government are not having any such intentions.

Through you, I would like to request the House that the Government want to restore its lost prestige and our party Members are not included in that work. The people sitting on other side of this House are mainly connected with it whether it is Shri Zakir Hussain or Shri Radha Krishnan or Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. All of them were the founder Members of Congress and on that foundation Congress has grown. I am proud of it that these people have played major role through this organisation in formulation of foreign policy of the country and the Government want to carry out that tradition. The Government want that Indian Council of World Affairs should play an important role in formulation of foreign policy of the country so that India may emerge as powerful and strong nation. The Government are having only this intention to get this Bill passed but if some Members feel that the Government are having some other intentions, then I would like to say that the Government will try to clear their doubts. Ultimately, the House has to decide about the contents of Bill. Therefore, I would like to request that it is having only one amendment, that is about Director-General. Therefore, the House should pass it so that the Government can expedite the work of Indian Council of World Affairs.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Minister for having agreed to my saying a few words. I am sorry that I was not present when the Bill was otherwise taken up.

Sir, there are very simple clarifications which I would like to seek from him. He has said that, for various reasons, the meetings could not be held. Why could the meetings not be held? We charge the Government that they have failed to hold the meetings. Why we say so is because this is the idea of bringing about the amendments. Firstly, clause (g) says:

"seven members, who are either media personalities or representatives of organisations such as Indian

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

International Centre, Centre for Policy Research, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, Indian Council of Cultural Relations, and interested in the work and objectives of the Council to be selected by the Governing Body of the Council;"

These are the bodies which we thought are mentioned for a good cause. Now, who will decide that. The Government will pick up somebody from the India International Centre? It says 'anyone who is a member of the India International Centre'. Why could it then not be the President of the India International Centre? If they were to bring in an amendment to that effect, then I would have accepted saying that it is a fine and good amendment. But if they say that, 'out of these organisations, someone whom the President nominates', why should it be like that? If you are giving representation to certain bodies, why should it not be left, in the most laudable democratic norms that that particular body is given the right to send its representative? How will you pick up a representative of India International Centre yourself?

Sir, let the hon. Minister excuse me for saying that he is bringing in the name of the Vice-President because that is where we cannot speak. Who is doubting the integrity and *bona fides* of the President in doing something? It is only because we are saying it that the Government is trying to assume this power. Why at all this amendment then? What is the purpose of it? I would like him to explain that purpose.

When he talks of the Director-General, it is done in consultation with the Government. Why so? Why should the Government play a role in it? If you are wanting independent and good Non-Governmental Organisations to come forward in playing their role in the formulation of national policies on international affairs to deliberate upon matters of vital importance which have a bearing on our national interest, if you want those organisations to prosper, thrive and be vibrant organisations, then why should you poke in your nose? Why don't you just leave it to them? That was precisely the reason why I said that it was because of these factors that we had accepted the first Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your third clarification?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The third clarification relates to the Director-General to be nominated by the

Council. Now it is ex officio appointment in consultation with the government.

Similarly, the factors which the hon. Minister mentioned about the Members of Parliament being members of the body are extraneous factors. Who is doubting those things? My submission is, as many as 35 members have to be nominated. When there was a provision of nomination from other categories, why do you bring in nomination in this category of organisations also? I would like to know on this point.

Why have we brought in those organisations? Why do you not leave it to them to send their representatives?

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Bansal has expressed apprehension and I have already said, that a mistake has been committed and the meetings which would had been held, did not held. But as far as issue of India International Centre is concerned...(Interruptions) Bansal ji, first please listen.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Do not try to say that mistake has been committed and the Government is accepting it.

[English]

Our Deputy-Leader is present here. We thought that perhaps this Bill would go to the Standing Committee. It is because such amendments should go to the Standing Committee. So, please do not get excited over that. I know what I am doing.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): You can please reply to some questions that I would like to raise.

Sir, we have decided, under the rules, that any Bill which is introduced in the House, after the first reading, has to go to the Standing Committee. If it does not go to the Standing Committee, the House has to decide that it will not go to the Standing Committee, but it will be considered by this House.

Now, he has introduced the Bill. At the first reading, he can ask for the permission that this Bill should not go to the Standing Committee. That is a different issue. We have discussed it not once, twice or three times not only here but in the Committee also, and rulings also have been given from the Chair that no Bill will be considered

by this House without referring it to the Standing Committee. It is not once, but it has been discussed many times.

I am one of those persons who were responsible for drafting the rules for the Standing Committee. When we were drafting the rules for the Standing Committee, it was decided that all the Bills will be referred to the Standing Committee. Only the Bill which is of technical nature, that means where you have to change a date here or a comma there, will not go to the Standing Committee. If you do not want to send it to the Standing Committee, then this House has to decide that it will not go to the Standing Committee but it will be considered here. This is the law, this is the ruling and this is the practice. That procedure should be followed.

Now, you have introduced the Bill. It is not going to the Standing Committee. What has actually happened? They have introduced the Bill two years back. They have made so many provisions in it. Within two years' time, they want to change it. Why is this happening? It is because it did not go to the Standing Committee. It was not allowed to be considered by the Members in detail in the Standing Committee and in a hurry that Bill was passed. That is why you had to come back to this House within two years' time with this kind of a major amendment to this Bill. To avoid this kind of contingency, it was decided that way.

You can refer to or ask the Secretary-General as to whether the rulings have been given or not that all the Bills have to go to the Standing Committee. I am responsible for drafting these rules. I have drafted these rules. We have considered this. We have given rulings to this effect. The rulings were given not only by me but also by others who were sitting in the Chair. You can enquire from the Secretary-General if there is any doubt or ambiguity on this point and then a decision may be taken.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am surprised to listen to Shri Shivraj V. Patil. He is justified in saying that they had drafted the rules and it was decided that the Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee. But there is an appropriate time to raise every issue. You are also a Member of BAC. I myself present legislative business to be taken up on Government's behalf in BAC. It is decided in the

BAC whether this Bill should be sent to Standing Committee or would be presented for discussion. You yourself were present in the last meeting. Several Bills were presented therein, Shri Shivraj Patilji and Shri Pawan Kumar Bansalji said that this Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee and the Government has accepted that. But time allotted for this Bill was two hours. Not only this after there is a rule that the Minister should present the report of Business Advisory Committee in the House. After that the Minister reads the Government business to be taken up. I read that two hours have been allotted for Indian Council of World Affairs Bill. After that the Minister presents the Motion, which is accepted by the House. All this procedure has been adopted for this Bill. BAC has allotted the time. I, myself read about this Bill and the House agreed on it. After that this Bill has been brought for consideration and passing. A full discussion has been held on this Bill. The hon. Minister had given reply also. Now it is being said that the Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee. I am surprised to see that this question is being raised at this stage. If bill was to be referred to the Standing Committee then it should have been said in BAC and I would have discussed it with the hon. Minister and would have pleaded in the same way. The House has give its consent to it and I have presented a Motion in this regard. Everything has been mentioned in the Motion, it has been said in the Motion that this Bill would be taken in the beginning of next week. Today I moved a Motion and I have mentioned everything there in the House has given its consent in this regard. I could not at all understand that after completion of procedure on this Bill and after Minister's reply he is saying that the Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee.

Now hon. Minister has to request the House to pass it and the House is to pass it. As far as sending it to the Standing Committee is concerned, it should have been decided by the BAC. The House would have said that BAC took a wrong decision. The House should have decided at the time when the motion was moved that House agrees with everything except sending it to the Standing Committee. Entire process for the Bill has been completed. Since hon. Minister has replied to the queries after discussion on the Bill and now he is moving a motion to get it passed and now saying that it should be sent to the Standing Committee is not at all good.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have to reply to this point...*(Interruptions)* Let Shri Ram Naik have his say and then I will reply to it.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to tell one thing. I have been sitting in the House since the discussion on this Bill started. Not a single Member has demanded that the Bill should be sent to the Standing Committee...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Shivaganga): We have opposed it.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: You have opposed it. But you have never asked to send it to the Standing Committee...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me hear Shri Ram Naik. Why are you agitated?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not good to say so as the pretext of asking question in the form of clarification.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If any other hon. Member wants to speak, well, otherwise I would reply to it.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: What reply you would give, I am giving the reply. If you want to ask the question, you may do so...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am not addressing the issue to the hon. Minister but I am addressing this to the Chair...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: The House has to take a decision on it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, earlier, I spoke in English, now I will speak in Hindi. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is stunned. I would like to tell why her stunning is wrong. As she has newly become a Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and it is not my responsibility if she is not fully aware of rules. I would read out the rule. This is the stage when we have to do it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): He cannot say that Sushmaji is not aware of rules. It is wrong to say so...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I want to tell that I feel hurt interrupting hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. It hurts me telling that she could not understand it. I would like to tell her that this matter is not decided by BAC. Secondly, hon. Speaker has to take decision in this regard. Thirdly, there are three stages for passing of a Bill. First stage is of consideration second stage is of clause by clause reading and third stage is passing of Bill. It is specifically mentioned in rules that the Bill is required to be sent to Standing Committee after first reading. As in the case of introduction of Budget, Demands of Grants are sent to the Standing Committee after discussion on General Budget. It is a procedural requirement, but if I tell her that she is not aware of it, it would be bad. I want to tell that she is getting surprised at everything but it is procedural requirement.

[English]

The hon. Minister cannot refer to the discussions that had taken place in the Business Advisory Committee. Madam, if you have got the sanction of this House, you have got the sanction of this House to introduce the Bill and not to consider this Bill. Please understand it...*(Interruptions)* As I said earlier, you have got the sanction of this House to introduce the Bill...*(Interruptions)* We want a ruling from the Chair on this point.

15.00 hrs.

We want a ruling from the Chair on this point. You may give any ruling.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: First let him finish, then I would reply.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: She should reply and should surely raise this issue. She is telling that she is getting surprised. What happens in BAC? Do not refer it to that. Even I can tell what happened in BAC? It was decided in BAC and she was present there. If she wanted to take evidence, she could take evidence of other Members present there. It has been discussed here that each Bill is required to be sent to the Standing Committee. And if it is not sent to the Committee, permission of the House is required to be taken. In case of Constitution (Amendment) Bill also, we have told them what they want

to get it passed urgently, they will have to take permission of the House. If still she is getting surprised then it is wrong. The Bill is required to be sent to the Committee after first reading; before clause by clause reading. Therefore, it is the stage when the Bill should be sent to the Standing Committee.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, please let me speak. From 3 o'clock onwards the Private Members' Bill has to start. I have extended the time of this matter for tomorrow and then I will take up the Private Members' Bill.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Why, are you not taking up this?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the process has been completed...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It has been stated quite wrongly. Let me clear it....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have only said that it is not going to be over.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: He has told that I had taken permission of the House for Introduction, which is wrong. I had obtained permission for consideration and passing. That rule itself is different...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, let me first clear the rule to you.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, at least let me reply to these points...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Please reply but I will read out the rule....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry. Please let me complete.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please let me complete?

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had not taken permission for introduction but for consideration and passing. I am reading out the rule. I had moved a motion for consideration and passing not for introduction.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. only option is to take up the Private Members' Bill. It is already 3:05 p.m.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Am I not allowed to clear the rule to you?...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: What is being said is totally wrong. I have got motion passed for consideration and passing. It has been introduced a long time back.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have only one option now. Either I have to seek the permission.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is not a stage for first reading. This motion was for consideration and passing...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You are not able to make distinguished on motion meant for consideration and passing. When the Bill is introduced, the first stage is consideration....(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It has already been done. You are mistaken...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): The Bill has already been introduced and approved by the House. Today, it is only for the consideration of the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to seek the permission of the House to continue this matter till it is over or I have to stop it here and then continue it tomorrow.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Private Members' Bill had to be taken at 3 o'clock...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rashtrapal ji I have to take the sense of the House.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when the Freedom of Information Bill was taken up for consideration in the House, I spoke on that Bill. At that time, I had made a request that it should be referred to the Standing Committee and it was referred to the Standing Committee. But unfortunately, they are confusing between 'consideration' and 'passing' of the Bill. Passing of the Bill is the last stage. It is under consideration now. The hon. Minister is saying everything is over. How can she say everything is over without voting on the Bill? Then, I have other points also to raise when the voting comes. We cannot vote on this Bill today...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The bell is being rung—

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now there is a quorum.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, anxiety is being created without any reason. I would like to express my views calmly. As I said earlier, I cannot

ever imagine that I have to lock horns with Shri Shivraj V. Patil on any issue. I felt distressed when he made personal remarks on me and said that I had recently taken over the charge of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, therefore I am not aware about the rules. First of all, it is not so that only Minister of Parliamentary Affairs knows the rules. All Members of this House read the rules. I am Member of Parliament for the last 13 years and all rules of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are on my tips. As far as Bills are concerned, everybody is aware about the first reading, second reading and third reading. I did not read all rules in the House. When I studied Law, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal was also my classmate. At that time we studied about the Bill, how it is passed and about its three readings—first, second and third. I get acquainted with it 33 years ago.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as far as today's subject is concerned I have to say Shri Shivraj Patil ji was saying it on the basis of hearsay. The consent of the House has not been asked for introduction of this Bill. I do not want to mention about B.A.C. I would like to read out the motion which I have presented over here. On that I have asked permission for consideration and passing and today Bill has been presented for passing and consideration. First reading took place at introductory stage. As I said earlier, there is an appropriate time to raise every issue. As per the Constitution, any Bill can be criticised on the basis of legislative competence or effort can be made to stop it. This Bill has been introduced a long time back. This Bill is not being introduced today. As per today's List of Business, this Bill is being presented for consideration and passing. This is the same motion which I have moved on 23rd April in this very House and in which I said:—

[English]

"The Bill for consideration and passing:

The Indian Council of World Affairs (Amendment) Bill, 2003 for consideration and passing—2 hours."

