

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 15, 2000/Agrahayana 24, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have moved an adjournment motion. Therefore, I should be heard... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Sir, now they have started demonstrations in the House as well, what is this?... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now Question Hour.

11.01 hrs.

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

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pappu Yadav, displaying placards is not permitted. Please go to your place. Please go back to your seat.

[Translation]

Mr. Pappu Yadav, please go back to your seat. I will listen to you... (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is Lok Sabha and dignity of the House should be maintained. Question Hour should be allowed to run smoothly. It is a very wrong practice that Question Hour should be disturbed every day. You should bring this point home to such members... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am telling you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : What is all this; they are demonstrating in the House... (Interruptions)

11.02

At this stage Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav went back to his seat.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You allow me to conduct the House. Let me conduct the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pappu Yadav met the Speaker. Hon. Speaker allowed him to take up this matter during 'Zero Hour'. I will be allowing him to take up this matter during 'Zero Hour'. Let him please take out all the placards and not rush to the Well of the House. Let him kindly wait till 'Zero Hour'.

Question Hour starts now. No. 381, Shri P.R. Kyndiah.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I am on a Point of Order, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No Points of Order now. We have not even started.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, I have not given permission to you. We have not even started the Question Hour. What is it?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Sir, I am on a Point of Order. Business of the House has started.

[English]

The rule says that a Member shall not display any exhibits in the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already asked him not to exhibit it. You are raising the Point of Order now. I have already ruled that he should take out all the placards. Why are you interrupting the House?

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I am sorry, Sir. Thank you.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : There cannot be any Point of Order during the Question Hour.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is it that you are raising now? Please resume your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhai) : Why are you getting annoyed Shri Pappu Yadav, he is just showing the photograph.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why are you getting annoyed. You are blaming that I am getting annoyed but I am not.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, it is the month of Ramjan and you should be happy.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That's why I am happy.

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Export Development Fund for N.E. and Sikkim

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

(a) whether Export Development Fund has been set up for the North Eastern Region and Sikkim;

(b) if so, the modalities for operation of Export Development Fund; and

(c) the Export Houses/Entrepreneurs who have been benefited from the fund and the amount disbursed so far to each State, agency-wise and purpose-wise?

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

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) An Export Development Fund (EDF) has been set up with the objective of assisting specific activities for promotion of exports from the North-Eastern region of the country including Sikkim. All activities, which have a linkage with the exports from the region and are designed to help exports, are eligible for assistance from the Fund. All government and private sector agencies engaged in promoting exports from the North Eastern Region and Sikkim can seek assistance under the Fund.

The Fund has been set up in September 2000 with an initial corpus of Rs. 5 Crores drawn from the Non-Lapseable Pool of Funds. The Fund is being maintained by the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEEDA) under the Department of Commerce. The guidelines for the operation of seeking assistance from the Fund have already been issued and

circulated to all the State Governments/concerned agencies. Wide publicity has also been given.

An Empowered Committee has been set up in the Department of Commerce to consider and approve the proposals. The committee will also monitor the implementation of the sanctioned proposals.

Funds are to be released on receipt and examination of proposals. So far, no funds have been released under the scheme.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : After the partition of the country, the North-Eastern region has been sliced off from the main land of India except for a very narrow land corridor of 22 miles. The entire region is surrounded by four foreign countries, namely, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan and China. The entire economy is dependent, in fact, on the relationship that we have with the neighbouring countries. There is a very long international border with our region. It is about 4793 kilometres which is one-third of India's land border.

When the Prime Minister came to Shillong, my Constituency, he made an announcement for the socio-economic development in the North-Eastern region and Sikkim. In that context, he made two very important points concerning the Commerce Ministry. The first one is the one which I have asked about the Export Development Fund. I have got the Written reply. But, unfortunately, it appears that there are no proposals and no funds have been released from the scheme.

Now, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister, through you Sir, to one very important aspect. That announcement also consisted of the development of border townships of Moreh in Manipur, Zokhawther in Mizoram, Dawki in Meghalaya and Subrkhandi in Assam. These four townships are to develop within two years at the cost of Rs. 20 crore. When this amount was announced by the Prime Minister, it was a very solemn announcement considering the importance of the North-East in relation to the border trade and border exchange. Now, December is going on and the announcement was made on 22nd January of this year at Shillong. We would like to know the factual position. What is the present position of the progress of the development of these townships because basically, it is very important that we develop these townships?

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I could not agree more with the hon. Member. The Prime

Minister made a solemn announcement in January of this year in Shillong in which he promised that we would develop four border townships. The hon. Member has already mentioned them. So, I do not need to go into the names again. As these are new projects from the Ministry of Commerce, we have had, through CWC, a study of the infrastructure requirements that are going to be required there in order to convert these into border towns. We have asked the CWC to prepare comprehensive development plans for these towns. The State Governments have also been asked to provide land for the purpose. In Zokhawther, where the construction is to be done by the Border Roads Organisation, the State Government of Mizoram has recently acquired 20 bighas of land and they are signing an MoU with the Border Roads Organisation for the development of these townships.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : My second supplementary is this. The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has made a study of the entire North-East in relation to border trade. It has found out that there is a high volume of trade transactions which are informal. They are worth about Rs. 600 crore annually between Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura on the one hand, and Bangladesh on the other. While with Myanmar, the States which are having informal trade – and a little bit of formal trade – are Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. It is worth about Rs. 2000 crore per annum. So, it is a huge amount that could be fully utilised by the Government for promotion of trade and commerce.

My question is this. In view of the findings of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, which is under the Ministry of Commerce, is the Government considering to declare or rather constitute to make the entire North-East region as an Export Promotion Zone?

This is one part of my question. The other question is that if the Government of India is really interested in border trade and to develop the entire North-Eastern region, I would like to know whether it is considering to have the Trade Development Authority there or the Export Promotion Commission. This is my second part of the question.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : As far as border trade is concerned, I have already told the hon. Member that the work is going ahead for the four border towns. Once this work is completed, if any further border towns are to be opened, bilateral discussions will take place between the countries and the Government of India in order to look at this.

As far as conversion of the entire North-East of India into an Export Processing Zone or a Special Economic Zone is concerned, there is no study; there is no proposal in front of the Commerce Ministry as yet in that regard.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Are you considering it?...
(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, the North-Eastern region is burning today. On an average, five to seven people are being killed every day. One of the reasons for this situation is the lip service paid by the Central Government. The proof from this answer is that from 10 per cent surplus money, only Rs. 5 crore is provided. The hon. Prime Minister made an announcement in January. The money came in September. Today, we are in December. Mr. Minister, you have not been able to spend even a single pie. This is how you are treating the North-Eastern region. The young boys and girls with good education from all over the country and outside are sitting idle having no occupation. You are a young Minister. You are an honest and every effective Minister. For your information, I would tell that trade is going on in the North-Eastern region through the other routes. The Government is losing money. The Government is getting no revenue but the trade is going on. The Government is not regulating it and smuggling and underground business is going on. Some customs officers, some BSF officers and some police officers are getting bribes. This is our constituency. We know what is happening there. In view of that, you need to take a positive step and every quick step. The intention is good but the implementation is bad. In view of that, I would like to know specifically from you what is your target date to start these townships. For example, in my area and adjacent to my area, Karimganj, the road has been handed over; the land has been handed over. If you go by this road, you will find that every night about 1500 trucks with coal are going to Bangladesh and bringing fish and vegetables from the other side. Traffic to Agarthala and Manipur is disrupted because of this. In view of this, I would request you to tell me what is your Action Plan and how you are going to implement it. Land and other things are not a constraint. The intention of the Central Government is needed. How are you going to implement it?

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : As far as the hon. Member's question regarding law and order in the North-East is concerned, that is completely a separate issue which should be directed to the Home Ministry. As far as the intentions of the Commerce Ministry are concerned, together with the State Governments, as long as we have

full cooperation from the various State Governments in developing these border towns, I see no reason why we will have to ask for an extension beyond the two years which the hon. Prime Minister has set for us for developing these border towns.

The hon. Member made a lot of remarks about the fact that we pay only lip service to the North-East; while we talk a lot, we do not release money and things like that. I would like to correct this perception of the hon. Member. Within the Ministry, we have something known as the Critical Infrastructure Balancing Scheme whereby we release money to the State in order to bring their infrastructure levels up. The norm for the North-East really is about 10 per cent. If I read out the figures, you will see that the Central Government, under the Ministry of Commerce, has consistently gone ahead of the norms. There have been 17 projects which have been sanctioned for the North-Eastern region and this constitutes 16 per cent of the total projects sanctioned. The total fund sanctioned for all the North-Eastern region is Rs. 41.63 crore which is 21 per cent of the total fund sanctioned under the scheme, and the total fund released for the North-Eastern region is Rs. 16.83 crore which is again 15 per cent of the total fund. So, while we do commit a lot, we also ensure that the Government follows up the commitments.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government have set up an agency with a view to promote the exports in North-Eastern region including Sikkim. As Hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that a wide publicity has been given to it in order to benefit from it. I would like to know the names of the states in North-Eastern region alongwith the names of the export houses/agencies to which funds have been provided. Whether the funds have been released and if so, the amount of funds released to each? Whether there was more demand for funds and the Central Government failed to release the desired amount to those agencies? If so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

[English]

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : I do not have the exact figures of the amounts demanded and the amounts released. I will have the figures collected and give the same to the hon. Member.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Commerce Minister a specific question regarding the schemes for the development of exports of the North-East. Practically, every State in the North-East

including Sikkim – altogether we have got 8 States – has already identified Trade Centres. For instance, in the Nagaland State, there is a Trade Centre in Longwa in Mon district, Pangcha and Mimi in Tvensang district, and one more Trade Centre in Phek district. I want to know whether proper infrastructure, roads, and communication facilities have been developed in these trade centres in Nagaland. Has any money been allocated? Bilateral talks have been held between Myanmar and India in the past five years. No activity has been seen. In order to expedite the export and import of these two countries, would the Government of India be keen to start the work immediately?

I would like to ask one more thing. My State is almost as sensitive as Kashmir. Therefore, I think that the Minister can take up these matters immediately so that all those precious stones and other items, which are coming from Myanmar can be sent to places like Rajasthan for value addition. These items can be brought in and given better value addition. I would like to know from the Minister as to whether the Government would further take more years to carry out the infrastructural work or would go straight into those things which have been left there as it was?

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : For the information of the hon. Member, no proposal is pending from his State with the Central Government, with the Commerce Ministry because no such proposal has been received. But other than that, we are working towards addressing the requirements of infrastructure. As I mentioned, we are developing border towns. We are also developing, what we call, the EPIPs, the Export Promotion Industrial Parks, in the North-East so that we can give a boost to exports. As and when proposals are put in front of the Central Government, we would also consider Export Processing Zones and Special Economic Zones to be developed.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : I think that these problems should be addressed specially...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Everyone knows that the international boundary is hovering around 98 per cent of the whole of the North-East. Only developing the border towns will not be giving any boost to the export or import border trade in that region. There are two routes connecting the whole of the North-East. One is river Brahmaputra, and the other is Steelwell Road. I would

request the Commerce Minister to take a holistic approach in this regard. The Ministry of Commerce alone cannot deal with the problem of the North-East border trade. For centuries, trade is going on. If we do not develop these waterways and Steelwell road connecting Myanmar, China, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and Brahmaputra, we cannot develop the border trade in that region.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You ask a question concerning his ministry.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : I want to know whether the Government will consider developing these two routes for the promotion of the border trade, in particular and trade, in general, in the North-East region.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Sir, I have already mentioned that we have proposals for four border towns and the fact that the Commerce Ministry is taking a wholistic view is represented by the fact that it is not just the Commerce Ministry that works on the North East. We have an Inter-Ministerial Task Force that has been set up and it considers all aspects regarding trade from the Ministries of Commerce, Surface Transport, Civil Aviation, Finance and all other concerned Ministries.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am trying to project a different point of view on this question. The North Eastern Region is certainly not as developed as the other regions are, but it is one of the richest areas of our country from the point of view of natural resources. What we need is not only the funds, but what we need is the vision. The North Eastern Region is the richest area in genetic wealth and the value of the genetic wealth is going to increase by leaps and bounds. If we utilise this wealth in an imaginative and visionary manner, we would be developing our country as well as exporting the necessary materials to other countries and earn a lot of foreign exchange also. What we need is a vision, what we need is a policy, what we need is a plan and what we need is proper utilisation of the natural resources which are available there. The most backward area can be the richest area in the world also. Is there any thinking on this line by the Government? Is there any policy or a plan of the Government to utilise this wealth which is available in our country in the best possible manner and especially in the North Eastern Region?

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Sir, to answer the question as simply as possible, 'yes', there is a plan and there is a vision. We do recognise the wealth of the North Eastern Region in terms of its biodiversity. We will ensure that we

would make the best use of it while also preserving it for future generations.

DR. V. SAROJA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, though the question relates to the North Eastern Region, including Sikkim, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any such proposal for every State. I would also like to ask a very specific question to the hon. Minister as to whether he has received any proposal from the Government of Tamil Nadu to set up an Export Promotion Zone at Namakkal.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Saroja, the question relates to the Export Development Fund for North East and Sikkim.

DR. V. SAROJA : Sir, I want to have Statewise information. I would like to have a pointed reply from the hon. Minister whether this will be considered by the Minister for the benefit of all the States.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Sir, unfortunately the fact of the matter is that it is only recently the State Governments have begun to realise that they have a stake in exports. Otherwise, it was always being felt by the State Governments that exports is something that earns money for the Central Government and not for the States. But increasingly we are seeing that the States are becoming far more pro-active in terms of having export policies and trying to build up infrastructure for exports.

As far as the proposal from the State of Tamil Nadu is concerned, as and when the Central Government receives a proposal we will definitely consider it. We will have no hesitation regarding that.

[Translation]

Commercial Wings in Indian Missions Abroad

*382. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have set up commercial wings in the Indian Missions abroad;
- (b) if so, the details and objectives thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have recently reviewed the performance of these wings in regard to export promotion; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof?

[English]

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

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have set up 65 Commercial Wings in the Indian Missions Abroad. A list of these Commercial Wings is at Annexure enclosed. The Commercial Wings abroad provide the institutional framework and are meant to promote India's trade and economic exchanges with the world. The primary task of these Wings is to assist the Government in formulation of its trade and economic policies through regular feed back on the prevailing global market trend, trade activities etc.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Commerce reviews the performance of the Commercial Wings in the Indian Missions abroad as a continuous and ongoing exercise. The outcome of these reviews of performance of Commercial Wings have been found to be satisfactory. The presence of these Commercial Wings has helped development of bilateral trade particularly with reference to export promotion.

Annexure

List of Commercial Wings in Indian Missions Abroad

Sl. No.	Mission
1	2
1.	EOI, Abu Dhabi
2.	EOI, Algiers
3.	EOI, Amman
4.	EOI, Athens
5.	HCI, Accra
6.	EOI, Addis Ababa
7.	EOI, Berne
8.	EOI, Budapest
9.	EOI, Baghdad
10.	EOI, Baharain

1	2
11.	EOI, Belgrade
12.	EOI, Bangkok
13.	EOI, Brussels
14.	EOI, Bucharest
15.	EOI, Berlin
16.	EOI, Copenhagen
17.	HCI, Colombo
18.	EOI, Cairo
19.	HCI, Dhaka
20.	EOI, Damascus
21.	HCI, Dar-es-salam
22.	EOI, Dakar
23.	CGI, Frankfurt
24.	PMI, Geneva
25.	CGI, Hongkong
26.	CGI, Hamburg
27.	HCI, Islamabad
28.	CGI, Johannesburg
29.	EOI, Jeddah
30.	EOI, Jakarta
31.	EOI, Kathmandu
32.	EOI, Khartoum
33.	HCI, Kampala
34.	EOI, Kuwait
35.	HCI, Lagos
36.	HCI, London
37.	HCI, Lusaka
38.	EOI, Moscow
39.	EOI, Manila
40.	CGI, Munich

1	2
41.	EOI, Muscat
42.	EOI, New York
43.	EOI, Nairobi
44.	HCI, Port Louis
45.	EOI, Prague
46.	EOI, Paris
47.	EOI, Riyadh
48.	EOI, Rome
49.	EOI, Sofia
50.	EOI, Seoul
51.	EOI, Stockholm
52.	CGI, San Francisco
53.	CGI, Sydney
54.	HCI, Singapore
55.	EOI, Sanna
56.	CGI, Toronto
57.	EOI, Tunis
58.	EOI, The Hague
59.	EOI, Tokyo
60.	EOI, Tehran
61.	EOI, Tripoli
62.	CGI, Vancouver
63.	EOI, Warsaw
64.	EOI, Washington
65.	EOI, Rangoon

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that the Government of India have set up 65 commercial wings the world over with the principal objective of promoting India's trade and effecting economic exchanges with the rest of the world. When we talk in terms of

promoting trade, our main objective remains the promotion of our exports. Our main concern is how to increase our exports.

Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what efforts have been made in the field of export promotion through these commercial wings and what results have been achieved thereby. He may also kindly state the progress made in the promotion of exports due to these commercial wings during the last three years.

[English]

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Sir, it is difficult to quantify how much of our growth in exports is due to the Commercial Wings of our Embassies and how much has been due to business alone, because the fact of the matter is, today the business community and the Commercial Wings of our Embassies work very closely together in order to explore opportunities, develop markets and also gather intelligence. In today's age where we have a unipolar world and where there is no Cold War situation, we find that our Embassies and our Missions are being utilised more for economic reasons than for security reasons. So, keeping this fact in view, we are constantly reviewing the performance of our Commercial Wings in the Missions abroad and also strengthening them.

We are also ensuring that in today's world of globalisation, our Missions are more and more relevant.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister in his reply has stated that the outcome of reviews of the performance of commercial wings have been found to be satisfactory and particularly they have helped in export promotion. However, I am asking about the results, he has not given a clear-cut reply in this regard. I would like to know the specific targets fixed regarding growth in export promotion through the commercial wings. I would also like to know the export promotion targets fixed during the past three years and the percentage of the targets achieved. He is claiming that the performance is very satisfactory. I would like to know as to which sectors require improvement in their performance and what efforts are being made in that direction.

[English]

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is always room for further improvement. At no stage,

we are ever sitting back saying that we are completely satisfied with the performance of our Commercial Missions and there is no further room for improvement.

The hon. Member has asked for export targets. Now, we do not fix export targets for Commercial Missions. We fix export targets for the country as a whole. Last year, I am not sure, what our target was. But I know that we achieved a growth of about 12 per cent. This year, our target is 18 per cent. So far, it is cumulative. Our growth in exports is about 20 per cent. We hope to surpass our target this year.

As I said, we are constantly reviewing the performance of our Commercial Missions to make sure that they are relevant to modern age.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated that the Government have set up commercial wings to promote foreign trade. I would like to know whether the Government have formulated any policy for sending the officials to these wings; whether any transparency is being followed in the procedure for selecting the officers? He may kindly state the policy of transparency followed in the selection procedure. Besides, I would also like to state that huge expenditure is being incurred on this mission because such wings have been set up in 65 countries though the benefits are negligible. Favoritism is being resorted to by the Government in sending the officers to these wings. I would like to know whether the experts in this field of trade and commerce would also be sent there and if so, what procedure will be followed in their selection? He may also state the policy formulate in this regard, the expenditure incurred on it and whether the country is benefiting from this?

[English]

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Sir, I think, it would be grossly unfair to our commercial representatives and Missions abroad if we turn around and tell them that their performance is absolutely useless because that is not true. The fact is for two years in a row, we are saying 'very good'. The export is indicative of the performance of our Commercial Missions and the good work that they are putting in terms of intelligence gathering, in terms of finding out the trends that are available in markets, and in terms of helping our delegations when they go abroad to perform the task.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH : How much profits have been gained?

[English]

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : I have already told the hon. Member that this year, we are seeing growth of about 20 per cent in our exports as opposed to the target of 18 per cent.