[Translation]

Therefore, this is wrong to think that I have asked permission for introduction of Bill or it was first reading of the Bill. I had asked permission for consideration and passing. I had already asked for introduction in earlier motion. The House has given its consent. Today, second reading has taken place, introduction had taken place earlier. This is not first reading stage, introduction has

taken place earlier. It was not criticised at the time of introduction. Nobody said at the time of introduction that this Bill should go to Standing Committee. After that I asked permission for consideration and passing. The House gave that permission and today second reading, third reading took place. Now, only the stage of passing is left. Sir, now only the hon'ble Minister has to say that the Bill be passed and you have to reply in 'yes' or 'no' and then you have to say, the House agrees.

[*English*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam for God sake, please do not commit that mistake...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let her complete. I am here.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Now on the Bill is on stage, when the hon'ble Minister will say, he will give reply also, now at this stage you will say.

[*English*]

"The Minister to move that the Bill be passed". The Minister will stand up and say; "I beg to move that the Bill be passed." Then, Sir, you will ask, 'Ayes' and 'Noes'. Then, you will say, "Ayes have it. Ayes have it". The Bill is passed. That is the stage.

[*Translation*]

It would be against the rules if it is asked at this stage to send this Bill to Standing Committee.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sushmaji, cannot commit such a big mistake, which has been done.

[*English*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with all due respect to Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, I would like to say that she is a very intelligent Minister, she is a very efficient Minister, and she is doing very well. We are receiving all the co-operation from her. I have no objection to it. Sir, supposing she has a wrong understanding of the law and some Members sitting here are explaining this thing to you and to the House and trying to get a ruling from you, it should not be felt that we are insulting her. We are not insulting her. She is a respectable hon. Member and Minister and we respect her. I must go on record on this point.

Sir, let her understand that when we are objecting we are objecting to nothing but the wrong interpretation of the law. Madam, you have said today while speaking that this is the second reading. This is not the second reading. The introduction stage is not the first reading. When the Bill is introduced, it is not treated as the first reading. When the Bill is put to the House for consideration, that is supposed to be the first reading. And probably you are mistaking this first reading with the introduction stage. What I am saying is that unless this Bill is before the House, the hon. Presiding Officer does not have any jurisdiction to refer this Bill to the Standing Committee. It is only after you introduce this Bill and generally when the general principles are discussed, this Bill is referred to the Standing Committee...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Not after the debate...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: After the debate...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: After the debate...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Let us not quarrel between ourselves. Let the hon. Chair give any ruling and we will be bound by it. Let me put my point of view here...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I have got a point of order under Rule 76. Please allow me...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete. I will give the floor to you afterwards.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have to get a ruling from you. So, I would request you to please pay attention to the kind of submission that I am making to you. Sir, the first reading is not the stage of introduction. Let us understand that the first reading is the stage of consideration. The second reading is the stage of clause-by-clause reading, and the third reading is when the Minister gets up and says that the Bill be passed. Now, this can happen that the Bill can go to the Standing Committee only when it is before the House, when it is introduced and when it is considered. The Speakers have been sending this Bill to the Standing Committee after this stage. This is exactly the stage when it has to go. This has been done in this House. If you think and want to give any other ruling, please give any other ruling. If you want to reserve the ruling, we have no objection to

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

it, but let this issue once for all the discussed and clearly clinched. As a Speaker, I had given the ruling. Other Speakers had given the ruling. They are part of the record. If you need time for considering those things, you please take time and give the final ruling on this point. Then only, you have to take this into consideration.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say two things before you give your ruling. Firstly, I never said that the Bill goes to Standing Committee before introduction. It would be said by those who know nothing about the rules. First, the Bill is introduced, and then it is sent to the Standing Committee either by Speaker or Chairman. Therefore, after introduction of the Bill there was a stage when the Bill could have been sent to Standing Committee. I would like to reiterate when it was presented before BAC, it was for time allotment. On that time, BAC could have said...*(Interruptions)* Just a minute, let me complete...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let her say what all she wants to say.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that stage is over. Now, after that Shivraj Patil ji said...*(Interruptions)* I am only repeating his words. He said that after this the House can decide whether it should be referred to the Standing Committee or not.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Should be referred or not.

[English]

Let me correct it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: You please remain silent for a minute.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: What I said was, all the Bills have to go to the Standing Committee. If the Sadan

does not want that the Bill should go to the Standing Committee, the Sadan can decide that. That is what I have said.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Now the entire controversy is over. You please do what Shivraj ji wants. Before voting on his Bill you please accept his oral motion that has not yet been moved and ask the House whether the Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee. Let us decide whether there is yes or no then put the Bill for voting. Let us finish this controversy. I would not like to create controversy over it. You please accept his oral Motion whether it should be sent to the Standing Committee or not. The House will agree or disagree then put it for voting...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is arguing the case. I hate to argue a case like this. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is saying that we have to move the motion for sending it to the Standing Committee. She has to move the motion for not sending it to the Committee and not we. She has to do it. I hate to contradict each and every statement she is making on the floor of the House. It is the Government which has to do. It is the Government's Bill. It is not the Private Member's Bill. The Private Members are not interested. You have not moved the motion. You come with the motion before the House and then the House will consider it.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was going to move this Bill meanwhile Bansal Saheb asked me something. I was replying to him. The discussion was already over. But, then Patilji arrived and he wanted to extend the discussion. I was going to seek permission to move this Bill and you were about to speak. I could not understand how this issue arised. I would like to seek your permission, if you permit.

[English]

I beg to move that the Bill be passed"

[Translation]

I was going to speak the same thing.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You have not understood it. First of all, the Bill is considered. Then, it is put to the vote and then you go to clause-by-clause consideration. Then, you move it also. You have not moved your clause-by-clause consideration. How can you go and say that the Bill may be passed?...*(Interruptions)* I wonder as to how this is being done in the House...*(Interruptions)* I really wonder how the Minister can say all these things...*(Interruptions)* The Government has to come here.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: That has already been done. You were not present at that time.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I have a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kharabela Swain has a point of order.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, my point of order is under rule 76. It says:

"No motion that a Bill be taken into consideration or be passed shall be made by any member other than the member in charge of the Bill and no motion that a Bill be referred to a Select Committee of the House, or a Joint Committee of the Houses with the concurrence of the Council, or be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon shall be made by any member other than the member in charge except by way of amendment to a motion made by the member in charge..."

So, actually, at this stage, nobody else can do it. It is only the Minister who has the right to do it under rule 76. So, how can a Member, who is not in charge, raise this point at this stage? He cannot do it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is about Select Committee.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I speaks about both Select Committee and Joint Committee though it does not specifically mention about Standing Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the rules for the Standing Committee are given at 331C...*(Interruptions)*

The first submission I have to make is that the rule that Shri Kharabela Swain has read out refers only to the Select Committees. There is no case for sending the matter to the Select Committee now. None of us has either asked for it. We have not asked for the Bill to be circulated for eliciting public opinion. We are asking for the Bill to be sent to the Standing Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, you may please hear me and after hearing what I say, you may dispose it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, rule 331C says. "There shall be departmentally related Standing Committee of the Houses..." That is the only thing written there...*(Interruptions)* So, rule 331 is not relevant. Nothing has been mentioned in rule 331C...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You please read what is consideration...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: You please tell me what do you want...*(Interruptions)* The time allotted to this Bill is going to ever...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Two hours time is allotted for this.

[English]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir, may I move the motion now?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, rule 331C says absolutely nothing about this and therefore it is totally irrelevant here. You may please give your ruling...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Before that, I have to make one submission.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House is Supreme.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the first submission is a very short one that I have to make. It is that rule 76 is not at all applicable here...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: How long will you hold the Bill, voting has to take place on this Bill. Will the minority rule the House. The voting is to be done and it is already late. He has moved it, everything has been done, in spite of that they are causing delay in voting. What is this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to give the ruling.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO (Jamshedpur): Sir, sometimes he talks about quorum and sometimes about Standing Committee. What does he want to submit. Sir, it is nothing but the wastage of time of the House.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Then, will the brute majority rule? We are raising a legal question and they want to skirt the legal question. The legal question is this. We were in the midst of the discussion on the Bill, that is the debate. It was the debate which was on...*(Interruptions)* If I have not been understood, it is the debate, during which Members speak, which was on. A Minister is also a Member. The Minister was speaking. During his speech, I sought your indulgence and I had said a few words.

There I had also made a request that the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee. I would like to say that utmost humility for the benefit of the hon. Members on the other side that this request can be made any time before passing of the Bill...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We do not accept request.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we will abide by your ruling. We want a ruling from you. If you want time, you can ask for the time. But we expect a ruling from you and only after your ruling, this Bill should come...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Sir, the hon. Deputy Leader of the Congress Party had been the distinguished Speaker of this House. He has given so many important rulings...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: There is one thing to consider. However your submission that we do not know what we are doing and that what you are telling is correct, is wrong. You do not understand as to what is clause-by-clause consideration. This is the fact. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We do not understand anything.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, let me give my finding. Shri Shivraj Patil has raised a matter that when the discussion is under the first stage of the reading and if it not complete, then within that the matter can be referred to the Standing Committee. There is a dispute from this side that the first stage of reading is complete when the hon. Minister gives reply to the discussion. Now, he had himself given many rulings. His predecessors had also given many important rulings. I could not lay my hands on all these rulings.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You please conduct voting.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I give the ruling, I would like to see the rulings. He himself had given many rulings. If the Secretariat can give me all those rulings, I can have a study and then give my dispassionate ruling.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, please listen to me.

[Translation]

All right, you please say that now the time for voting. It is happening for the last four occasion that the House is being disturbed at the time of voting...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not the matter of time, Vijay Kumar ji you please listen at least.

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Had there been any Bill passed by this House without going to the Standing Committee?... (Interruptions) There are hundreds of Bills...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Many Bills have been passed.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Shivraj ji should tell us whether any Bill has been passed by the House—without being referred to the standing committee or not.

[English]

It is not compulsory...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

It is not that this Bill will certainly be referred to the Standing Committee.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, kindly see Rule 288...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I would like to submit that it is the proposal of Shivraj ji to refer this Bill to the Standing Committee. If it is being discussed to refer it to the Standing Committee then it will be decided only by the sense of the House. You please seek the sense of the House to refer it to the Standing Committee. I agree with him. The sense of the House should be sought whether this Bill is to be sent to the Standing Committee or not...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is done by the Speaker...(Interruptions)

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: We have accepted what he said. We are ready to accept his point, please seek the sense of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Vijay Kumar ji you started speaking before I finished.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: We are accepting his point.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shivraj ji submitted that the Motion should not be referred to the Standing Committee moved by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I am once again submitting that the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, did not require this Bill as the Bill which was moved by the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has been accepted by the House. Now if Shivraj ji wants to referred it to the Standing Committee, then it is his Motion. I would like to submit that this oral motion should be taken up and voting should be done. Please take up his Motion...(Interruptions) The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs does not need this Motion. It is not essential for the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to move this Motion because my Motion has been accepted by the House. If your Motion is that it should be referred to the Standing Committee then move the Motion and get it passed. Why are you wasting time? The Government do not want this...(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir if the language of the Motion were that it should not be referred to the Standing Committee then I or the Minister concerned would have moved the Motion. Two hours time was given for it and the House accepted my Motion. If he wants that the Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee then he should bring oral Motion and let the voting be held.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You please bring Motion that it will not be referred to the Standing Committee.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I am moving oral Motion.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is not the way to move a Motion.

[English]

There is no question of moving a Motion like this...(Interruptions) You cannot say like this. It is according to the law...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: My Motion is not required at all...*(Interruptions)* I am saying that it should have been referred...*(Interruptions)* My Motion is not required at all...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, are the Motions moved like this? Have they adopted this Motion?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I move this Motion that the House desires that it should be passed here and it should not be referred to the Standing Committee...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Motion has to move for adoption such Motion. You know rules...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, are Motions moved like this?

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I move that this may be passed in the House and not sent to the Standing Committee...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the sense of the House be taken...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you want to do it like this...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, are the motions moved like this?...*(Interruptions)* Shri Ram Naik, you are a senior Member of this House and a senior Minister. You tell us on this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You cannot move a motion like this...*(Interruptions)* That is why you want it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you take a decision...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, hon. Member Shri Shivraj Patil is saying something. I am not in a position to hear it. Shri Shivraj Patil, you can argue as usual and then I can understand it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is the point...*(Interruptions)* On such a small thing, if you are not understanding that why we are doing it, I am very sorry. I can argue that...*(Interruptions)* I want to know whether the motions in the House are moved orally like this?...*(Interruptions)* I want to know whether the motions are not required to be given in writing and whether they are required to be given two days in advance?...*(Interruptions)* He says 'I am moving'...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: As you kept on repeating, hence it was said ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Even if it is to be given in writing, what is the point that you are raising now?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: He is saying that he is moving it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: It was since you said that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs said that.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now it has become a property of the House hence it will be decided by the House now...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: You have said that...*(Interruptions)* The issue is simple.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the question at the moment is as to what is the stage and where we are now...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the issue is so simple. The hon. Minister has to say that it should be voted. This is the stage where we are in. Some clarifications were sought to which the hon. Minister has replied and the voting must take place now. It is so simple. If at all another motion is required, you can move the motion for the closure of this discussion and go for the voting...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Shri Ram Naik, I expected that somebody in the House would say that if a motion has to be moved, it has to be moved in writing....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: We do not want the motion. It is only you who wanted it...*(Interruptions)* How can you say like that?...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): If you want it, you can move it. The Government does not move the motion to send the Bill to the Standing Committee...*(Interruptions)* You move it if you want...*(Interruptions)* I am also a Member of this House for the past 15 or 16 years...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was about to finish my observation when Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra spoke.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the hon. Minister should tell us whether they are in a position to do it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the hon. Minister should tell us that motions can be moved in the House in this fashion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: We do not want it. Our motion is to pass this Bill...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the matter. The matter is now with regard to referring this matter to the Standing Committee. You raised it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, you have mentioned some of the rulings and also your rulings and those of others. There are a number of Bills which have been

passed in this House even without referring to the Committee. I was about to complete my observation. Since he has raised so many matters, so many rulings and all, I am not in a position to get all these rulings and I would like to consult my senior and then come back to giving ruling.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, are you not in a position to tell us that a motion can be moved like this or not?...*(Interruptions)* Are you not in a position to tell us on that point?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is the not the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I am asking for a ruling from you. Everybody is saying that a motion can be moved like this. Are you not in a position to tell us that it cannot be done like this?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There cannot be any motion under rules for referring or not referring this Bill to the Standing Committee.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is only the prerogative of the Speaker.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am seeking a ruling from you on how the motion is moved...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have told.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Sir, the House is supreme...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Parliament rum as per rules or chaos will continue to prevail...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is the property of the House hence it will be decided by the House itself...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, the Government has come before the House with the Bill for consideration and passing. This is the motion of the Government. *...(Interruptions)* Now, it was placed before the House two hours ago. It was accepted by the House. The time was allotted for the Bill in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. The discussion was over. The Minister replied to it. Some clarifications were sought by the hon. Member, which were also replied to. Now, they want to say that it should be sent to the Standing Committee and the Government does not want to send it to the Standing Committee...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I am not giving that ruling at all.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The Government has brought this Bill before the House...*(Interruptions)* We want it to be passed today. How can we send it to the Standing Committee? We are also Members here for the last 15 years...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, it cannot be stopped at his stage...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You and I do not decide; the Presiding Officer decides...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Now, the Government does not want to send it to the Standing Committee. We have brought it before the House. The House has discussed it and the Minister has replied to it. Then, clarifications were sought and the Minister has replied to them also. Now, we do not want to send it to the Standing Committee. It is the hon. Member on the other side who wants to send it to the Standing Committee. Then, how can we say...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Government's work can not be stopped...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The basic question is whether any motion of Shri Shivraj ji or any other hon. Member is presently before the House regarding the referring of this Bill to the Standing Committee. When there is no such Motion, what is being discussed. If our Motion has been sought in writing, the same applies for their Motion also. There is no Motion before you. What will you move, you have got the Bill before you.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, no motion need to be given for sending a Bill to the Standing Committee. What are they talking?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no such motion at all. It is only the Bill for consideration and discussion.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Then you ensure the passage of the Bill. It is before you and there is no motion of the Standing Committee hence get the Bill passed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, there is no motion before the House whether to send it to the Standing Committee or not. The motion is for consideration and passing of the Bill. How can it be sent to the Standing Committee when there is no motion before the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Before the hon. Deputy Speaker, it is only the Bill...*(Interruptions)* Sir, when there is no motion before you,

[Translation]

On what the ruling will be given by you.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the point the Minister is now raising is that a motion is required for sending a Bill to the Standing Committee. No motion is required...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, please consult the rules. Sir, please consult the Speaker. With utmost humility, I am saying that no motion is required for sending a Bill to the Standing Committee...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, time of the House is being wasted...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the question that had arisen was 'what is the stage?' For that stage, kindly see Rule 88. It reads:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules, the Speaker may, when a motion that a Bill be taken into consideration has been carried..."

Sir, a motion that the Bill be taken into consideration has not been moved, has not been taken up...*(Interruptions)* Sir, kindly allow me a minute to explain my point. A motion that the Bill be taken into consideration has not been moved, has not been taken up...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: You had said that there is no Motion.

You get the Bill passed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I say that this is a matter of record that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Bill was moved. Now the question is of consideration of the Bill. The discussion was over.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: There is a difference between the two.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The point of order of Shri Shivraj V. Patil was that whether a Bill can be referred to the Standing Committee at the consideration stage. Is that not your point of order in a nutshell?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You guide us. If you do not guide us, something will be raised from their side and something will be said from this side. I am asking you to guide us as to whether a motion is required to refer a Bill to the Standing Committee or not. I am submitting that it is not required. You tell us whether it is required or not...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is the prerogative of the Speaker.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I say that a motion is not required.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not required.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is right.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the point is, the Minister has moved the Bill for discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He is yet to move it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has moved the Bill, discussion has taken place and he was giving his reply when you got up. For this Bill, two hours of time was allotted because the number of speakers was less. The Minister gave a speech while moving the Bill and replied the end of the discussion. Meanwhile, he came and a few clarifications were given. Then, the next stage is to move that the Bill be taken into consideration. That is the order. That was the stage when you raised your objection whether this matter can be referred to the Standing Committee. Is there any such ruling?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I will read the rules. If we had been guided, we would not been in this situation. You have made a statement that many Bills have been referred to the Standing Committee. I submit, I cannot make a statement against a person who is in the Chair, that majority of the Bills, almost all Bills, have been sent to the Standing Committee. Those Bills have been considered here with the consent or without the opposition of the Members. I will read the relevant rules...*(Interruptions)* These are the rules...*(Interruptions)* These are the rules which are followed for sending the matters to the Standing Committee—rules relating to the Demands and rules relating to the Bills.

"The following procedure shall be followed by each of the Standing Committees in their consideration of the Demands for Grants and making a report thereon to the House:—

- (a) after the general discussion on the Budget in the Houses is over, the Houses shall be adjourned for a fixed period.
- (b) the Committees shall consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries during the aforesaid period;"

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: What is he speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is absolutely wrong...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the number of the rule?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That was Rule 331(G) which relates to Demands for Grants. Now you please come to Rule 331(H) which deals with the Bills. It says:

"The following procedure shall be followed by each of the Standing Committees in examining the Bills and making report thereon:—

(a) the Committee shall consider the general principles and clauses of the Bills referred to them and make report thereon;"

...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I have said that I had to, you do what you have to.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rule 331E(1)(b) says that the function of the Standing Committee shall be to examine such Bills as are referred to the Committee by the Speaker.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is exactly what I have been at pains to explain to you...*(Interruptions)* I have said that when this rule was framed, this question was discussed as to whether the discretion should be left with the Speaker or all Bills should be sent to the Standing Committee. While framing the rules, this was discussed. Tomorrow if you are going to give the judgement, you can have the discussion or you can give the judgement today, if you feel confident about it. When it was done, it was decided that when a Bill involves technical matters, then only it should not be sent; otherwise, all Bills should be sent to the Standing Committee. That was decided at the time of framing the rules...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to know one thing from you. Before the second reading stage, is it mandatory that all Bills should be referred to the Standing Committee?

...*(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not expect 'no' from you. Why are you shouting? I am asking Shri Shivraj Patil.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Listen to me also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will listen to you also.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Let listen to him first. I will tell afterwards.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we have come to the stage when the Bill was moved; the discussion was complete; he was about to move it for consideration. The first stage or first reading was over.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Whatever you want to do with the Bill, you can do; we are not worried and concerned. But we are worried about the procedure that is to be followed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is exactly why I am also worried. Otherwise, I could have just given the ruling.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I feel very little and very small to argue like this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry. I could not grasp it; let me please be excused.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You hear me and then, you can discard my argument...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: He is repeating the same thing for the last one hour. Nothing new is being said...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Has any Bill that is moved to be referred to the Standing Committee by the Speaker?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is right...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If that is so, please show me.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is exactly what I am saying. That was decided at the time of making the rules. Secondly, that was decided by the predecessor of the present Speaker. It is said by the Speaker in the meeting of the BAC to which we should not refer. These are in the proceedings which state that all Bills should be referred to the Standing Committee and only Bills involving technical matters will not go to the Standing Committee...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Where is the ruling?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am referring to it. I am not ready with that rule now because I thought that the Presiding Officers and others will be familiar with the rules...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there such a rule? Can the Secretariat brief me on that?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, I do not want to commit a mistake here. That is the reason why I am asking him. I will ask this side of the House also.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: In the beginning, Shivraj ji had said that no Bill had been passed without being referred to the Standing Committee. Then he said that the majority of the Bill did not pass without having been referred to the Standing Committee.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You go through the records. The Bills have been referred to the Standing Committee whenever it was sought even the Constitution amendment Bill...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister was right. It was taken up in the BAC; the time was fixed; it was decided so. The Bill was moved and the House accepted it. Now the limited question for me is this. The first reading stage was just over. Is it necessary at that time to refer it to the Standing Committee? I am asking him this

question. That is what I want to know. I do not want to commit a mistake here.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Let Shivrajji reply this...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): It is not mandatory at any stage...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the same thing is being repeated from treasury benches that the Bill has been considered. With due respect I would like to say that consideration stage has not reached, only debate has taken place, unless a motion is moved for consideration in the House, no Member can give his suggestion. We are being accused of wasting the time of the House. I am taking of rules and want the House to be run as per rules. Will it be right if we do not follow the rules in haste. With utmost respect, I want to submit that the Bill has not yet been taken up for consideration. That is the point, I want to make. It was in this connection, Shri Shivraj Patil has made a reference to the rule...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: We seem to be ignorant about the rules. You have posed a question to Shri Shivraj Patil. Let him reply...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: A question has arisen as to how the House is to be run...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What I am asking is, the first stage is over and now at this stage.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Yes, I am talking of, "at this stage" only...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The discussion was taking place and the Consideration Stage was about to start.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I am referring only to this stage. The stage was that the discussion had not concluded. There is no such thing as about to happen...*(Interruptions)* Kindly permit me to speak for half-a-minute. It was during the course of discussion only, though the Minister had replied. It always happens that when the Minister has replied, we rise to ask certain clarifications. We are not satisfied with the clarifications,

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

that is the *raison d'être* of the Bill. Why is the Bill there? Why are at all amendments to be made? Not being satisfied with the explanation of the hon. Minister, we requested that the Bill should go to the Standing Committee. That is where the objection was taken that this is not the stage where we can raise this demand. That is the question. The objection was raised by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that this is not the stage where we can take up this. We are precisely at this point, that this stage is not exhausted. We are still at a stage where we can raise the question that the Bill should go to the Standing Committee...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: At the time of making the rules...(Interruptions) At the time of making the rules, it was decided and it is a matter of record also. The previous Speakers had given the rulings and that is a matter of record...(Interruptions) You please take time to go through them...(Interruptions) We are not going to cooperate on this...(Interruptions) We are not going to cooperate on this...(Interruptions) Last time also the same thing had happened in the House...(Interruptions) You are not helping us. You are not giving the ruling and that is why this sort of an environment which should not be created, has been created...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What I would like to know is, whether it is mandatory that a Bill at this stage now, probably after the First Reading, be referred to the Standing Committee.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You have posed a question and my reply is this. At the time of making the rules, this was the position.