Now, as far as finding the right person for the right job is concerned, as I said, we are constantly monitoring and reviewing the performance of our Commercial Missions. We are trying, at this very stage, to give a more professional outlook to our Commercial Missions to ensure that the right person goes to the right post, the right person who goes there knows the language of the country that he is being posted to, and this is something we are working towards.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH : What is policy regarding selection?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : A good percentage of profits has been mentioned.

[English]

He has ably given information.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, among the Commercial Wings mentioned in the list, I would refer to three Missions. One is Abu Dhabi, the second is Muscat and the third is Riyadh. These are very important places in the matter of trade relations.

Now, from Kerala and other Southern States, we are sending vegetables and other perishable goods through air and also from Kochi Port. We are also sending materials for trade in those areas. I had been to these places and to my knowledge no Trade Wing is functioning there. Nobody is helping people who are engaged in trade from South India. They are transporting these goods through air but in the missions, that is, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi and Muscat, nobody is there to help these people.

I would request the hon. Minister to look into the matter and see whether any useful or fruitful work is done in those Missions especially in the Middle-East. The chance of trade is great there. Sir, you also know about it. But it is dwindling

now. Nobody is there to look after, nobody is there to encourage the trade that is being conducted in these three places. We are sending hundreds and thousands of people to those places.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Ask your question please.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : My request is that, at least, in these three areas, that is, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi and Muscat in the Middle-East, which I have mentioned, the hon. Minister should take particular care so that the Trade Wings in these Missions work effectively and also that the trade relations between the Middle-East and Southern India can flourish. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether he will do something in this matter.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Sir, it is very easy to make a general statement that the Trade Missions are not functioning.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : This is not a general statement.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Sir, if the hon. Member has any specific instance, we will be happy to have a look at that.

As far as we are concerned, we have a very concrete system of reviewing our Trade Missions. We have monthly reports, we get quarterly reports and yearly also the reports come in. In fact, the officers in the Ministry, myself included, ensure that, at least, once a year we have a Commercial Representatives' Conference to review the performance and ensure that these Missions function effectively.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has asked about three particular places. If you have any information on that, you can reply to that, otherwise, you can send it to the hon. Member later.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Sir, I will have a look at the reports of these three Missions and if there is any shortcoming, it will definitely be addressed.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : The Hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that 65 commercial wings are performing satisfactorily. I am quoting an example that procurement of food items was being made for the U.N. Peace Keeping Force, in Kosovu.

[English]

I have personally met Secretary, Shri Ajit Kumar and told him there is a large procurement of food items from India.

[Translation]

Till then, the Secretary (Commerce) didn't have such information despite this, from India.

[English]

Not a single orange has been exported even after giving the information to the Secretary (Commerce) by me personally.

Sir, the hon. Minister is saying that the performance is very good. My specific question to the hon. Minister is this.

[Translation]

How much foreign exchange is incurred and how much is earned

[English]

What is the cost benefit of foreign exchange in terms statistics?

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Sir, unfortunately, I think, the hon. Member took the information to the wrong person. As far as I know, we have never had a Commerce Secretary by the name that he has mentioned. If he would check as to who the information went, I will try and follow this up.

As far as the cost involved and the benefit that accrue from that is concerned, that information will be gathered and given to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, he has stated in his reply that 65 commercial wings are working at present but such wings have been set up in other departments also like the Civil aviation, the Shipping department. Our enquires into the Shipping department have revealed that more number of officials have been deputed there than those required. The department of Civil Aviation had formerly reduced their strength. I am not aware as to how many people have been deputed and what is the outcome but I would like to know whether there is coordination among all the three types of commercial wings. If so, whether the strength of officials

in these wings can be reduced so as to reduce the financial burden on the country.

[English]

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir I am not sure how many of the various areas where we have Commercial Wings also have Wings of the Shipping and Civil Aviation Ministries. This is something that will have to be addressed to those Ministries. But as far as our Commercial Wings are concerned, they are working in close contact with all the other Ministries to ensure that there is good co-ordination, and that intelligence information is shared to the right people. As I said, we are constantly reviewing the performance of our commercial representatives and our Commercial Wings.

As far as staffing levels are concerned, even though we have 65 Commercial Wings, the 65 Commercial Wings are only staffed by 190 people from the Commerce Ministry. So, the percentage is not very large. I think we are doing a lot of good work with very small number of people.

Price Differentials between Indian and Chinese Goods

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*383. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI Y.S VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Assessment Committee of Indian Industry has started analysing the date on the extent of price differential between Indian and Chinese goods and their impact on current domestic sales, future domestic demand pattern and export from India;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has prepared an assessment report and submitted the same to the Government;

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

(d) whether the Government have examined the report; and

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

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

Statement

(a) to (c) The Government has not constituted any Assessment Committee on Indian Industry to evaluate the impact of price differentials between Indian and Chinese goods as official data on price differentials between Indian and Chinese goods is not available. However, attention of the Government has been drawn to various reports of Apex Chambers of Commerce and Industry like FICCI and CII to marked increase in Chinese imports and its impact on Indian industry. The Government has taken note of the suggestions made by the Apex Chambers in this regard.

(d) to (e) The Government is closely monitoring the situation and has taken various steps to curb unfair trade practices leading to imports of cheap consumer goods from China. Some of the steps taken recently by the Government in this regard are as under :

- The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties has recommended final duty in 25 cases against China. Provisional duty has been recommended in 3 cases against China and 6 cases initiated against China are under investigation for Preliminary findings. Of these six cases the Designated Authority has initiated suo-moto investigations in 3 cases. Dry Battery, Toys and Sports Shoes.
- Import of all packaged commodities have been made subject to compliance of all the conditions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodity) Order 1977, as applicable on domestic producers.
- Import of 131 products has been made subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian quality standards as applicable to domestic goods. For compliance of this requirement all manufacturers/exporters of these products to India shall be required to register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, will the Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Chinese toys, dry cell batteries and sport shoes are very cheap in India and are made available in quite large numbers again;

- (b) whether chemical carbonate commonly used in the production of colour television glass shells is also available at a cheaper rate in India;
- (c) if so, whether this has resulted in the suffering of domestic industry by way of decline in the market share and financial losses on account of price depreciation by low landed price;
- (d) if so, whether the industry has given its assessment as to how this is to be checked;
- (e) whether the Government has accepted the suggestions; and
- (f) what steps the Government propose to take to help the domestic industry to face this challenge of Chinese cheaper goods?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mallikarjunappa, you just ask the supplementary. You are reading out.

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : This is my question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right. Mr. Minister, could you understand his question?

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the question asked by the hon. Member is related to China the Hon. Member is deeply concerned about the sale of batteries from China on lesser price, unfair trade practice as also the importation of Cheap Consumer goods from China. The Government is monitoring this situation. For looking into such matters, there are Commerce Departments and Designated authority of the Government. There is a need to file a petition for the harm being caused to domestic industries due to such importation, provided that it is found prima facie and the case is registered on the basis of evidence. And within three months on the basis of primary evidence anti-dumping duty alongwith final duty within a year, is recommended.

Hon. Member in this matter, has asked question regarding domestic industry, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard as also about the cases identified by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties. In this regard I would like to state that final recommendation to impose anti-dumping duty has been given in 25 cases. I would read out the information in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are reading out the same information given in the statement.

DR. RAMAN : No Sir, I am furnishing the information regarding the action taken by the Government. It is being observed regarding recommendation for anti-dumping especially about the battery for which he has expressed his concern. Action on this would be taken after three months when the recommendations in this regard would be received.

[English]

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : I would like to know what are the factors which make these Chinese goods cheaply available in India, why the Indian industry cannot make these goods more cheaper than of the Chinese, whether the Government has asked the industry to compete with the Chinese goods and make available these goods cheaper than those of the Chinese, when China can easily offer these items cheaply to manufacturers, why cannot India do it, is it a fact that China has captured the U.S. market because many of the Chinese goods are cheaper than those of any other country in the world and if so, why is India not able to capture the U.S market so that it can compete with the Chinese market in the U.S.?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Hon. Member is asking for increasing the import duty.

DR. RAMAN : Provision of imposing anti-dumping duty exists in such cases wherein it is proved that these are being dumped into the country at a lower price, hereby causing harm to the industry of India...*(interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Hon. Member is asking as to whether you are making any provision for increasing the anti-dumping duty

(interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri G. Mallikarjunappa, you please resume your seat.

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN : Sir, duty is proposed after a comparison of the product with the product of domestic market, after determining the injury. If the hon. Member asks about duty

on some specific commodity, then I can provide information to him, but our designated authority in this regard...
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please send information in writing regarding the questions asked by the hon. Member.

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : The hon. Minister has categorically stated that the Government has not constituted any assessment committee to find out the differences between the product prices being marketed in this country.

There have been alarming news reports for the past two months. I have collected about five reports. They have been very alarming for the survival of the Indian industry. If this trend continues, may be after 2001 as per the WTO norms, you may remove the quantitative restrictions on various items from other countries. Then there is a fear that imported goods will be flooded in the Indian market, which will be sold at a very low price than our Indian products, thereby, we will be paving the way to kill the local industry in this country....(interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri, Vivekananda Reddy, please ask your supplementary.

(Interruptions)

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : We have observed even agricultural products are being imported in this country and this created a lot of problems. The plight of the agriculturists has been observed in this House....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Vivekananda Reddy, please ask your supplementary.

(Interruptions)

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Government whether they have any intention to have an Assessment Committee to study the product price variations for the local products and Chinese products or other imported products and whether the industry have been summoned to scale down their prices to compete in the market.

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, regarding the information asked by the hon. Member, I would like to say that the Government are going to constitute as Assessment Committee by the Commerce Department, or Industry Department. We take action only on the basis of

information received through FICCI, CII and other agencies or the Tariff Commission regarding the harm caused to the domestic market. Alongwith this it is a rule that after filing the petition the first issue before the designated authority is Suo-moto, judge within 60 days whether the loss caused is high. And if so, major anti-dumping measures are taken. As far as information regarding toys, shoes and battery is concerned, the Department has, Suo-moto issued directions for investigation of measures to be taken for anti-dumping. The Hon. Member wanted specific information regarding these three special items.

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Sir, I want to know about the suggestions and recommendations of the Committee Report.