The earlier Speakers had given this decision. You can refer to it. If I am wrong, you can give a different ruling. It is for the Presiding Officers to take a decision to send this Bill to the Standing Committee...(Interruptions) If you do this, at least, you will be able to tell us these things. I am making a statement on the floor of the House that at the time of making these rules, this was the decision. I am saying that the previous Speakers had decided on the floor of the House that all Bills shall go to the Standing Committees...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, how can he say such a thing...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHATO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, why are you not taking any decision. Why is he being given so much time to speak? Let me also be allowed to speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have replied to his clarification as per your instructions. I would like to request to take up this Bill clause by clause. You couldn't receive the current reply of the question forced by you on Shivraj Patilji. There is great difference in his first and second statement. Initially he said it is mandatory and later on said that it is in majority. I request to pass this Bill clause by clause...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, I am on point of order. Sir, the Private Members Business is to be taken up 3 p.m. It was decided by the Business Advisory Committee...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Now it has become clear as to what is in his mind...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, it is our right. I have given notice for moving the Bill. It is unfair...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: The time of the House is being wasted, while discussion on this Bill has already taken place, now this Bill should be got passed...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is wasting the time of the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am not wasting the time of the House. You please mind it. I will move a breach of privilege motion against this Member...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what hon. Minister is saying be recorded.

...(Interruptions) He should be aware as to what is being said by him? He should speak within his limits.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

Sir, let Shri Pradhan repeat what he said.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Shri Patil, why did you not come earlier?...*(Interruptions)* You were not serious about it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is not necessary for me to come and ask for it. Please understand it is not for me to request. It is for the Presiding Officer to do it. It is not you or I who would do it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me give my ruling. The precedents are not available here before me.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you give your ruling but the way Congress is pressurising the Chair is not fair...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: We press for rules, we can not exert any other pressure because we don't have power. We always talk in terms of rules...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order before you give ruling. Rule 109 states. "At any stage of a Bill which is under discussion in the House, a motion that the debate on the Bill be adjourned may be moved with the consent of the Speaker." I request that instead of withholding this Bill it be passed. Rule 74 states that no Member other than the member in charge may make motion to refer the Bill to any of the Committee...*(Interruptions)*

16.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, let me give my ruling on this.

Rule 331E(1)(b) provides that the functions of the Standing Committee shall be to examine such Bills as

are referred to the Committee by the hon. Speaker. Bills can be referred by the hon. Speaker to the Standing Committee after their introduction. This Bill has not been referred to the Standing Committee after its introduction. The Business Advisory Committee has allocated two hours' time the Bill for its consideration.

Now that the House has already considered the Bill, it may not perhaps be proper to demand that it may be referred to the Standing Committee.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, we are walking out on this.

16.01 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Shivraj Patil and some other hon. Members left the House)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Sir, it is a shame that they had to walk out on your ruling. It has never happened in the history of Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up the Motion for consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—INTRODUCED

16.04 hrs.

[English]

(i) Ban on Religious Conversion Bill, 2003*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for ban on religious conversion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for ban on religious conversion."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

16.04 1/2 hrs.

**(ii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2003*
(Substitution for Article 263)**

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 2.5.2003.

16.04 1/2 hrs.

**(iii) Disinvestment of Public Sector Enterprises
(scrutiny by Parliament) Bill, 2003***

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move that the leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the scrutiny of the proposals of the Central Government for disinvestment of Public Sector Enterprises by a Committee of Parliament consisting of Members of both the Houses of Parliament and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the scrutiny of the proposals of the Central Government for disinvestment of Public Sector Enterprises by a Committee of Parliament consisting of members of both the Houses of Parliament and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.05 hrs.

(iv) Prevention of Video Piracy of Films Bill, 2003*

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prohibit video piracy of films produced by movie makers and audio piracy of such films and albums by unscrupulous pirates thereby causing huge losses to the producers denying substantial revenue to the States by way of entertainment tax and for providing deterrent punishment for the Audio and Video pirates and broadcasters and exhibitors of such pirated Audio and Videos and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 2.5.2003.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prohibit video piracy of films produced by movie makers and audio piracy of such films and albums by unscrupulous pirates thereby causing huge losses to the producers denying substantial revenue to the States by way of entertainment tax and for providing deterrent punishment for the Audio and Video pirates and broadcasters and exhibitors of such pirated Audio and Videos and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: I introduce the Bill.

16.05 1/2 hrs.

(v) **Repatriates Welfare Fund Bill, 2003***

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a fund for the welfare of repatriates who have worked in foreign countries and have returned to India after having been terminated from employment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a fund for the welfare of repatriates who have worked in foreign countries and have returned to India after having been terminated from employment."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: I introduce the Bill.

16.06 hrs.

(vi) **Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2003***

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to declare the Rajiv

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 2.5.2003.

Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology in the State of Kerala to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to declare the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology in the State of Kerala to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: I introduce the Bill.

16.07 hrs.

(vii) **High Court of Tripura Bill, 2003***

[English]

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura West): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a High Court for the State of Tripura.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a High Court for the State of Tripura."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: I introduce the Bill.

16.08 hrs.

(VIII) **CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL—
2000-Contd.
(AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 248 ETC.)**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up further consideration of the Bill. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan was on his legs. He is not present here now. Therefore, I call Shri Anadi Sahu to speak.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 2.5.2003.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was an emotional outburst by the Opposition. In the *Nyaya Shastra* of the Indian Philosophy it is called *vithanda*, where, if the adversary is on a weak point, he resorts to *vithanda*. That is what has happened now and that is why I was slightly dislodged from my thoughts.

16.09 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINAYARAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): We were not on a weak point. The matter was of procedure.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: I am not arguing on this point. Whatever I felt, I have told you.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, already one hour has been lost before the Private Members' Business is taken up. What is the remedy? This should have started at 3 o'clock and continued up to 5.30 p.m. What about the loss of time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point is noted. We are working on it.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: I stand here to oppose the Constitution (Amendment) Bill tabled by Shri Suresh Kurup, a good friend of mine.

I would have been very happy had he initially thought of amending only Article 249 instead of going in for amending Article 248.

I would start with Article 249. You would kindly appreciate that Article 249 indicates about the powers of the Parliament itself particularly the Council of States relating to certain legislative powers of the State. I would like to say that the profligacy of expenditure by the State at present has been the matter of concern and it would have been better to amend Article 249 to give more power to the Central Government itself to rein the State Governments who have been recklessly spending without getting any fund from whatever source possible.

You will kindly appreciate that the State Governments get funds from the Central Government from three sources. One is the allocation by the Finance Commission, the Central allocation to the States. Sixty per cent of the funds granted to the State Governments are as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission and of the rest 40 per cent which goes to the States, 20 per cent

comes from the Planning Commission. When the Planning Commission gives money, a portion of it is by way of a soft loan or subsidy or something like that and the other 20 per cent is the discretionary grant of different Departments of the Government of India. In addition, the States borrow from different sources.

Now, you would kindly appreciate that over the years, there has been staggering borrowing by the States. Something like Rs. 244,000 crore have been borrowed from the Central Government and have not been paid by the State Governments. This has to be kept in mind, when we think of devolution of powers under Article 248 relating to certain taxes, etc., that the State List should be added to another item at 67 to give more powers to the States to get taxes.

This will create a problem, Sir. First of all, when we think of taxes, taxes have to be uniform throughout the country. That is why, the VAT was thought of. The main intention of the Value Added Tax is to see that there is uniform taxation everywhere. I think it has been decided to have 12.5 per cent at a later stage and the Central Sales Tax was introduced to see that the collected tax is apportioned between the Centre and the States. It was two per cent earlier and now, it is four per cent. Now, it will go back to 2 per cent after the VAT has been completely taken into account.

The most important point is this. How do we go about in giving money to the States? You will kindly appreciate and there is no doubt that India is a federal structure as per its Constitution, but it is unitary in character. If we do not ensure its unitary character, there will be a lot of problems. In a country which has diverse needs, diverse aspirations and all those matters, it is necessary that a unified appreciation and policy decision has to be taken. Keeping that in view, the Twelfth Finance Commission has been given a mandate by the Central Government. What are the mandates given to the Twelfth Finance Commission?

The mandate is, the Finance Commission is to make recommendations on the following points. Firstly, it is distribution of divisible pool of net proceeds of taxes between the Union and the States. Secondly, it is the principles governing grants-in-aid to States which come under article 275. It has been provided in what manner it will be given. It has been mandated. Thirdly, it is the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of the State, measures necessary to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the *panchayats* and the municipalities.

In the earlier discussion, some hon. Members have raised matters regarding funding of the municipalities, that is, the *Panchayati Raj*. That is the mandate which has been given to the Finance Commission as to how the *Panchayats* and the municipalities will get funds.

Last but not least is the restructuring public finances, restoring Budgetary balances and debt restructuring. We had discussed debt structuring in the Budget and in the Finance Bill. We had discussed debt swapping. The Government of India thought it proper to see that the States do not suffer because of large amount of debt. It is an astronomical figure. The States owe something like Rs. 24,000 crore to the Centre. How do they pay it back to the Centre? There are State borrowings also. The receipt side of the States is dwindling because of the faulty policy of different States. That is why, debt swapping has been introduced in this Budget itself to make it into a soft loan type of a thing.

The Government of India has thought of it. Now, to ask for all powers to be given to the States would create lots of problems. Keeping that in view, an amendment is being brought to the Constitution of India. That is the 95th Amendment which is being brought in. There, article 268(a) will be introduced where another item will be added to the Union List, that is, the service matter. Why is it being introduced? It is being introduced to see that uniform service tax is levied all over the country and it is apportioned as per the provisions of the Finance Commission's recommendations. That is a well laid-out principle under article 280 of the Constitution of India.

The Constitution has been framed in a beautiful manner so that the States do not suffer. But at the same time, we have uniform tax policy all over the country.

Now, I give instances to explain as to how these matters have been taken into consideration. You will kindly see that there are State List, Union List and Concurrent List. There are certain matters which have been kept in the Union List and the State List; in the State List and in the Concurrent List.

I will come to serial no. 33 to explain as to how this has been taken into consideration. Kindly pardon me going in for the Constitution itself. I come to serial no. 26 of the State List now. I will go to serial no. 33 later on. Serial 26 of the State List has a reference to the Concurrent List. It says:

"Trade and commerce within the State subject to the provisions of entry 33 of List III."

There are a number of such provisions. I am not going to read out all the provisions as it will take time. I would like to refer to serial no. 54 of the State List. It says:

"Taxes on the sale or purchase of goods other than newspapers, subject to provisions of entry 92A of List I." that is, the Union List.

There are many such entries in the State List, in the Union List and in the Concurrent List so that there is some sort of homogeneity. Homogeneity is required to ensure, as I said earlier, uniform procedure or policy on tax and the apportioning of the taxes. But there is a rider. That rider is that the Government of India has brought about Minimum Term Fiscal Reforms Programme for States, popularly called MTFRP. It says that the Government of India provides funds to the States to overcome the fiscal constraints, subject to the States' adherence to the fiscal commitments consistent with Minimum Term Fiscal Reforms Programme, that is MTFRP. That is what is most important. Instead of going in for Constitutional amendment, I would suggest to hon. Member that he should suggest to the States to go in for MTFRP to ensure that there is fiscal consolidation. For solving difficulties that have come up, you are asking for changing article 268 and to give more powers to the States. Adding another item to the State List would be neither feasible, nor possible, nor practicable.

So, I oppose this Bill.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Shri Sahu, you will lose almost all your share for your own State...*(Interruptions)* If this argument is adopted, Orissa will lose a lot.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to congratulate my hon. colleague and friend Shri Suresh Kurup for bringing forward this piece of legislation for the active consideration of this august House.

This matter has been discussed in various fora and various judgements were also delivered by the Supreme Court of India and other courts in our country in various cases. The Constitution is an organic, living institution. It is not a static one. Also, the Constitution of India is designed to meet the problems and challenges of a changing State. The socio-political and economic character of the country is reflected in the Constitution. When time changes, naturally the people's aspirations will also change. According to the changing aspirations of the people, the law-makers should contemplate for changes in the existing laws, whenever changes are quite essential.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

Definitely, the Indian Constitution is one of the best Constitutions available in the world. India is a vast country. Its geo-political and historical characteristics have few parallels. We always considered almost all the aspects before adopting the Constitution. India's unity and integrity and the diverse character of the nation were taken into account by the framers of the Constitution. When such a big country or a vast country cannot be governed by one authority, all the powers cannot be vested in one authority or one centre. The Indian history reveals the existence of local Governments during periods of the various Empires of the country like the Mauryan Empire, the Mughal Empire and others. They enjoyed considerable autonomy. The Britishers tried to centralise all powers but they realised that a vast and diverse country like India could not be administered without progressive devolution of powers to the Provinces and local bodies. So, these powers were given to the local administration, local bodies and other Provinces. So, during the time of the Britishers, even though they initially tried to concentrate all the powers in their own hands, subsequently they developed almost all the powers to the Provinces and the local Governments. The framers of the Constitution also kept all these aspects in their mind and opted for a Constitution which blended the imperatives of strong national control and the need for adequate local initiatives.

Our Constitution is a federal Constitution. Shri Kurup also agreed to that point. Our federal Constitution is definitely ideal for a country like India. The federalism is not a static paradigm. It is a changing notion. So, mutual cooperation and inter-dependence of the States and the Union Government is absolutely necessary for a country like India.

The mutual cooperation of the States and the Centre and for better understanding and interdependence. This will give a boost to our parliamentary democracy. Sir, without the cooperation of the States and the Centre and without the sense of inter-dependence, a country like India cannot move forward. So, it is highly necessary for a country like India to have proper understanding between the Centre and the States. The coordination and sense of inter-dependence are the important aspects. Article 263 explains the better coordination between the States. Article 263 says:

"If at any time it appears to the President that the public interests would be served by the establishment of a Council charged with the duty of—

- (a) Inquiring into and advising upon disputes which may have arisen between States;

- (b) Investigating and discussing subjects in which come or all of the States, or the Union and one or more of the States, have a common interest; or
- (c) Making recommendations upon any such subject and in particular recommendations for the better co-ordination of policy and action with respect to that subject,"

Sir, recently we are experiencing disputes between various States, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry. The Cauvery river dispute. It is a dispute between more than one State. So, this dispute cannot be settled by the States. There will be an Inter-State Water Dispute Council. This kind of a Council will help to resolve the issues by mutual dialogue and discussion. There are other Inter-State Councils also. So, these issues which are concerning more than one State, can be resolved only through such kind of Co-ordination Committees and Inter-State Councils.

In the present context, strong Centre and equally strong States are necessary because we are following the path of federalism. It is not as per the exact definition of the Constitution. The exact definition may not suit it. We always advocate a strong Centre and strong States. Strong Centre and equally strong States are necessary for better performance in a democratic set-up. Fortunately, in our country we are experiencing a strong Centre and equally strong States. But because of changing conditions, changing political thinking and changing aspirations of the people, there are many complaints coming up. There are complaints about over-centralisation of legislative, administrative and financial powers by the Centre. Even many political parties and States as mentioned by Shri Suresh Kurup have given representations before the Sarkaria Commission. The Sarkaria Commission Report is one of the very important Reports regarding Centre-State relationship. Before the Sarkaria Commission many political parties and State Governments have filed their complaints regarding the over-centralisation of legislative, administrative and financial powers.

Actually, when the Constitution was framed the institution of Governor was conceived as an effective link between the Centre and the States. There are complaints that the Governors are acting as the agents of the Centre to destabilise the State Governments. There are complaints that the Governors and *Raj Bhawans* are being utilised for petty political tricks.

There are complaints that political activities are taking place inside *Raj Bhawans*.

The point is, more resources should be given to the States. This is the most important demand which is coming up. Every State Government is asking for more resources because the concept of Welfare State is coming up everywhere now. More and more welfare measures are being taken up by the State Governments and they are not in a position to levy more taxes. For example, in the State of Kerala which is considered to be a progressive State, more welfare measures have been taken up by successive State Governments. Now, we have reached a stage that there is no scope for further taxing the people. We have reached the saturation point, but welfare measures are increasing day by day. This is the position in almost all the States. They are asking for more and more Central assistance and more and more resources to meet their monthly expenses and also for implementing various welfare measures. After the implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, every State Government is facing financial crunch. They do not have financial stability and so, every State Government is introducing deficit budget. So, more resources should be given to the States. The gulf between the resources and the responsibility should not widen. There are some State Governments which are starving for funds even to give salary to their employees. If such is the situation, how can they take up welfare measures?

Sir, every State Government wants to implement more and more populist measures because every five years there is election. So, the aspirations of the people are more. Taking all these aspects into consideration, I think, a reasonable approach should be undertaken by the Centre towards the States in sharing the revenue.

Sir, the Bill moved by Shri Suresh Kurup is limited to a particular aspect relating to article 248 of the Constitution. Article 248 of the Constitution deals with residuary powers. The proposal for residuary powers came from the Constitutions of the United States of America and Australia. The framers of our Constitution have got inspiration from the Constitution of these two countries. A lot of debate has already taken place on article 248 of our Constitution.

When Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, he appointed a Committee under the able chairmanship of Dr. Rajamannar and that Committee was asked to study Centre-State relations. One of the recommendations of Dr. Rajamannar Committee says:

"The residuary powers of legislation and taxation may be vested with the State Legislature."

This is one of the important recommendations of this Committee which had gone into details of Centre-State relations. They have come up with very valuable suggestions regarding Centre-State relations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this Bill is going to be over at 4.35 p.m. Shri Ramesh Chennithala has to complete his speech, the hon. Minister will reply and then the mover of the Bill Shri Suresh Kurup will also speak. So, if the House agrees, we can extend the time for this Bill by half-an-hour more.

Now, we are extending the time for this Bill by half an hour. If necessary, we can request the House for extension of some more time.

Shri Ramesh Chennithala, you can continue your speech now.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, Dr. Rajamannar Committee had given a lot of valuable suggestions. This Inquiry Committee had gone into the details and had given very valuable suggestions. I think, Shri Suresh Kurup had brought forward this piece of legislation in tune with the recommendation of Dr. Rajamannar Committee.

Our Constitution talks about the three legislative Lists. The framers of the Constitution were conscious of the fact that human knowledge being limited and perception imperfect, if in future a contingency arises, then it becomes necessary to legislate in regard to the matter not found in any of the three Lists. To meet this unforeseen situation, they made the residuary powers under Article 248 and Entry 97 of List I. Sir, the conferment of residuary powers, particularly in the matters of taxation, on Parliament is a part of our constitutional scheme designed by them to secure a strong Centre. Today, the power to legislate on residuary powers is vested with Parliament. The framers of the Constitution thought that it would give a strong Centre to the country, and a strong Centre would be needed. And because of that, they had given this power to Parliament.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said: "We think that the residuary powers should remain with the Centre. In view, however, of the exhaustive nature of the three Lists drawn up by us, the residuary subjects should only relate to the matters which they may claim recognition in the future but are not at present identifiable and cannot, therefore, be included now in the List." This was the opinion of the former Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

Sir, when the Sarkaria Commission elicited opinion from different State Governments and political parties, only four State Governments had suggested that residuary powers should be vested with the State; two State Governments had proposed that the Entry 97 of List I be transferred to the Concurrent List; and all others States had agreed that residuary powers should be vested with Parliament, with the Centre.

Sir, some framers of the Constitution predicted that residuary powers largely remain as a matter of academic significance. That may have been the thinking at that time when the Constitution was framed. But now that is not the case when things changed, when the thinking changed, and when the political aspirations changed. The Constitution makers did not place any entry relating to tax in the Concurrent List to avoid conflict. The main argument which came forward was that there should not be any conflict between the State and the Centre. If it is in the Concurrent List, conflict will be there, and between the State Governments and the Central Government there will be a lot of confusion. If you put residuary powers of taxation in the Concurrent List, there will be unnecessary friction between the State and the Centre, double taxation, and frustrating legislation will be there.

This will be counter-productive and it will go against the scheme of the Constitution. If we allow both the State and the Centre to frame or to legislate in regard to taxation matters, there will be a lot of confusions. Also, we know how some of the State Governments are functioning. In Uttar Pradesh, we know how the Chief Minister and the State Government are behaving and in Tamil Nadu, how the Chief Minister is behaving. There are allegations. Even though there may be differences of opinion, the State Governments are behaving in a peculiar way in certain States and there is no control. The POTA has been blatantly misused by some of the State Governments. Even if this is the case with POTA and other matters what will happen if the power to make legislation regarding taxation is given to the States? How the States will be behaving? So, I cannot agree with my friend, Shri Suresh Kurup. Actually I am not opposing it. Why I am against his view is that today, at the present political situation, it is highly necessary that this kind of a residuary power should be vested with the Parliament. It should be with the Centre. We cannot give it to the States, especially the power to make legislation in regard to taxes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramesh Chennithala, please conclude.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: I will conclude. The Sarkaria Commission says that the residuary powers, other than that of taxation, may be transferred to the Concurrent List. The Government can examine this aspect. A strong Centre is for the unity and integrity of the country. I would like to conclude by saying once more thing that I agree in principle with the spirit of the Bill of my learned friend, Shri Suresh Kurup. The spirit of the Bill is to give more and more resources to the States and they should get more and more powers for the proper conduct of the State Governments. Now the responsibilities are more, but the resources are less. So, because of this, the State Governments are starving. The State Governments have no means to address these challenges and issues confronting them. So, I agree with the spirit of the legislation, but at the same time, I cannot agree with him when he says that we have to completely entrust the residuary powers to the State Governments because it will unnecessarily lead to conflicts and confusions. It will not be in the best interest of the country. Therefore, we need a strong Centre. We need a strong and a united country. We need that the unity and integrity of the country should be preserved and it is the paramount duty of every citizen in our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. V. Saroja, I am allowing you for five minutes.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): This is a very important Bill which needs not only a critical evaluation but also every aspect of the Bill has got its relevance. The Centre-State relationship is the sheet anchor for the development of the country as a whole. The Centre-State relationship is very much important. It is the backbone for the developing country to become a developed country.

Though the Constitution empowers the Centre-State relationship, it is my observation that from 1990, the fiscal position of the States has been under pressure. I would like to draw the attention of this august House that the fiscal consolidation measures proposed by the State Budget always explore the ways and moderation of expenditure and revenue augmentation. I stand here before you go on record how injustice has been done by the Eleventh Finance Commission to the State Government of Tamil Nadu.

So far as devolution of revenues is concerned, if you take the case of Tamil Nadu, as compared to other States, it is one among the better performing States but it is being penalised. According to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, Tamil Nadu has

got 62 per cent whereas Andhra Pradesh has got 71 per cent, Bihar has got 130 per cent, Madhya Pradesh has got 118 per cent, Orissa has got 114 per cent, Rajasthan has got 106 per cent, Uttar Pradesh has got 117 per cent and West Bengal has got 135 per cent. These are the figures as per the RBI study. So Tamil Nadu has got very less.

My prayer on behalf of my able leader, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is that the same thing should not be repeated. Let the Government of India not do injustice at least in future.

The tax to GDP ratio has remained stagnant around eight per cent during 1990s. The State Government's revenue receipts are expected to finance 50 per cent of revenue expenditure and 45 per cent of aggregate expenditure. Kindly take note of this. There has been injustice done to all the well performing southern States, more so to Tamil Nadu. Therefore, I would urge the Government that there should be a piece of legislation to be passed forthwith to pave the way to ensure that States get a share from the service tax.

With these words, I conclude.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill which has been brought forth by Shri Suresh Kurup really shows the concerns for the development and progress and for the self-sufficiency of the States. There is no doubt about it. I am grateful to all hon. Members who have participated and made a number of suggestions pertaining to their own States and also in general but I am afraid if the practicality, the feasibility and the historical context are taken into consideration Shri Suresh Kurup himself might later on agree with me that it would not be possible to make such radical amendments to the Constitution because that would basically disturb the basic features of the Constitution.

The Constitution-makers had kept in view that while they were giving a quasi-federal or federal Constitution, a unique constitution to India, at the same time their bias was towards the Centre, that the Centre must be strong and unless the Centre was strong, the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country could not be and would not be safeguarded. That is why their emphasis was to give residuary powers to the Centre. The Constitution of India is basically federal in form. There is no doubt about it.

One of the basic characteristics of a federal system is division of powers between the Union and the States. It is also a significant feature of any federal Constitution. The Constitution establishes a federal policy with clearly defined spheres of activity between the Union and the States to exercise their powers in the fields assigned to them respectively. However, having said all this, I should say that there are distinct differences between the classic federal structure and the model of federation enshrined in our Constitution. Several historical socio-economic factors were weighing in the minds of the framers of the Constitution who resolved in favour of a strong Centre.