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN : Suggestions in this regard have been received from FICCI, ASSOCHAM and CII. They have given their suggestions regarding three-four issues. They have given suggestions regarding Import Safeguard Duty, Compulsory printing date Mark and Measure, Standard, BIS Mark and Maximum retail price to be printed. Regarding the suggestions given by CII the porous border with Nepal...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Please tell about the smuggling going on there.

DR. RAMAN : They have also given suggestions regarding the smuggling that is going on Nepal border and we have taken action to check it. The customs department conducted raids continuously for one week in November all over the country and confiscated articles worth rupees five crore sixty lakhs. The Customs Department has given directions regarding the goods that are coming from China at a lower price. Directions have been issued to the Customs Department regarding prevention of under billing. So far as the import of battery and other items from China, are concerned, we make a comparative study of the items being sold by China to other countries at different rates. The customs department has registered 165 cases of under billing in one month. There was a difference of rates in many other items, apart form battery. After studying the entire matter, the Government took action in this regard and found that under billing was going on. A lot of goods were coming into the country through Nepal border. Raids are being conducted to stop it. As the second step, we have asserted that standard should be maintained alongwith the mark of Bureau of Indian Standards should be put on the

items being imported into India. We have identified 131 items. The company exporting items from China to India should get itself registered in India and will have to inform that it is willing to come to India. Thereafter, such company shall have to take the mark of B.I.S. Only then the company can produce goods in India. Roughly speaking, we have taken this action.

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Sir, in the name of globalisation, our Government has started squeezing the agricultural and the industrial sectors...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Vivekananda Reddy, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question and many hon. Members want to ask questions in this regard. It directly relates to the Consumer and common man. I only want to say that today, the Chinese have captured the market here and Chinese goods at cheaper rates are being sold here. All Indian markets are ruined. I represent the Chandni Chowk constituency, where there is a wholesale market. 24 dry cells are being sold at rupees 35 only, irrespective of the fact that the cost of dry-cell in our country is rupees seven. M.C.B. normally is sold at Rs. 62/- but Chinese MCB is being sold at Rs. 20/-. Chinese tyres are also very cheap. There is a big wholesale market of toys in Chandni Chowk, Chinese toys are available there at cheap rates. It seems as if the entire market has been wiped off. The hon. Minister may give impressive statistics, but the fact is that today traders, industrialists etc. come to us in depressive mood and ask us to take some action in order to stop the dumping of Chinese goods in India. Otherwise the entire Indian market would be ruined. The pressure of imports increased in the country after the removed of quantitative restriction. Restriction on more than 700 items would be removed by April 2001. For this, Government FICCI and ...(Interruptions) I am talking about 2001...(interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is Question Hour. Many members want to ask questions in this regard.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Sir, I am very rarely given chance to speak. I would like to know whether the Government have evolved any mechanism to combat the situation when restriction would be removed from 700 items. What is the mechanism of the Government at present? The present provision is that affected industries, traders tell the Government that they are badly affected by this, then the Government considers the matter. Why not the Government

conduct a survey in the market as to which traders are getting affected by this? The Hon. Minister has straightway written in this reply that the Government does not give its consent in this regard. That report is of FICCI or some other agency. If you are not evolving any mechanism then please give assurance today that you will evolve a mechanism wherein a survey would be conducted in the market and would tell as to which traders are getting affected by the goods of China and other foreign countries.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have given answer regarding this. Please repeat that.

DR. RAMAN : The Hon. Member has asked as to what mechanism will be evolved in the future? We have evolved a mechanism in this regard. Tariff commission would make a study of the market. After this study, the loss incurred...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Study has been conducted or will be conducted later?

DR. RAMAN : Directions to conduct the study have been given to the Tariff Commission.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : It will take a long time.

DR. RAMAN : I was giving you the other information regarding the concern of the hon. Member that the Tariff Commission would do its work, but our agency of the Customs Department....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has asked a direct question which Mr. Reddy has also asked. Have you got such a mechanism, if not, do you propose to evolve such a mechanism? He is asking question to which you either say yes or no.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am helping you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Anil Basu, this is Question Hour, let him give the answer. He is answering the question.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record, except the hon. Minister's reply.

(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt him now. Let him give the answer. There are many Members who want to ask questions. Shri Anil Basu, he is answering the question.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record, except the Minister's reply.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is this? He is answering the question of Shri Goel, and you are coming in between.

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, our department would study the specific question and we are in a position to issue instructions for that.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : You please say yes.

DR. RAMAN : I am saying Yes and I am also expressing concerns relating to the other subject.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please address the Chair.

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN : In case there is any objection, then instructions have been issued for carrying out *suo moto* investigation by designated Authority under custom Rules 5(4). Our rights are reserved on this subject. In this field, instructions have been issued pertaining to the toys, *suo moto* instructions have been issued for investigation into anti-dumping on three items. Safeguard measures will be taken regarding other items. Hon'ble Member has also stated about umbrellas and toys. There are vast possibilities in this and there is unbounded 34 per cent limit in it and we could go upto very high limit and in the due course action will be taken on that. There is no 40 per cent bounded limit about umbrellas, toys and writing instruments. We could raise this limit so as to protect the domestic products in India.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, this is a very important question. So many products are coming from China...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have given him the floor.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, so many products are coming from China. It is sort of indulging in economic terrorism against India. One dozen shirts are being sold at Rs. 70. The Commerce Minister is having a good sleep; they are sleeping, and they are not taking any action. They are taking the share under the WTO. My question is this. Will the Government be kind enough to have a *suo motu* Monitoring Cell to find out a method by which we will come to know about the things coming from China and how to prevent them?

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the question raised about China contains 131 products which are to be imported from China and for that, it is compulsory to register in B.I.S.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What about *suo moto*?

DR. RAMAN : We are competent for initiating *suo moto* investigation under the Designated Authority Custom Rules 5(4) and we doing that.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, we want a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, please ask your supplementary question...(Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunathji, you please ask your supplementary.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Government...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]***Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty (DTAT)**

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

(a) whether there are two models of Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty (DTAT), one under OECD model and the other under UN model;

(b) if so, the criteria followed under these models and countries with whom such treaty is under operation, model-wise;

(c) whether the Government have reconsidered its stand on Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty with any of above countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir, These are the two prominently recognised models.

(b) The objectives of both the two models are (i) avoidance of double taxation to enhance international trade and investment; (ii) to combat tax evasion; (iii) to provide certainty to a tax regime; (iv) sharing of tax revenue. No treaty has been negotiated by India exclusively on the basis of any one model.

(c) and (d) India has re-negotiated treaties with a number of countries and is in the process of renegotiating the same with other (As per statement laid on the table of the House).

Statement

I. List of Countries with whom Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) have been revised

Sl. No.	Name of the Country
1	2
1.	Belgium
2.	Canada
3.	Czech Republic
4.	Denmark
5.	Finland

1	2
6.	France
7.	FRG
8.	Italy
9.	Japan
10.	New Zealand
11.	Norway
12.	Singapore
13.	Sri Lanka
14.	Sweden
15.	U.K.

II. List of Countries where Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) are in the process of revision

Sl. No.	Name of the Country
1.	Austria
2.	Egypt
3.	Greece
4.	Hungary
5.	Malaysia
6.	Netherlands
7.	Romania
8.	Swiss Republic

FDI Target for 2000-2001

*385. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the Foreign Direct Investment made in the country during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and till date;

(b) the trend of FDI inflow during the financial year 2000-2001; and

(c) the target set for FDI for the current financial year and the steps being taken to attract greater volume of FDI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) The year-

wise amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into the country during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and till date are as follows :-

Year (1st April – 31st March)	Inflow (Rs. in crore)
1998-1999	14279.80
1999-2000	15209.57
2000 (1st April – 31st Oct.)	12406.60

(b) Monthwise FDI flow figures in the current financial year till October, 2000 are as under :-

Year 2000 (Months)	Inflow (Rs. in crore)
April	1379.16
May	1535.25
June	1979.68
July	1653.84
August	1981.21
September	1182.16
October	2695.30

(c) inflows of foreign investment are contingent on various factors, which include domestic economic conditions, policy regime governing foreign investments, world economic trends and the strategies of global investors. While no specific target has been fixed, Government is making continuous efforts to maintain an environment conducive to attracting FDI into the country. Government has already permitted access through the automatic route for upto 100% FDI for all activities, except a small list. The FDI policy is reviewed continuously to make it more investor - friendly. To facilitate speedy implementation of projects, and to remove post investment problems faced by investors, the Foreign Investment Implementation Authority has been set up, comprising representatives of Central Departments and State Governments.

Disinvestment in PSU's

*386. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SCRAGE : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether disinvestment in Public Sector Undertakings is being resorted to for raising funds to sustain the sagging economy;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ever thought of enforcing strict fiscal disciplinary measures on the Public Sector Undertaking which are sliding into the red;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for salvaging PSU's through the help of the Financial Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Disinvestment in public sector enterprises aims at, inter alia, optimum utilisation of capital, better corporate governance, reduction in commercial risks of tax-payer's money, release of scarce resources for deployment in social sectors like Family Welfare, Health and Education and other sectors of greater public interest. This would be in the overall interest of improving the economy and the welfare of the people. The proceeds from disinvestment are credited to the Consolidated Fund of India from which all expenditure, including on social sector is met.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Finance has issued guidelines on expenditure management, fiscal prudence and austerity to all the Public Sector Enterprises on 24.9.2000 (copy annexed) with a view to further controlling the growth in non-plan and non-developmental expenditure. The Department of Public Enterprises also issues guidelines from time to time to the public sector enterprises with thrust on effecting economy.

(d) The financial institutions provide funds to the public sector enterprises at their request on commercial considerations.

Annexure

F.No. 7(4)/E-Coord/2000
Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Expenditure

New Delhi, the 24th September, 2000

Office Memorandum

Sub.-: Guidelines on expenditure management – Fiscal prudence and Austerity.