That is why, I say that while giving the Federal Constitution or a Quasi-federal Constitution, they kept in mind that the Centre must be kept strong. They took due notice of a lesson of Indian history that in this vast country—multi religious, multi-racial, multi-lingual and multi-regional-only that polity can endure and protect the country's unity, integrity and sovereignty against external aggression and internal disturbances, which ensures a strong Centre. The founding fathers were aware that notwithstanding the common cultural heritage, the country would disintegrate under the pressure of fissiparous forces unless political cohesion was guaranteed by the Constitution.

Equitable economic development of the country was another factor, which prompted the Constitution-framers to opt for a strong Centre. They realised that a strong Central Government would be necessary to achieve economic and fiscal integration so that the economic policies affecting the interests of the country, including all the States, as a whole, could be carried out without putting strain on the national unity and integrity.

The Indian Constitution thus blends the imperatives of a strong central control with the need for adequate local initiative. In a country too large and diverse for a unitary form of government, the founding fathers had introduced a system, which would be most suited to Indian conditions as it would have the advantages of a strong unified central power, as also the essential values of federalism. That is the basic thing. But even if we take into consideration the whole scheme of the Constitution, we find that this is also unique for our Constitution that the Constitution makers made three Lists—the State List (Exhaustive List), the Central List and the Concurrent List. It is only very small field of the residual powers. In fact, while discussing in the Constituent Assembly, it was mentioned by the Constitution makers that much less is being kept as a residual power. In fact, most of the

[Shri I.D. Swami]

things have been amply clear in List I, List II and List III. But residual powers are there only to meet the unforeseen contingencies and unforeseen circumstances. For these only, the residual powers were given. These schemes of things and these powers which have been equitably distributed—the residual powers remaining with the Centre—have succeeded and they have stood the test of time. Not only that the Sarkaria Commission while making recommendations on the Central-State relations, the total emphasis was on that. Even the Sarkaria Commission made a recommendation that so far as taxation is concerned, that should be kept with the Centre, other powers can be given not to the States, but they may be brought on the Concurrent List. Even then the Sarkaria Commission was also of the view. I go a step further. It is not only the Sarkaria Commission, but 50 years of experience was there and there have been certain demands as 11th Finance Commission was mentioned and there have been some difficulties for the States. There have been different sentiments from different States.

Keeping all these things in view, the working of the Constitution for 50 years, this Government appointed a Review Commission to review the whole thing of the Constitution. Even the Review Commission on the Constitution, they recommend that the Commission examined the Constitutional provisions regarding concurrent powers of legislation, analysing the constitutional amendments that had been enacted from time to time and the judicial pronouncements on major issues arising from concurrency. The view that emerged was that there was no ground for change in the existing constitutional provisions.

The Commission believes that on the whole the framework of legislative relations between the Union and the States, contained in articles 245 to 254, has stood the test of time, in particular, the Concurrent List. List III in the Seventh Schedule under article 246 (2), has to be regarded as a valuable instrument for consolidating and furthering the principle of cooperative and creative federalism that has made a major contribution to nation building. So, the Review Commission has not mentioned anything about it. They had to confine themselves by observing that the whole scheme of the Constitution has stood the test of time and there is no necessity of any change in the scheme of things of the Constitution.

That is why, in the beginning, I said that the basic feature of the Constitution in this matter still remains the same—that unity, integrity and sovereignty of the Constitution should be there.

The amendments proposed in the Constitution (Amendment) Bill do not seem to be acceptable on other grounds also. Vesting of residuary powers to State Legislatures would come into direct conflict with article 245(2) of the Constitution, according to which, while the Parliament has powers to make laws for the whole or any part of territory of India, a State Legislature can make laws only for the State or any part thereof. The legislative power of a State Legislature is thus confined to the territory of that State. The amendment to article 248(1) as proposed in the Bill may give rise to a situation where two or three State Legislatures may enact divergent laws, different laws on a common subject and such a situation would be very a paradoxical. Such a paradoxical situation would be difficult to meet with if any such amendment is made. In that situation, a piece of legislation of a State will clash with law of another State on the same matter. Such varying situations, such varying laws will definitely affect the uniformity in administrative and judicial system of the country. That is another reason why the present scheme of things in the Constitution should be kept which has stood the test of time, as observed by the Constitution Review Commission and as also mentioned by the Sarkaria Commission in its report.

Under the residuary powers of the Parliament provided in article 248(1) quite a few important Acts such as Himachal Pradesh Assembly (Constitution and Proceedings) Validation Act, Gift Tax Act, Commissions of Inquiry Act and Wealth Tax Act having uniform application throughout the country have been enacted. If you see the whole history on use of the powers to make legislations on residuary powers and the sphere of residuary area even then you will find that in this area also hardly to four legislations have been passed in the history of 55 years. That proves what I began with in the beginning that these residuary powers, after having a very detailed lists, List 1, List 2 and List 3, are only to ensure any contingency which could not be foreseen at the time of the making of the Constitution by the framers of the Constitution. So, the residuary powers should remain with the Centre because these are hardly, as I mentioned, only four or five laws that have been passed in this period of more than half a century.

Even the eminent jurist and Constitution expert Shri D.D. Basu has identified 20 features of the Indian Constitution as basic and 'unity and integrity of the nation' has been included among those basic features. The power of the Parliament to amend the Constitution is provided under article 368. However, there have been a number of landmark judgements of the Supreme Court of India

stating that the basic features of the Constitution cannot be amended by exercising the power of amendment under article 368. So many judgements are there on this.

Under article 249, the Union Government is empowered to make temporary laws overriding the normally exclusive powers of a State Legislature relating to matters enumerated in the State List. The Constitution makers have gone to the extent that they empowered the Parliament to make temporary laws overriding the normally exclusive powers already given for the State Legislatures relating to the matters enumerated in State Legislatures if, by a special majority, the Council of States declares that this is expedient in national interest. Even to that extent the framers of the Constitution were cognizant of this fact.

The deletion of article 249 will deny the country of a constitutional remedy in a situation when it becomes expedient, in national interest, for the Parliament to make laws with respect to any matter including the State List. Adequate safeguards have, of course, been provided.

Resting the residuary powers in the State Legislature will come into conflict with the principle of supremacy of the Parliament which is accepted and it is laid down that Parliament is supreme, which is there in several articles of the Constitution. If we give a cursory reading of a few of the articles of the Constitution it will prove that the supremacy of the Parliament has been stated and reiterated in many articles of the Constitution.

17.00 hrs.

Vesting residuary powers in State Legislature will also come into conflict with this basic principle. Thus, the amendments proposed in the Bill will clash with not only article 249 but also with articles 246(3), 250, 251, 252 and 254.

Ultimately, I will also like to draw the attention of my hon. colleague, Shri Suresh Kurup to how he feels that just by making these amendments and giving residuary powers to the States, the States are going to be more autonomous, the States are going to progress better, the States are going to gain in any sphere of their working. It is now clear how the States would become more autonomous just by providing them with residuary powers. Topics of legislation enumerated in Lists I, II and III of VII Schedule are so exhaustive that some of the framers of the Constitution thought that they were leaving little for the residuary field and it has been proved

by 50 years of experience that only in very rare cases, only in four or five cases, the legislations have been made by Parliament for the residuary sphere. There are not many instances. This is what has been proved by the history of practical working of the Constitution.

Sir, Sarkaria Commission Report is there. Then, the Review Commission on the Constitution has also made certain observations. When we have seen that the scheme of our Constitution has stood the test of time, when we know that the enumeration of subjects in Lists I, II and III is fully exhaustive, leaving nothing for residuary field for Parliament to make laws, as has been proved by the experience of past 50 years, I think that the amending Bill which has been brought forth is impractical.

I would request that the integrity, sovereignty and unity of the country is supreme and is one of the basic features of this Constitution and we should preserve it. I think, the scheme of Constitution has stood the test of time and even the Review Commission has applauded that. I think, it will not be a very healthy practice for us or a healthy step on our part to tinker with any such legislative scheme of things which has been provided by the Constitution-makers and which has stood the test of time.

In view of these submissions, I will very humbly request my hon. friend, Shri Suresh Kurup to withdraw this Bill in the interest of unity, integrity and sovereignty of this country.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Respected Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members and also to the hon. Minister for taking part in the discussion on this Bill. My only intention was to draw the attention of this august House and this country to the financial difficulties faced by the State Governments. Severe financial difficulties are faced by the respective State Governments in our country.

17.04 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Sir, the number of amendments to the Constitution we have brought is nearing one hundred. I am sorry to say that not a single amendment to the Constitution was brought in this House giving more powers to the States. All these years, the Centre consistently has been asserting powers from the State Governments, especially in financial matters.

[Shri Suresh Kurup]

Sir, what was the scene of our country when the Constitution was formulated? There was partition. There were riots. So many quarters were saying that this country would disintegrate. There were so many princely States.

Our Constitution was framed in that background. Naturally, the framers of the Constitution wanted a strong Centre. Even then we would visualise a federal structure and our Constitution provided for that.

During the initial years, when there was single-party rule at the Centre and in the States, the States were quite reticent in protesting against the usurpation of the power by the Centre. Now, different parties are ruling at the Centre and in the States. So, the State Governments are getting more and more assertive regarding their rights, especially in matters relating to finance. The responsibilities of the State Governments are heavy. At the same time, their resource base is quite narrow. The three major and expanding resource bases—excise, income tax and customs—are with the Centre. What is there with the State Governments? Ultimately, every State Government has to come before the Union Government for more and more finances in different matters. The Centre, obviously, enjoys this position. This situation should change. The State Governments should get more powers in financial matters. That was my intention in bringing this Bill.

I would like to also say that the BJP as a party has always advocated strong powers to the Centre. Some of the speakers, especially from the other side, said that giving more powers to the States is dangerous. They said this as if State Governments are not elected by the people, as if they are not responsible, as if they are not answerable to the people of the country, and as if it is only the Central Government which is intelligent enough to decide what is right and what is wrong for the country and for the people! It is totally a wrong notion. This country can strengthen only when our State Governments are strong enough. Then only there can be a strong Union Government also.

What is the attitude of this Government towards giving more autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir? The BJP Party in the Government is consistently opposing it in spite of other political parties supporting the Resolution passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. This is the attitude of the Central Government and also of the BJP with regard to giving more autonomy to the State.

My point is, in the 21st century, considering the changed scenario all over the world and in the country,

we should give more powers to the States. This is the need of the hour. If my Amendment Bill has made the Members to think over this matter, I am satisfied about it. That was intention. I, therefore, am prepared to withdraw the Bill.

I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: I withdraw the Bill.

17.09 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000

(Amendment of articles 81 and 170)

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, this Bill seeks to amend articles 81 and 170, which respectively provide for the composition of our Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

Sir, we follow a system of voting which is generally described as the majoritarian system or the ‘first past the post’ system of voting. In other words, a candidate who gets the majority of votes at the polls is returned to the House, and he is declared elected. This is the oldest system of voting. It is the centuries old system of voting. There is a need to look at the deficiencies of this system of voting; and for the success of parliamentary democracy in our country, we need to introduce necessary changes.

The Bill provides to introduce the list system of voting under the proportional representation. It is further provided that the present system of voting namely the ‘first past the post’ system will continue for the present strength of

the Lok Sabha. But there would be an additional 50 per cent of the Members elected under the list system of the proportional representation. In other words, an additional 50 per cent of the Members of the Lok Sabha or additional 50 per cent of the Members of the State Legislative Assemblies will be elected depending upon the proportion of votes to total votes secured by the political party concerned. This is therefore a combination of the present system of 'first past the post' and the list system. It is time that we move forward with this important electoral reform. I am happy that I am moving this Bill at a very ripe and the opportune time.

I remember that in the leaders meetings usually called by the Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani—before the BJP came to power—had always advocated the list system. So, earlier, the BJP—before coming to power—had advocated the adoption of the list system, and has also advocated a mixed system which we have in Germany, to be followed here. Now, this party is in power and I hope that they, with their colleagues in the Government, will come forward with this much overdue reform in the electoral system. I must emphasize that the Bill seeks not to disturb the present system.

The Bill provides that there be a combination, as I said, of the majoritarian or first past the post system in which the candidate who gets the highest votes is declared elected and of the list system in which a political party gets, secures return of as many candidates as is their proportion to the total vote. Thus, while the present strength of the Members will continue to be elected as per the present system of voting only, that the candidate who secures the majority of votes is declared elected, at the same time, an additional 50 per cent of the Members will be elected according to the list system.

Sir, I need not emphasise that the objective of all electoral systems is to ensure the best representation possible. It is absolutely necessary that the wishes of the electorate be represented correctly and as effectively as possible. It is absolutely essential that there be no wastage of the precious votes cast by the citizens of India. It is a tragedy that under the present system of voting which we follow, a large number, even majority of the vote cast by the voters in the constituents, are wasted because of the multiplicity of the candidates and the division of the vote. We find such a situation that a candidate with hardly 35-40 per cent of total vote cast is declared elected. The other votes get divided among other candidates of the political parties and are lost. This wastage of vote is in fact contributing to the weakness

of democracy. Let not any vote cast by an honourable citizen of India at the polls be wasted. It must reflect itself in and be translated into the number of seats that are won by a Party.