In continuation of this Department's O.M.No.7(3)/E-Coord/1999 dt.5th August, 1999 and with a view to further

control the growth in non-plan, non-developmental expenditure, government has decided that the following further austerity measures shall be enforced with immediate effect:

- (i) There shall be a mandatory 10% cut in the Budgetary allocation for non-plan, non-salary expenditure of all Ministries/Departments and Autonomous Institutions.
- (ii) Utmost economy should be exercised in use of staff cars and official vehicles. There shall be a 10% cut in the consumption and allocation of funds for expenditure on POL for staff cars.
- (iii) There will be a complete ban on purchase of new vehicles for one year.
- (iv) Implementation of existing instructions concerning 10% cut in posts and abolition of posts lying vacant for more than one year should be ensured. There shall be a ban on creation of new posts in all Ministries/Departments/Autonomous Institutions for one year.
- (v) Foreign travel should be restricted to unavoidable official engagements and there shall be a ban on foreign travel for Study Tours, Seminars etc. Size of official delegations, where Foreign Travel is unavoidable, shall be restricted to the bare minimum.
- (vi) The permissible per diem allowance for travel abroad shall stand reduced by 25% for all countries and for all categories, officials/non-officials. These instructions shall also apply to autonomous institutions and PSUs.
- (vii) Austerity should be reflected in organising Conferences/Seminars/Workshops Existing guidelines for holding such events and expenditure ceilings thereon should be enforced.

2. Secretaries to the Government of India Financial Advisers are requested to ensure strict compliance of the above instructions.

(C.M. Vasudev)
Secretary to the Govt. of India

To

1. All Secretaries to the Government of India (By Name)
2. All FAs (By Name)
3. All Chief Secretaries of State Government.
4. All Heads of Public Sector Enterprises.

[Translation]

NPAs of Financial Institutions

*387. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the value of the non-performing assets of Government Financial Institutions has been continuously increasing for the last three years;

(b) if so, the value of the said assets during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, financial institution-wise;

(c) the amount released during each of the above mentioned years by disposing of the NPAs, year-wise;

(d) the year-wise amount treated as bad-debt during each of the above mentioned years;

(e) whether the Government have black-listed some companies for diverting the loans in violation of norms;

(f) if so, the details of these companies; and

(g) The steps taken by the Government to recover the NPAs of financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Net Non Performing Assets (NPAs) of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), IFCI Ltd., ICICI Ltd., Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), and Industrial Investment Bank of India (IIBI) for the financial years ending March 1998, 1999 and 2000 are as under :-

(Rs. Crores)				
Sl. No.	Institution	March 1998	March 1999	March 2000
1.	IDBI	5101	6490	7675
2.	ICICI Ltd.	2811	3733	3959
3.	IFCI	2663	4258	4103
4.	IIBI	302	480	641
5.	SIDBI	263.67	192.00	196.85

(c) and (d) There is no practice of identifying an asset as bad debt due to non-recovery of dues. As and when an Asset, on completion of 180 days, starts defaulting on interest payment and/or, on completion of 365 days, starts defaulting on principal, it is classified as NPAs. Amount realised out of NPAs is mostly through One Time Settlement (OTS). The amount received out of OTS cases during the last three years is as under :-

(Rs. Crore)				
Sl. No.	Institution	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000
1.	IDBI	91.40	131.60	281.50
2.	ICICI Ltd.	255.00	321.00	470.00
3.	IFCI	138.9	386.4	N.A
4.	IIBI	22.65	35.53	46.17
5.	SIDBI	Nil	71.16	417.32

(e) and (f) The policy for dealing with cases of default including diversion funds etc., is laid down by the Boards of Financial Institutions (FIs) themselves and action for blacklisting for diversion and other defaults is taken by the FIs as per their policy based on facts and circumstances of individual cases. Some business groups assisted by financial institutions have over-stretched their financial condition in attempting to capitalize on diverse business opportunities, there by losing focus on their core business, by temporary or permanent diversion of funds. FIs direct such companies to bring back the funds and in case of non-compliance, take necessary action against them to realize their dues in case of default. However, in accordance with the practices and usage customary amongst public financial institutions and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public FIs as also the provisions of Public FIs (obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, further details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

(g) The Government of India and RBI have advised banks/FIs to take various steps for recovery of their dues, such as framing and implementation of a Recovery of Policy, filing suits with civil courts, filing cases with Debt Recovery Tribunals, compromise settlements through Settlement Advisory Committees and monitoring and follow-up of non-performing accounts.

[English]

World Bank Loan

*388. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has prescribed several pre-conditions for sanctioning of loans for various developmental projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has agreed to fulfil all these pre-conditions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) There are no prescribed preconditions for sanctioning development loans. However, the general loan conditions specify repayment period, rate of interest, commitment charges, front end fee, service charges, etc. In addition, specific loan agreements may include action plans to be implemented over the project period, and such variations on the general conditions as may also be mutually agreed.

[Translation]

Setting up of V.L.P.T./L.P.T.

*389. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for setting up of Low Power Transmitters and very Low Power Transmitters during the current financial year for providing Doordarshan facility in the hilly and remote areas in the country, State-wise;

(b) the places where transmitting centres could not be set up due to the non-availability of equipment in time, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken for achieving the said targets in a stipulated time frame?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Out of a total of 56 LPTs/VLPTs targeted to be set up in hilly areas of the country (including remote areas) during the current financial year, 11 LPTs and 11 VLPTs have so far

been commissioned between 01/04/2000 – 30.11.2000. The remaining 18 LPTs and 16 LVPTs are expected to be completed during the remaining part of the current financial year. State-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

Prasar Bharati has informed that generally, there has

been no delay in completion of the ongoing projects due to delay in equipment supply.

Prasar Bharati has further informed that all efforts are being made by Doordarshan to complete the ongoing projects at the earliest, subject to availability of sites and requisite infrastructural facilities.

Statement

Very Low Power/Low Power Transmitters of Doordarshan in Hilly Areas

Sl. No.	State/UT	Projects commissioned between 01.04.2000 and 30.11.2000			Projects expected to be completed by 31.03.2001		
		LPT	VLPT	Total	LPT	VLPT	Total
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	2	2
2.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	2	0	3	3
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	7	9	9	10	19
4.	Karnataka	1	0	1	3	0	3
5.	Kerala	1	0	1	1	0	1
6.	Maharashtra	2	0	2	0	0	0
7.	Manipur	0	1	1	0	0	0
8.	Mizoram	0	0	0	1	0	1
9.	Nagaland	1	0	1	0	0	0
10.	Tamil Nadu	1	1	2	1	0	1
11.	Tripura	0	0	0	2	0	2
12.	Uttaranchal	2	1	3	1	1	2
Total		11	11	22	18	16	34

[English]

Non-Banking Finance Companies

*390. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India propose to allow certain top Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) to convert themselves into banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of the NBFCs proposed to be converted into banks;

(c) the criteria fixed for NBFCs to convert themselves into banks; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that the NBFCs converted into banks also fulfill all prudential norms like meeting Cash Reserve Ratio and Statutory liquidity ratio stipulations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) A working Group was set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in January, 1998 to review the licensing policy for setting up of new private sector banks and to prescribe fresh guidelines in the light of the experience gained under

the existing licensing policy. The Working Group submitted its report in April, 1999. The Working Group has, inter alia recommended that it would be necessary and prudent that Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) which are mobilizing significant public deposits should be brought under the regulatory discipline applicable to banks by encouraging them to convert into commercial banks. The eligibility criteria for conversion of strong NBFCs into commercial banks alongwith the other recommendations of the group, are under finalisation by the RBI in consultation with Government of India.

Use of Cement

391. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

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

(a) whether the Government have set up a high level task force to explore measures to maximise use of cement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms and reference of the task force;

(d) whether the Government have also a proposal for the utilisation of funds available under the Cement Regulation Act for creation of a technology fund to help the cement industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith its impact on market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Coffee Consumption

*392. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether domestic consumption of coffee has remained stagnant in the past decade;

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

(c) whether the projection in the Ninth Five Year

Plan to increase coffee consumption to one lakh tonne is not likely to materialize;

(d) if so, the total projected production of coffee in the country and domestic consumption as well as export by 2005-2006; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to achieve the projected domestic consumption of one lakh in the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) The domestic consumption of coffee in the country has been stagnating between 50,000 to 55,000 tonnes per annum during the last few years. The main reasons for this stagnation are stiff competition from several soft beverage in the domestic market, high price of liquid coffee and the tea habits prevailing in country particularly in the Northern India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The projections that have been made this year for production, domestic consumption and export of coffee in 2005-06 are 3.79 lakh tonnes, 90,000 tonnes and 2.86 lakh tonnes respectively.

(e) The achievement of 8th Five Year Plan has been 50,000 tonnes against the target of 60,000 tonnes. In order to increase domestic consumption of coffee, during 9th Plan period the Govt. of India through Coffee Board has initiated several steps/programmes like :-

(i) Organising coffee festivals and imparting training for techniques of roasting, grinding and brewing of coffee to the Hotel Sector;

(ii) Participation in all major domestic trade fairs;

(iii) Strengthening the performance of coffee houses operated by the Board;

(iv) Setting up franchised coffee outlets of the Board;

(v) Campaign through Audio/Video and print media.

Programmes under New Industrial Policy

393. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the programme launched by the Government in the rural and tribal areas of the country under the New Industrial Policy;

(b) the States where the said programmes are being implemented;

(c) whether the people in rural and tribal areas in these States are benefited under these programmes; and

(d) if so, the number of persons benefited in the country particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) The Statement on Industrial Policy laid before Parliament on 24.7.1991 lays down a broad framework for accelerating industrial development in the context of economic liberalisation and globalisation. It also takes care of industrialisation of rural and tribal areas of the country by promoting programmes through appropriate incentives, institutions and infrastructure investments.

With a view to promoting industrialisation in these areas, the Government have launched various programmes such as Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme, Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, Central Interest Subsidy Scheme and Central Comprehensive Insurance Scheme. To lay particular emphasis on tribal areas, the Government have announced a New Industrial Policy for the North Eastern Region which provides several incentives such as Capital Investment Subsidy, Transport Subsidy, tax exemption, interest subsidy, and enhanced Central assistance in respect of Growth Centres and Integrated Infrastructural Development Centres.

Since these programmes are being implemented by different Ministries/Departments/subordinate organisations, Statewise details are not centrally maintained in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Government have also not made any estimates regarding the State-wise number of beneficiaries in the country including Maharashtra.