Sir, our electoral system has to be fair to the voters and in all fairness without wastage of any vote the electoral system needs to translate the national vote into parliamentary seats won. I may here draw the attention of the House to the fact that the global distribution of electoral system, lists as many as 212 parliamentary electoral systems. There are as many as 212 systems of voting for Parliament and State Legislatures. Democracy postulates the working of a system which is best suited to the peculiar needs of a society. We are, therefore, to see the features of our society and accordingly decide upon the electoral system which will be true and faithful to the nature of our society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have this list system adopted by a large number of countries. It is adopted by the countries in the European continent. It is adopted by Scandinavian countries. The electoral system of the Federal Republic of Germany, of Japan, of Mexico, and others have mixed system, namely, both the first past the post and the list system of voting. Even in the case of Great Britain, the mother of all Parliaments as we say, the Independent Commission on the Voting System has in its report called Jenkin's Report suggested that it is high time that even Great Britain should adopt a mixed system of voting in order that the democracy is further strengthened in the country.

Sir, as I said, we follow the first past the post system or the majoritarian system of voting. As we all know, in every constituency, there are so many candidates put up by the political parties. There are independent candidates also. The candidate who secures the majority of votes is returned to the House. He is declared elected. We all know from our experience that in innumerable cases, the candidate declared elected is the one who has secured the highest number of votes as compared to others and as compared to each and every other candidate; but who secures lesser votes than all other candidates collectively. In many cases, we find a candidate elected with 30 per cent or 35 per cent or 40 per cent of total votes cast. He is elected with the minority votes cast because the votes given to the candidates of other parties have divided the total votes.

Not only in the case of candidates but it is our experience since the Independence of the country that

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

even Governments are formed with minority votes. The Government of India has been formed on the basis of 30 per cent or 32 per cent or 35 per cent of votes. I have all the figures here for the various elections held since Independence. But I will not take the time of the House in only giving forth all these figures. But then it is a said state of affairs for a democracy that majority of the votes do not get translated into the seats and the Governments are formed on the basis of minority votes. The Government may be formed with 40 per cent of votes which means 60 per cent of the voters had, in fact, rejected and had not given the mandate to that particular party to form the Government.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: What about those persons who do not cast their votes?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: That is a different aspect. At present, I am talking of the votes that are cast. People take all the trouble to walk up to the polling station.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Do you mean to say that voting should be made compulsory for all?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: No. I do not accept the idea of compulsory voting. That is a different discussion altogether. We can take it up at a different time. There can be a lot of discussion whether voting is to be made compulsory or not. I do not agree to it. It is also a fact that casting of votes is not a Fundamental Right of the citizens of India today. It looks like that. There are court judgements to that effect. There is no Fundamental Right to contest elections. I have another Bill on this subject in order to see that casting of votes and contesting of elections are made Fundamental Rights of the Indian citizens. But that is not a subject to which I am referring to, at present. I am speaking at present on the deficiencies, the grave deficiencies of the majoritarian first-past-the-post system that we are having and we have adopted in our country in these 50 years or so.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Banatwalla, how much more time you will take? Half an Hour discussion is to start at half past five. You can speak for there minutes. You can speak if you want to, after half an hour discussion.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I am only at the introductory stage of my speech. I will continue next time whenever this subject is taken up.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: We can continue after half an hour.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: We can take up this subject next time when the Private Members' Business is taken up. I can understand that you want to speak today itself and get rid of it but then it is an important subject.

Sir, the Law Commission has recommended the List System. Though there are certain variations and differences in my Bill with that of what has been recommended by the Law Commission, as a matter of principle, the Law Commission, in its 170th Report recommended the adoption of the List System. The BJP was craving for the List System before coming to power. I am sure, after coming to power they would remember what submissions. Shri L.K. Advani had made in the Leaders' meetings and meetings of the Election Commission at the time when the BJP was in the Opposition.

Sir we have to see that the wastage of votes obtained by a defeated candidate is avoided as far as possible. Otherwise, there is a distortion with respect to the expressed wish of those who actually vote. Their wishes are distorted. A large number of people may not have voted for the candidate declared elected and they find that all the trouble that they had taken to come to the polling booths is wasted and the vote that they have cast as honourable citizens of India have gone waste.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Banatwallaji, it is half past five. Hence you resume your seat.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I will speak next time.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Mr. Chairman Sir, will this discussion resume after half an hour discussion?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will depend on the mood of the House.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, we lost one hour time. It should be compensated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. It will be compensated.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Chairman Sir, for our convenience, you may please clarify whether the Bill would be taken up next time or whether you want to continue with the Bill after the Half-an-Hour Discussion. I want to know because I have to rush to the airport.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will speak after the Half-an-Hour Discussion.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: So, the flight is lost.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is up to you.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: 'Up to me' means I have to be necessarily here because I have not yet started making my submissions.

17.31 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

Re: Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has started the noble scheme to connect the various parts of the country with the rural areas in view of the all round development of the country which include the Golden Quadrilateral scheme and the Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana also. It is an ambitious and employment generating scheme which will not only lead to the development of roads in rural areas but also generate employment in large number. There is no dearth of funds also under this scheme and thousands of crores of rupees are available for it. Some problems are being faced in some areas regarding the scheme and when the question was raised in the House in this regard, several of the queries could not be satisfied immediately. Several Members did not get an opportunity to participate in the discussion also. The discussion is being initiated in view of this fact. I would like to request the hon. Minister to resolve the queries which had remained unresolved last time even though satisfactory reply for several queries was given by him. The scheme would connect one village to another, provide connectivity to lakh of villages and it would lead the villagers to think they also can contribute to the development of the country.

The roads made and proposed to be developed under the Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana reminds the differences between previous Governments and the present one and the efforts made by it to pay attention to the villages which have remained neglected for the last 50-55 years since independence. Hon. Prime Minister has taken a decision to develop high quality roads and now the passage has become much smoother on roads. As per the available figures 1229 roads have been completely developed benefiting approximately 40000 rural settlement. Ministry has given instructions to connect the Panchayat headquarters of villages with each other and also connect them with the main road. If the Panchayat headquarters are connected then the villages of the vicinity would also get connected. The importance of this scheme can be gauged from the fact that every villager wants the road proposed to be constructed under the scheme to pass through his own village and to be benefited from it.

Now instructions have also been issued in that historical places, monuments and various pilgrim centres etc. be also connected with these roads. This way a very major project is being undertaken but the problem being faced in its implementation is that the work is not being done in some of the States as per the norms and parameters fixed for the same. It was also mentioned during the discussion that the Union Government gave funds to the Bihar Government and these funds have either not been spent or not spent fully. The Union Government is right in asking for the submission of completion certificate for the work done to get more funds. If that is not certified how can the more funds be released? There are several such States and there can be many more which are unable to utilise the entire amount of allotted funds or fail to utilise them in time and benefit of being benefited of a very good scheme. The work be undertaken as per the norms and designs fixed because it has been observed that the work is not being monitored fully. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards two-three things.

These are designs and norms for undertaking work under the scheme. We visited several places and the Centre also directed for setting up of an observation or monitoring committee. However, several States like Madhya Pradesh have not constructed such committee at district level despite the Centre's directive. Centre has also fixed the responsibility of the hon. Members. I would like that the directions of the reconstitution of these Committees may be issued again so that the work may progress because if the good roads are developed in villages MPs can also fulfill their obligations properly. How

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

can the MPs go and monitor when they have not been empowered to do so? I would like the hon. Minister to pay attention to it. The funds released so far under the scheme comes to approximately Rs. 8000 crore and the actual expenditures out of it is five and a half six thousand crore rupees. This way there is a delay in spending funds. There is delay in constructing the roads which should have been built in 2001-2002 and for which tender should have been called and finalised but this has not been done. This delay has taken place not in one but in several States. How can the delay be checked? This delay should be checked to accelerate the speed of the work. I feel that the hon. Minister will certainly issue some directions else the roads which should have been built in 2001-2002 as decided by the hon. Members in respect of these respective States can not be developed. How can the roads be developed when not even tenders have been passed. In 2002-2003...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Hon. Member is mentioning about tenders. The roads are being built in my constituency as he just mentioned about Madhya Pradesh...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Laxman Singhji, not now, you can speak on it later on.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: I was submitting as to why delay is taking place in construction of roads? We had decided about it in 2001-2002. However, the tenders which should have been called after it, are not being completed in time. Sometime it is the shortage of engineers, workers and sometimes the absence of contractors who further delegate it to petty contractor, this way chain goes on. Nobody including the engineers, contractors are available at the site and only the workers are available there and to whom shall we talk to in such a situation? These should be responsible persons there to talk with? I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards these difficulties.

I discussed the issue with the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh three days ago. He assured me to pay attention towards it. However, I would like to submit that the Chief Minister talk generously several times. The hon. Minister may visit any constituency including that of Shri Laxman Singhji but he seems so much interested in "Bhoomi Poojan" that he announced for holding "Bhoomi Poojan" programme while the budget session was going on. I talked to the hon. Minister as to what he was doing when the budget session was going on and the finance Bill is to be presented on 28th.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.):
This be taken up by yourself...(Interruptions)

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: I am bringing the same thing to the notice of the hon. Minister. I saw that the hon. Chief Minister is liberal in this regard. He said that he would refuse the direction and request the Minister not to do so. However, the Minister of M.P. is still doing such things. They fixed a programme to be held on 28th in my constituency without informing me. I also said that the budget session is on and the Finance Bill is to be passed on 28th. I would have accepted your request but I cannot come. Similarly other Ministers are also there. The staff of the department said that they would not come and contractor also did not come. Sarpanch of Panchayat was called and Bhoomi Poojan was performed. Therefore, the Superintending Engineer who is in charge there and who oversees the work should be directed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only questions are to be asked and speech is not to be delivered, therefore, you may conclude.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: I am asking question only. I want to say that the Road Manual should be followed. I would not like to take up the sections but it is clearly stipulated that permission of the Members of Parliament may be obtained and they should be consulted whereas it is not being done. This scheme should be implemented urgently so that people may avail its benefits. The hurdles in its way should be done away with. Now, we have received another directions from Madhya Pradesh that the Panchayats should be allowed to undertake work costing Rs. 5 lakh under MPLAD scheme. We respect Panchayats and we passed Panchayati Raj Act in this very House itself. But neither the panchayats have engineers, nor road rollers nor other equipments. If any panchayat is capable of undertaking work costing Rs. 5 lakhs it should be entrusted the responsibility otherwise there would be no quality of work. It is just not a direction from the Central Government but some State departments also give such directions. Therefore, attention should be paid to it. It is an encroachment of rights of Members of Parliament.

Now, I want to say something about forest land. If forest land comes in the way, it becomes a Central subject and the State Government can do nothing in it. In such case, the Central Government should acquire the land and work relating to construction of road should continue. Similarly, people file objections in case of private land and dispute arises. Therefore, my submission is that

if required, the laws relating to acquisition of land should be amended so that road construction work is not hampered.

Some States are doing good work in this regard as Madhya Pradesh. They have created a Rural Road Authority in M.P. Though we have no objection to it, but this should not be done by neglecting the M.Ps. nor their rights should be encroached. The Minister should monitor the progress of work and this work should be completed urgently so that the villagers can be benefited under this scheme. And in the end, I would say that the direction of the Central Government should be complied with and observation and monitoring committees should be constituted urgently.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. Pandeya has raised many issues before the House. I would like to ask 2-3 questions only. As per the guidelines of the Central Government, permission of concerned M.Ps. is required to be taken whereas it is not being taken. No directions have been given for constitution of Vigilance and Monitoring Committee. Members were nominated as Chairman of the Committee but they were not given any chance to work. They are lagging behind the target determined under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. So far only Rs. 3658 crore have been spent against sanctioned allocation of about Rs. 8 thousand crore for the States. Villages with a population of 500 are targeted to be connected by road till 2007. But even one-third work has not yet been completed.

Besides, as per the direction given from time to time, vehicles are to be provided on the spot so that inspection of the progress of work can be done and also to be looked whether orders are being complied with or not. I want to ask whether the Government would ensure compliance of said orders. My second question is—whether the target with regard to providing road connectivity to all the villages with population of 500 is going to be made mandatory?