[Translation]

Illegal Trade

*394. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the secretary level talks were held recently to check illegal trade across the open border of India and Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the success achieved to check illegal trade as a result thereof?

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

(b) The problem of illegal trade was discussed in the Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) Meeting held on Demember 10-12, 1999 at the level of Commerce Secretaries of India and Nepal at New Delhi. The Indian side brought to the notice of the Nepalese side the items which are prone to illegal trade across the India-Nepal border and also suggested measures to be taken by the Nepalese side which will help in curbing illegal trade.

(c) The Nepalese side reiterated its strong commitment to prevention of illegal trade. Constant efforts are continuing to achieve tangible result.

FDI without FIPB Permission

395. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the industries which have been allowed by the Government to have foreign investment without the approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board;

(b) the reasons for giving them such exemption;

(c) the names of the industries kept out of the purview of such exemption; and

(d) the details of the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) Government has placed all items/activities barring some exceptions, under the automatic route for upto 100% Foreign Direct Investment, Non-Resident Indian (NRI) and Overseas Corporate Body (OCB) investment. The following items/activities are the exceptions to the above:-

1. All proposals that require an Industrial Licence, which include (i) the item requiring an Industrial Licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951; (ii) foreign investment being more than 24% in the equity capital of units manufacturing items reserved for small scale industries; and (iii) all items that require an Industrial Licence in terms of the locational policy notified by Government.

2. All proposal in which the foreign collaborator has a previous venture/tie-up in India.

3. All proposals relating to acquisition of shares in an existing Indian company in favour of a foreign/NRI/OCB investor.
4. All proposals falling outside notified sectoral policy/caps or under sectors in which FDI is not permitted and/or whenever any investor chooses to make an application to the Government and not to avail of the automatic route.

The policy has been liberalised in order to attract more FDI and to supplement domestic capital in India.

Government's Share in RRBs

*396. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to reduce its share holding in Regional Rural Banks also;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government will make efforts for strengthening the Regional Rural Banks which give priority to the poor and backward people of rural areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government has taken various measures for strengthening the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) so as to enable them to meet the credit needs of the poor and backward people of rural areas. The important measures are as under :-

- (i) The share capital (issued capital) of RRBs has been enhanced from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 1.00 crore;
- (ii) In order to further strengthen the equity base of RRBs recapitalisation process was initiated in 1994-95. Till date 187 out of 196 RRBs, have been covered under the process and an aggregate amount of Rs. 2188.42 crore has been contributed by the share-holders i.e. Central Government (50%), respective State Governments (15%) and sponsor banks (35%);
- (iii) Sponsor banks have been entrusted with greater

managerial and operational responsibility of their sponsored RRBs;

- (iv) RRBs have been preparing bank specific Development Action Plans (DAPs) and have entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with their sponsor banks on an annual basis for bringing improvement in their performance in a planned way to attain viability on sustainable basis;
- (v) Various schemes have been introduced by RRBs to attract more and more beneficiaries, which include, introduction of composite credit facilities for farmers having satisfactory track record, introduction of kisan credit Cards scheme and adoption of Self Help Group (SHG) approach for purveying of micro credit in rural areas; and
- (vi) RRBs have been brought at par with commercial banks in regard to their lending to priority sector.

As a result of the above measures, (as on 31st March, 2000), 162 out of 196 RRBs have earned a combined net profit of Rs. 561.00 crore. Out of these 162 RRBs, 55 have wiped off their accumulated losses.

[English]

Credit to Cotton Growers

*397. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have prepared any scheme to provide credit through the banks to the cotton growers of the country whose crops were destroyed by pests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a Central team has visited the States and discussed the matter with State Government officials; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which the Union Government have agreed to help these cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has not prepared any scheme specifically to provide credit through the banks to the cotton growers of the country whose crops were destroyed by

pests. However, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued standing guidelines to commercial banks to provide relief to farmers to overcome the distress caused by failure of crops due to natural calamities. Some of these are:

- (i) Banks have been advised to charge differential rate of interest @4% on the loans of the small and marginal farmers;
 - (ii) No recovery of either principal or interest to be made from the affected farmers for a period of two years and amounts not collected could be rescheduled for upto 7 years;
 - (iii) Banks have been advised not to compound the interest on rescheduled loans and not to levy any penal interest and waive penal interest, if charged; and
 - (iv) Banks have been directed to lend immediately for fresh crops to the affected farmers on the enhanced scale of finance as recently revised by the District Technical Committee.
- (c) As informed by Ministry of Agriculture, no team from the Centre has visited the States recently in connection with the above matter.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

Telecasting Permission to Private Companies

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

- (a) the name of foreign companies which have been granted permission by Doordarshan to telecast their programmes in India at present;
- (b) the conditions on which the permission was granted to those companies to telecast in India;
- (c) the language-wise, details of those companies which are telecasting their programmes in Indian languages and whether they are telecasting their programmes in English also;
- (d) the details of transmission hours, channel-wise;
- (e) whether Government have decided to charge any royalty from those companies in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that they have entered into agreements with M/s Nine Network Australia Pty Ltd. and M/s British Broadcasting Corporation, London for telecast of their programmes on Metro Channel of Doordarshan.

Arrangements have also been worked out by Prasar Bharati with Star TV, Zee TV, Sony Entertainment and UTV for programmes on Kashir channel.

Doordarshan has also entered into an agreement with CNN for one year for the period 3rd March, 2000 to 2nd April, 2001 for supply of news footage.

(b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that M/s Nine Network's programmes are being telecast on the conditions inter-alia, that :-

- (i) The programmes produced and submitted for telecast to Doordarshan should conform to the Broadcasting and Commercial Code of Doordarshan.
- (ii) Programems based on concepts approved by Doordarshan only will be telecast.
- (iii) Doordarshan reserves the right to suspend the telecast of any particular programme. However, if a programme is dropped on more than five occasions during the course of one year, the company will be entitled to prorata rebate in case of all such programmes dropped. In case of Applicant's failure to come on air on any particular day, he will be liable to compensate Doordarshan for the losses thus incurred on the same basis as allowed to the Applicant i.e. prorata.
- (iv) Only Doordarshan logo will be carried during the telecast of the programme. Producers caption will be telecast before and after the programme.

BBC has been allowed by Prasar Bharati to telecast their children's programme titled "Teletubbies" with prescribed telecast fee of the allotted time slot.

With a view to provide a bouquet of best programems available in the country to the people of Kashmir valley due to the prevailing

law and order situation, arrangements have been made for sharing of air time with M/s Star TV, Zee TV, Sony Entertainment and UTV, who are providing their best programmes on the Kashir channel. The programmes are being provided by these private channels/production houses free of cost.

As per agreement with CNN, Doordarshan has been given rights to utilise :

- Live Breaking News** – Up to 60 minutes per day for simultaneous rebroadcast, but not to exceed 30 minutes per day, if for subsequent replay.
- Excerpts** – Up to 10 minutes per hour, but not to exceed 150 minutes per day in total.
- International Newsource** – Four satellite-delivered news feeds per day, plus rundowns, scripts and support services.
- Aggregate** – Use of materials covered by these rights shall not exceed 90 minutes per day in aggregate.

(c) M/s Nine Network Australia Pty. Ltd., Australia and the programmes of private channels on Kashir channel are in Hindi only. BBC is telecasting their children's programme in English only. News feeds from CNN are in English.

(d) On DD-Metro, M/s Nine Network Pty. Ltd. Australia is telecasting original programmes for three hours between 7.00 PM to 10.00 PM with repeat for three hours next day from 9.00 AM to 12.00 Noon and BBC telecasts programmes for half an hour from Monday to Friday at 3.30 PM.

M/s Star TV, Zee TV, Sony Entertainment and UTV are providing 2½ hours of programmes from 7.30 PM to 10.00 PM on Kashir channel.

No specific period for telecast of CNN feeds has been agreed upon. The feeds are utilised by Doordarshan for their News as and when the same are required.

(e) and (f) Sourcing of these programmes is not on royalty basis. For time slot 7.00 PM to 9.00 PM the price

offered by M/s Nine Network Australia Pty. Ltd. as the highest bid was Rs. 59 Crores, net and for the 9.00 PM to 10.00 PM slot the price quoted was Rs. 62 Crores, net. The bid amount quoted relates to the contract period of one year.

BBC is telecasting their children's programme by paying the telecast fee of Rs. 7500/- per episode. The programme is for one year.

M/s Star TV, Zee TV, Sony Entertainment and UTV are providing their programmes free of charge on Kashir channels.

Doordarshan has agreed to pay CNN US \$ 95,000 as licence fee, for CNN News, during the period of contract.

Funds to Consumer Courts

*399. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have earmarked any funds for setting up of Consumer Courts in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether several States have either diverted the allotted funds for other purposes or have not utilised the funds fully; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) 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 of 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 which it has been given. The utilization 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]

IFI and FIs in Mutual Fund

*400. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI R.S. PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the International Financial Institutions and FIs to enter the Indian Mutual Fund Sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have conducted a study regarding the performance of Indian Mutual Funds;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) International financial institutions and foreign institutional investors are already allowed to sponsor mutual funds in India subject to approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board and compliance with the requirements of the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996, which are uniformly applicable to domestic and foreign applicants.

(c) to (e) Mutual funds are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996. SEBI monitors the activities of mutual funds through various periodical reports submitted by them. Mutual funds are required to disclose their performance in terms of NAVs on daily basis in case of open-ended schemes and on weekly basis in case of close-ended schemes. Detailed internal status reports including funds mobilized, total assets, offer documents received and cleared, schemes launched, daily purchases and sales by mutual funds etc. are prepared which are also available on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov.in). As much, Government has not conducted any separate study on the performance of Indian mutual funds.

[Translation]

Short-term Loans to Cotton Mills

4146. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the banks have agreed to adopt some short-term measures alongwith rescheduling of

loans and also by providing funds for procuring cotton for the mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided to the textile industry by these banks and the financial institutions during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Public Sector Banks provide loans to Industries based on their commercial judgement, lending policy duly approved by their respective Boards and keeping in view the guidelines issued by Government of India and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in this regard from time to time. This is applicable to all sectors including loans to Cotton Mills.

(c) The outstanding credit to Textile Industries by scheduled commercial banks as on 30th June, 2000 (latest available) was Rs. 26,284 crores. Assistance sanctioned and disbursed by All India Financial Institutions to Textile Sector during April-October, 2000 (latest available) is Rs. 2200.91 crores and Rs. 1710.16 crores respectively.

[English]

Use of Computers in GIC

4147. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5388 on 28th April, 2000 regarding use of computers in General Insurance Company and state :

(a) whether the Regional Offices of Oriental Insurance Company Limited and New India Assurance Company Limited, New Delhi had purchased computers on higher price than that of open market price during the last three years;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon during the above period and the criteria fixed for the purchase;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Regional Offices of Oriental Insurance Company and

New India Assurance Company, New Delhi procured 6 and 3 computers at a cost of Rs. 3.18 lakhs and Rs. 1.53 lakhs respectively. The purchases have been effected after calling quotations from the market. The two companies have confirmed that the purchase prices were not higher than the prevailing market price.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

World Bank Loan

4148. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has lately been approached for loans or aid for development projects in Assam and other North Eastern States, to ensure accelerated development of these insurgency ridden backward and tribal areas;

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

(c) whether these schemes and projects were discussed with the President, World Bank during his recent visit to India; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) : Yes Sir. The Arunachal Pradesh Forestry Project, Assam Forestry Project and Tripura Agriculture Development Project had been posed to the World Bank. The Third Technician Education Project was approved by the World Bank on 07.09.2000.

(b) Arunachal Pradesh Forestry Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 300 crores was posed to the World Bank on 19.08.1999. The Assam Forestry Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 357.07 crores for Phase-I and Rs. 327.96 crores for Phase-II was posed to the World Bank on 26.10.1999. The Tripura Agriculture Development Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 403 crores was posed to the World Bank in January, 2000. The Third Technician Education Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 329.37 crores, will cover, among others, the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura.

(c) Area or Sector specific project proposals for financial assistance from World Bank were not discussed during the recent visit of the President of the World Bank.

(d) Does not arise.

Bakreswar Power Projects of BHEL

4149. SHRI JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. has failed to complete Bakreswar Power Project within stipulated time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of penalty to be paid by BHEL to the West Bengal Power Development Corporation due to delay in completion of the project; and

(d) the time by which BHEL is likely to handover all the units of the project to West Bengal Power Development Corporation for commercial operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, the Bakreswar Power Project was largely delayed due to problems encountered in the generator and imported mills requiring replacement of generator of Unit I and time taken in grid synchronization of various units.

(c) There is no decision on penalty and it would be subject to negotiations in view of reasons mentioned above.

(d) Unit I is already handed over, Units II is expected to be handed over by January 2001 and Unit III by March 2001.

Setting up of Vividh Bharathi Station

4150. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Vividh Bharathi station in southern Tamil Nadu as the existing one at Tiruchi does not cater to the people in southern T.N.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Commercial Broadcasting Service (CBS) Centre at Coimbatore, in Southern Tamil Nadu, has been commissioned on 15.8.2000. The existing 1 KW MW Tr. at Tiruchirapalli is also being replaced by 10 KW FM Tr.

**Amendments in Market Development
Assistance Guidelines**

4151. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the exports to Latin American countries is very negligible in the recent years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government have recently amended the Market Development Assistance guidelines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) it's likely impact on the export of these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):
(a) and (b) Our merchandise exports to LAC in 1999-2000 were \$693.75 million which is 1.85% of our total exports. The main reasons for low exports to this region were long distance, language barriers and inadequacy of information.

(c) and (d) The MDA guidelines have been reviewed and proposals have been formulated especially for LAC region, namely:-

- (1) MDA assistance shall be available on air travel @90% to SSI exporters and @75% to other than SSI exporters subject to a maximum of Rs. 90,000/- per event for Sales-Cum-Study Tours/Trade delegations and Rs. 1,40,000/- for participation in fairs/exhibitions and buyer-cum-seller meets in the LAC region.
- (2) A maximum of three activities in a financial year, combined of sales tours/participation in fairs abroad shall be permissible for MDA assistance. One additional sales tour/fair participation would be permissible to the LAC region.
- (3) Assistance shall be given for opening/maintaining a warehouse in the Latin American countries, on a declining scale of 75%, 50% and 25% in three successive years for meeting the rental

expenses for a period of three years from 1st April, 2000.

- (4) A provision of Rs. 2 crores corpus has been made for the year 2000-2001 for supporting market promotion activities in the LAC region through EPCs, ITPO etc. by way of organising specialised Made in India Exhibition, translation facilities in Spanish/Portuguese and vice versa, market survey, setting up of warehousing facilities for three years, preparation of product catalogue in CD Rom form etc.
- (5) Inviting foreign delegations/buyers for specialised fairs and other programmes would also be eligible for MDA support.
- (6) Recognized Indian export houses and trading houses, recognised consortia of SSI units shall be given assistance for opening and maintaining foreign office in Latin American countries with 50% assistance for one year for rent etc.
- (7) Training in Spanish/Portuguese language for the exporters to the LAC will be conducted in IIFT on the basis of 8 courses in a year, of 5 month long duration to be conducted thrice a week in the evenings/full time courses of 2½ months duration.
- (e) The two way trade is likely to grow with these measures. India's exports to LAC have increased by 32.81% during the first six months of the current financial year.

Malpractices in Insurance Companies

4152. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 2483 on 12th June, 1998 regarding 'Malpractices in Insurance Companies' and state :

- (a) the details of cases of corruption, forgery, assets disproportionate to known sources of income and fraudulent settlement of claims in the offices of Insurance Companies located in Delhi and Ghaziabad reported to/investigate by the C.B.I., Police, CVC and Anti-Corruption Branch, Delhi during the last two years, Company-wise;
- (b) the action taken thereon, company-wise;
- (c) whether complaints have been received from the Employees Associations against the Vigilance Officer

of Delhi Region for their unfair and partisan role in various cases referred to them for enquiry and also against their personal misconduct; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken or proposed to be taken against the erring Vigilance Officers?

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

CBI Enquiry on Directors of PSUs

4153. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH BARWALA :
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :

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

(a) the number of Directors of Public Sector Undertakings who are being investigated by CBI and have been promoted to higher post; and

(b) the number of such Directors are still in promotion list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Payment of Telephone and Electricity Bills

4154. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to direct all public sector banks to accept payment of telephone and electricity bills of consumers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Food Parks

4155. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the districts in Uttar Pradesh where Food Parks have been established;

(b) the criteria for selection, salient features and the objectives behind establishing these Food Parks;

(c) whether the State has created all basic facilities for this;

(d) if not, whether any assistance is being provided by the Union government;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government are contemplating to include Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh under this scheme; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The Government has provided financial assistance for setting up a Food Park in Ghaziabad district of U.P.

(b) The Department of Food Processing Industries (under its Plan Schemes which are project-oriented and not area or State specific) calls for proposals for setting up food parks. Organizations desirous of establishing food parks are required to submit detailed project report, an appraisal report, land acquisition details, details on means of finance, recommendation of State Nodal Agency etc.

(c) to (e) The scheme of providing assistance for creation of infrastructure facilities implemented by the Department of Food Processing Industries has three components; one of them is for setting up of Food Park. This component envisages grant-in-aid upto Rs. 4 crore for PSUs/Joint/Assisted/Private Sector/NGO/Cooperatives for creation of common facilities such as analytical and quality control laboratories, cold storage/modified atmosphere cold storage/warehousing facilities / pollution control facilities etc. Location of such facilities is as per recommendation of State Nodal Agency.

(f) and (g) No proposal for setting up of Food Park at Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh has been received so far.

[English]

Interest Rate Charged by NABARD

4156. SHRI VINOD KHANNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NABARD has raised rate of interest on list refinance to Co-operative Banks by 1.5 per cent w.e.f. October 1, 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for restoring the earlier rate of interest to the co-operative banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance support to Co-operative Banks for Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) and other approved purposes at varying concessional rates of interest out of the funds made available by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the General Line of Credit (GLC). The rates of interest on NABARD refinance are generally based on the rates charged by RBI on GLC provided to it. As RBI had stepped up the rate of interest by 1.5% per annum with effect from 1st October, 1999 on the GLC funds being provided to NABARD, NABARD had to revise its interest rates on refinance support to banks from the same date.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Fraud in Banks

4157. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fraud cases and cases of opening of bogus accounts detected in associate banks of SBI

branches of Mumbai and Delhi, Branch-wise and Bank-wise;

(b) the amount involved therein, case-wise;

(c) whether the responsibility of the Officers involved in each-case has been fixed by the Bank's management; and

(d) if so, the action taken in each case?

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

Air-conditioned Warehouses

4158. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of airconditioned warehouses maintained by Central Warehousing Corporation throughout the country to keep horticultural products;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct more warehouses in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) has got one owned air-conditioned warehouse at Calcutta with a capacity of 1500 Metric Tonnes where chemicals, pharmaceuticals and seed are stored. The CWC is also operating four cold-storage at the following centres :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Centre	Capacity (in Metric Tonnes)		Commodity Stored
		Owned	Hired	
1.	Nimak Mahal Road (West Bengal)	0	1500	Seeds, Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals
2.	Agartala (Tripura)	1000	0	Potatoes
3.	Nampally (Andhra Pradesh)	600	0	Yeast, Tamarind
4.	Turbhe (Maharashtra)	0	2674	Photographic film, Dates, Pharmaceuticals

(b) The CWC has no plan to construct any air-conditioned warehouse in the financial year 2000-2001.

(c) Does not arise.

Strength of Employees in Central Ministries

4159. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided that from current fiscal year to 2004-05, strength of employees serving in Central Ministries would be downsized annually by 10%;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the rationale behind this; and

(c) the manner in which is it likely to be implemented?