[*English*]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. This programme of the hon. Prime Minister—*Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*—is a very useful programme for the villages but at the same time it is a very bold step taken by the Government of India by creating a Monitoring and Vigilance Committee. It is not at all implemented in many

of the States including Tamil Nadu. when we asked the Collector concerned, he said that he did not have the clearance from the State Government and, therefore, he was not ready to constitute that Committee. But constituting such a Committee is a very bold and appreciable step. It is for the first time, after the implementation of the 74th and 75th Amendments to the Constitution—it was a dream project of Shri Rajiv Gandhi for giving powers to the *panchayats* and to the elected Members—that method of Monitoring and Vigilance Committee has been introduced. That Committee should have the Member of Parliament as its Chairman, especially Lok Sabha MP; otherwise funds should not be released from the Centre till this Committee is constituted and programmes are accepted by the Committee.

Moreover, when the stipulation of 500 population is given, many of the villages are having only 200 or 250 population, especially in the coastal areas or backward districts. These districts are not covered by this programme. My suggestion is that these small areas should also be covered. The connectivity is very important so that they can come to the mainstream of the population because these people are backward. They need orientation. The purpose of this programme is appreciable, but that should be implemented for the lesser population also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask a specific question.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: The Government should take the initiative to give priority to the coastal, backward and forest areas when the forest is covered through this type of connectivity. The State Government is not at all giving that type of approval. They say that they have to get clearance from the Environment Ministry. Therefore, they are not allowing the forest to be covered by that road. Therefore, the Government should take steps to give powers to the Forest Department so that they can do the connectivity service. Even in Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister is inaugurating projects worth crores of rupees as if the fund is provided by the State Government. I had granted money from the MPLAD fund to construct a bus stand. It was about to be inaugurated. Invitation was sent but it was stopped, because Ms. Jayalalithaa wanted to inaugurate even the projects funded through the MPLADS and even the roads constructed under the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* in order to show to the people that she has done that. Therefore, this type of things should be stopped and it should be shown that it is totally a programme of the Government of India. I would like to

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

know whether the Government will take steps regarding that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ashok Argal—not present.

As a special case, I am allowing two or three Members to Speak.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, under first phase of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana villages with a population of one thousand are to be provided metalled road connectivity. There is a clear cut direction that only such villages, which are not at all connected to any road, will be selected for this purpose. Sir, through you, I would like to bring to your notice that in Uttar Pradesh, especially in my constituency, this direction has not been complied with while selecting such roads. 18 roads of my constituency have been selected.

I can challenge that 13 roads do not fulfill this criterion. Will the Government initiate any action against those who violated the guidelines of the Government of India.

The Government of India time to time have issued guidelines for selection of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana but Members belonging to Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and several other States have expressed their own problems. Associating with them I would like to point out that officers in these States are not complying the guidelines given by the Government of India. My submission is that either the Government of India should withdraw these guidelines or ensure their compliance.

The Government have constituted Monitoring and Vigilance Committee for review of centrally sponsored schemes. After lot of struggle, these Committees have been constituted. The Members of the committee even convened meeting but I have bitter experience of that meeting. In that meeting every officers including district collector adopted negligent attitude. The information sought by us was not made available till date. The State should be clearly directed by the Monitoring and Vigilance Committee that the information sought by the Chairman should be made available so that irregularities can be identified and action be taken against them. Until and unless guidelines of the Government of India are not complied in toto, the use of funds under the scheme should be kept in abeyance.

I would like to quote an example of my constituency. A State Minister laid foundation stone for three roads in my constituency. When I wrote to District Magistrate, he contacted Superintending Engineer and wrote back to me that no foundation stone laying programme was undertaken. I said that 'Shilanyas' programme should be held as per the directions of the Government of India, but 'Shilanyas' was not held. You should order to conclude 'Lokarpan and Shilayans' programme as per your directions.

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (Moradabad): Mr. Chairman, I would like to raise an issue particularly related to Uttar Pradesh as to when a Cabinet Minister passes orders, the Uttar Pradesh Administration passes three-four orders and violates that order. Earlier Shanta Kumarji had ordered; he wrote it very clearly—

[*English*]

strict instructions have been given that the functions relating to the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana should be held in an appropriate manner and invariably the foundation stone should be laid by the Member of Parliament concerned.

[*Translation*]

Mohammad Halim Khan, Secretary, in Uttar Pradesh Government wrote, "the approval of MLA of area, Gram Panchayats and District Panchayats is also required.

In addition to Principal Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Government wrote on 19 September that—

[*English*]

The MP should inaugurate the roads. It was followed by another letter issued by the Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh dated 14th February, 2003 saying that along with the MP, the MLA's name should also be incorporated in the foundation stone.

[*Translation*]

This decision should have been taken at local level.

[*English*]

It left enough scope for total confusion. This is what is happening in Uttar Pradesh. There is absolute confusion.

[Translation]

We want, there should be no need of approval from District Council, the District Council should not give approval. MP should have participation in it.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask one question. What is the role of Members of Parliament in selecting these programmes, in selecting the blocks, in monitoring the programmes and implementing them? Even though a Monitoring Committee has been constituted, no meeting of this Committee is being held and the Collectors have no information regarding this. We are completely ignored by the authorities in the implementation of these programmes.

I would like to know whether the Ministry of Rural Development will give appropriate instructions to the officers concerned to implement it properly, in a uniform way all over the country. I would also like to know whether uniform guidelines will be given to all the States. I would urge that there should be a mechanism to implement it properly.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Confusion is being created because the contracts of roads have been given by the Union Government not by the State Government. The main contractor, has given contract to other people. And if that person also does not find it convenient, then he gives it to another man and if he also does not find it convenient, then work simply does not begin. The basic issue is that the probe of process should be held, as to why contract is given on higher rates? Due to this reason work is not being done and committees have no been set up. The State Government is facing this problem. Contractors came but work does not begin. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter is serious. The Union Government should pay attention in this regard. But the State Government is blamed for this. This should be looked into...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion on such an important issue is being held; please sit down.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the proposals sent by the State Government of Chhattisgarh are approved but

recommendations of MPs are not considered. Will the hon'ble Minister make it clear whether recommendations of MPs are essential or not? Besides that MPs are ignored in functions related to laying of foundation stone for roads under Pradhanmantri Sadak Yojana in the State of Chhattisgarh. In these circumstances, whether MPs would be taken care of at the second time of laying foundation stone?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my third point is that two types of roads are constructed between villages having population of one or two thousand. The gap of three kilometres or two kilometres road is left. Who will fill up the gap? Will the hon'ble Minister reply at whether he will give approval for increasing its length? If that gap is not fulfilled, the inconvenience is caused in to and fro movement and road gets blocked. Therefore, my question is what is the propriety of 'Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojana'? Whether the Government will take action in regard of increasing the length of road under 'Gramin Sadak Yojana'.

SHRI DHARAM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to repeat by asking as to what is the width limit of road under Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojana' and what is the condition, where land from villages is not acquired. What would be the width over there?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, secondly, I hail from the Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh. These are two parliamentary constituencies in Allahabad-Allahabad and Phulpur. Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi is MP from Allahabad and I represent Phulpur. Probably, the Government have appointed Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi as the Chairman of Vigilance Committee, but I am not aware whether I have been put on the Vigilance Committee set up for Phulpur or not. The contract for construction of roads is being given over there. Engineers are taking bribe. Vigilance Committee is not working. The Government give arbitrary rights to them; they may do anything. Nobody is there to look after it. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to who would be responsible for it.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank all the hon. Members who have participated in this very important discussion.

The *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* is a very successful programme launched by the NDA Government.

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

Actually, there is an allocation of Rs. 60,000 crore over the years to connect 1,60,000 habitations.

[Translation]

It has been repeatedly asked what should be the role of MPs. Through you, I would like to tell the House that guidelines have been sent to all State Governments.

[English]

We have said here that under the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*, the proposals of the Members of Parliament are required to be given full consideration.

18.00 hrs.

The list of unconnected habitations along with the population in each district along with the list of roads identified to connect them as part of the core network should be sent to the Members of Parliament. To facilitate the MPs in making their suggestions, it will be incumbent upon the District *Panchayat* to ensure that while framing the proposals, full consideration is given to the proposals received from the Members of Parliament within the framework of the guidelines...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: Listen to me for a minute.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I have not completed it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At present hon'ble Minister is speaking, first listen to him.

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: The hon'ble Minister said that the District *Panchayat* will pass the recommendation given by M.P. It is being said in Zila *Panchayats* that they will not agree to recommendations of Zila MPs and MLAs. Zila *Panchayats* usually have hundred Members. They say that they will not pass it, till they are listened to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, in these circumstances, hon'ble Minister will find the solution, you may sit down.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I never said this. Zila *Panchayat* and District Administration will prepare the core network of roads. But MPs have right to send a proposal. A core network would be prepared from those two proposals and we will give it.

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: It is controversial.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will be like that.

[English]

Therefore, once more, I will re-circulate the guidelines that the hon. Members of Parliament should be taken into consideration while formulation the core network of the roads, while laying *shilanyas* to various roads connecting the habitations.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: What about the Monitoring Committee?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I have taken note of the concerns expressed by the hon. Members of Parliament, namely Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Ramesh Chennithala, Shri Lakshman Singh and others. Therefore, we will be writing to all the State Governments...*(Interruptions)* More or less, we will be writing to all the State Governments and I will be personally speaking to the Chief Ministers that the role of MPs should be ensured. The role of the MPs should be ensured in formulation of the core network in implementing the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*, in having any type of functions regarding inauguration or *shilanyas* of *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*. If there are some problems for the hon. Members, they can give me representations so that I can individually take up the matter with the respective State Governments.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: You will resolve the matters raised before you, at least.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I will definitely do.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Till now, monitoring committee has not been constituted...*(Interruptions)* You have already proposed names...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I have not come to that issue.

[English]

I have not yet come to the Monitoring Committee. Secondly, regarding the question of Monitoring Committee, the Union Government has already constituted Vigilance

and Monitoring Committee for all the States. If some of the States have not implemented it yet, we will take up these issues with the respective State Governments individually. By and large, most of the State Governments have accepted this Vigilance and Monitoring Committee. I also know that there are reports from the Members of Parliament of various States that the required amount of co-operation is not given to those Monitoring Committees and the Presidents of the Monitoring Committee. I think the whole programme is in the nascent stage. I hope all the hon. Members will appreciate the efforts of the Government of India. This is for the first time that there is an effort that a Centrally-sponsored scheme is being implemented with the active participation of the hon. Members of Parliament. You do not have such institutional mechanism in *Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana* and in various other schemes of the Union Government. But this is the first programme in which the hon. Members are actively participating. I entirely agree that there is scope for improvement and we will try for that improvement.

Lastly, regarding tendering, we are going to circulate a tender document. We are also considering whether we should come out with pre-qualification criteria for the contractors so that there would not be sub-contracting, sub-contracting or contracts being given to contractors who cannot really implement the whole project.

Regarding forest lands, we have already taken up the matter with the Ministry of Environment and Forests. They have agreed that five hectares of forest land clearance per project would be allowed to be given by the Regional Committees of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. If the respective hon. Members take up the matter with these Regional Committees, they would allow five hectares of forest clearance per project.

Regarding slow implementation, it is the responsibility of the Union Government to allocate money. We have already allocated money. I am very sorry to place before the House that we had given Rs. 300 crore to the State of Bihar but in the first year of the implementation, 2001-02, they have spent only Rs. 50 crore and they have not taken more than Rs. 300 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: When Bihar is being discussed, tell about Uttar Pradesh also.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I think, I have replied to all the queries raised by hon. Members of Parliament. The Ministry of Rural Development would be more than eager to assist hon. Members and co-operate with them in making this Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana a great success.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I would like to give a suggestion to hon'ble Minister. If opinions of hon'ble Members are taken at the time of sanctioning of detailed project report, this problem would be definitely solved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Minister, this is a very important subject, hon'ble Dharm Raj Singh Patel ji would like to know as to when Zila Panchayats ignore the recommendations of hon'ble M.Ps., what action does the Government take under Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana and guidelines of core network?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We can just persuade district administration because they have full data of unconnected habitation of every State. Therefore they will prepare proposal of core network and we will try to coordinate the proposal given by our hon'ble M.Ps. with it.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I would like to give a suggestion to hon'ble Members that if Zila Panchayats and district administration decide whole work plan and priority of roads is decided by M.Ps., the problem would be resolved.

18.08 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

(Amendment of articles 81 and 170)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up item No. 31. Shri G.M. Banatwalla.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was speaking of the grave deficiencies of the 'first past the post' system of voting. I had pointed out that there was much wastage of votes also under the system...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Mr. Chairman. Sir, I would like to ask Shri Banatwallaji whether he said that his Bill should be taken for consideration next time...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, this Bill may be taken up next week.

MANY HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House agrees that this Bill be taken up next week. The House now stands adjourned till Eleven O'clock on Monday.

18.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, May 5, 2003/Vaisakha 15, 1925 (Saka)

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