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

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

[Translation]

IMF Loan

4160. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided not to seek further loan from International Monetary Fund;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to improve the position of Balance of Payment in view of increasing oil import bill; and

(d) the extent to which these measures have been successful?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government's overall policy of economic reform and liberalization has helped to increase exports and promote foreign capital inflows. Some of the measures taken to improve and the effect thereof on the Balance of Payment position include:-

(i) Various initiatives taken by the Government to encourage the flow of Foreign Direct Investment as a result of which the FDI inflow has increased from US \$ 1217 million during April-October 1999 to US \$ 1662 million during April-October 2000;

(ii) India's export has grown by 20.5 per cent during April-October 2000, compared to 10.0 per cent during April-October, 1999; and

(iii) Indian Millennium Deposit Scheme of the State Bank of India has successfully mobilized US\$ 5.5 billion. As a result, our foreign exchange reserves (including gold and SDR) have increased to US \$ 39 billion at the end of November 2000 from US \$ 38 billion at the end of March 2000.

Thus, the overall Balance of Payment situation continues to remain manageable despite extraordinary pressures of high international oil prices.

[English]

Export of Foodgrains

4161. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item "Foodgrains for export but not for the Poor" appearing in the *Hindu* dated November 3, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps propose to be taken by the Government for offering huge stocks of foodgrains at reasonable rates to the vast millions of people below the poverty lines?

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

(b) and (c) Government has decided to export wheat from the surplus stocks available with it. Wheat will be made available by FCI for export at a price not lower than the CIP for BPL category, i.e. Rs. 4150 per MT.

(d) In view of the comfortable stock position of foodgrains, Government has considered various proposals and decided to allocate foodgrains under TPDS for BPL families on the basis of projected population as on 1.3.2000, instead of the present base of 1995 population under TPDS. The Government has also decided to give foodgrains at BPL rates (i) for welfare institutions catering to the needs of destitute men, women and children at the rate of 5 kg. per head per month and (ii) for all welfare schemes of Govt. of India including the "Food for Work" programme.

[Translation]

Hearing in Trademark Registrar Office

4162. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1908 on December 10, 1999 and state:

(a) whether M/s. Bioherb Pharma, Hathras-Uttar Pradesh has filed objection applications in the Delhi branch of Trademark Registry on September 27, 1999 which were lying with Deputy Registrar of Trade Mark for hearing;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) whether the hearing has been completed;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which hearing is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. M/s. Bioherb Pharma, Hathras, UP, has filed notice of opposition objecting to the registration of Trade Mark under Application Nos. 562099 (UTEROTONE), 562100 (CATONE) AND 562101 (CATCOUGH) under Section 21 of the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958.

(b) and (c) The opposition hearings have not commenced.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A completion date for such proceedings cannot be prescribed. Further M/s. Bioherb Pharma, Hathras and M/s. Cattle Remedies, Sirsaganj have been litigating in the High Courts in respect of the same trade marks.

[English]

Rice Stock in Andhra Pradesh

4163. SHRI RAJAI AH MALYALA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of request made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to move rice stocks from Andhra Pradesh to Southern States instead of spending additional amount on transporting rice from the Northern States to the Southern States for the Public Distribution System;

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct additional godowns in Andhra Pradesh;

(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 SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) In view of the representations received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, no rice is planned to be transported by FCI from Northern States to Southern States during December 2000, and optimum quantity of rice will be transported to Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu etc. from Andhra Pradesh in addition to intra-State movement within Andhra Pradesh for the PDS and other requirements.

(b) and (c) As on 30.10.2000, FCI had a total storage capacity of 24.24 lakh tonnes in Andhra Pradesh. During the current Five Year Plan, FCI has approved construction of two godowns at the following locations in Andhra Pradesh:-

(i) Nellore 30,000 MT

(ii) Amalapuram 10,000 MT

(d) Question does not arise.

Selection of Chairman, IDBI

4164. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the post of Chairman of IDBI has fallen vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the guidelines formulated by the Government for selection to the post of IDBI Chairmanship; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the post at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) will fall vacant after the superannuation of the present incumbent on 31st January, 2001.

(c) and (d) Selection of persons for the post of whole time Directors in public sector banks and financial institutions including that of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), IDBI is made based on the recommendations of Appointments Board which consists of Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as Chairman and Finance Secretary, Special Secretary (Banking), Deputy Governor, RBI and two outside experts having specialization in the field of banking and management as members.

For selection of person for the post of CMD, IDBI, Government had issued an advertisement in the leading newspapers inviting applications from persons who fulfil the following criteria :-

- (i) the applicant should be a Graduate, preferably in economics, commerce, engineering, chartered accountancy or MBA;
- (ii) should be in the age group of 50-55 years, but not more than 58 years as on 1st February, 2001;
- (iii) should have minimum of 25 years experience in financial institutions or banks of which 7 years should be in a senior position not below the equivalent rank of a General Manager of a nationalised bank or a financial institution. Preference to be given to applicant holding board level position in banks/financial institution; and
- (iv) should have adequate exposure in the field of project finance, corporate finance, treasury operations, resources mobilisation, risk management and information technology etc.

The shortlisted candidates were interviewed on 1st December, 2000 by a Sub-Committee constituted by the Appointments Board. Recommendations of the Committee are under process.

Production in Nepa Limited

4165. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production in Nepa Limited has been increasing but the company has been consistently incurring losses during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the wage and salaries of workers and employees are coming down; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) The production performance of Nepa Limited, Napanagar (Madhya Pradesh) and losses suffered during the last three years are as under:-

	(Rupees in lakhs)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Production (MT)	37592	55555	58455
Net Loss	3245.33	2514.57	2129.24

The reasons for incurring losses by Nepa Limited are mainly due to old Plant and Machinery, outdated technology, imbalances in pulping capacities, shortage of working capital and excess manpower etc.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Rural Development Institutes

4166. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Bank plans to start two more rural development institutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the objectives for opening such institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Andhra Bank has reported that it has a trust named "Andhra Bank Rural Development Trust" under which an institute called "Andhra Bank Institute of Rural Development" was started in 1989 at Rajahmundry for providing

training facilities to rural poor and farmers. In order to expand the training activities in its command area, Andhra Bank has decided to establish three more such institutes at Machilipatnam, Srikakulam and Berhampur.

Increase in Stake of Multi-national Companies in Indian Companies

4167. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from multinational companies to increase their Stake in Indian Companies;

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

(c) the present status of these proposals?

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

(b) 1429 approvals for foreign direct investment and technical collaboration in different industries have been given during the period 1.8.1991 to 31.10.2000. However, the company-wise details are published in the SIA Newsletter, which is widely circulated including the library of the Parliament.

(c) This information is not maintained centrally.

Accreditation Advertising Agencies

4168. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the names of accredited advertising agencies functioning as of now. States and Territories-wise;

(b) whether some norms exist which provide grant of accreditation to advertising agencies;

(c) if so, the details thereof with procedure and formalities required for same;

(d) the details of advertising commercial rates for different slots on Doordarshan with procedure and formalities required in this regard;

(e) whether any type of Commission has been paid to accredited advertising agencies while accepting advertisements from them during the last three years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and agency-wise?

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

Job Oriented Courses

4169. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India Trade Promotion Organisation and Indian Institute of Foreign Trade have been organising some job oriented courses;

(b) if so, the details of each course separately, Institution-wise alongwith the procedure and formalities required for admission in each course including duration and charges for each course and the placement scope being provided, course-wise;

(c) whether the students belonging to SC/ST have also been admitted in each course so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof, States and Territory-wise with special reference to Maharashtra; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken in this regard?

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

(a) to (c) While India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) does not organise any job oriented courses, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) organises one job oriented course for graduates i.e. two year full time Masters Programme in International Business (MPIB). The candidates are selected on the basis of a comprehensive all-India competitive examination consisting of a written examination, group discussions and interviews. At present, the tuition fee, including annual charges, for the Programme is Rs. 76,000 in the first year and Rs. 81,000 in the second year. SC/ST candidates get 50% concession in payment of tuition fee. The Institute invites organisations from the trade and industry, multinational companies and government departments engaged in international business operations to visit the Institute for in campus interviews for selection of candidates for employment. Seats are also reserved for SC/ST categories as per Government of India Rules, subject to their obtaining minimum cut off marks (cut off mark for SC/ST candidates is 10% less than the General Category).

(d) and (e) The selection of candidates for admission

to the Programme is done on the basis of an all India competitive exam. Reservations for SC/ST candidates are not made States and Territory-wise. However, the States and Territory-wise break-up of the SC/ST candidates selected for admission during the year 1999 and 2000 is as follows:-

Year	Total No. of SC/ST candidates	State/Territory-wise Break-up
1999	10	Bengal-1, Delhi-2, Madhya Pradesh-1, Maharashtra-1, Punjab-1, Tamil Nadu-2, Uttar Pradesh-2.
2000	14	Andhra Pradesh-1, Bihar-1, Delhi-4, Madhya Pradesh-2, Maharashtra-1, Orissa-1, Punjab-3, Tamil Nadu-1.

The candidates are admitted to the programme on the basis of an all-India merit list drawn for the purpose. In case of SC/ST candidates, a separate merit list is drawn on the basis of All India Competitive Exam and the seats are filled up from that list in the order of merit.

Payment of Dividends by Public Sector Undertakings

4170. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the profit making Public Sector Undertakings are not following the directives of the Government to pay dividends;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter; and

(d) the role of the Government nominees on the board of directors of those PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) As per Public Enterprises Survey 1998-99, which was laid in the Lok Sabha on 10.3.2000, there were 127 profit making Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) as on 31.3.99, out of which 84 had declared dividend. Of the remaining 43 CPSUs 7 were set up under Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956 and were not expected to earn profit. In case of PSUs which have declared dividend during 1998-99, the position in terms of percentage of dividend declared by each of the PSU to their equity and post-tax profit is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The Finance Ministry has been issuing circulars and also advising Government nominee Directors to insist on compliance.

(d) Government nominees on the Board of Directors have been asked to insist on compliance of the directions regarding Payment of Dividend.

Statement

Percentage of Dividend Declared to Equity & Post Tax Profit During 1998-99

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Dividend Declared	Equity	Post Tax Profit	% of Dividend to	
					Equity	Post Tax Profit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Steel						
1.	Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd.	60	200	1041	30.00	5.76
	Sub Total	60	200	1041	30.00	5.76
Minerals and Metals						
2.	Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd.	2300	48885	7632	4.70	30.14
3.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	1796	42253	7632	4.25	23.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.	1586	63451	1853	2.50	85.59
5.	Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.	307	1533	1371	20.03	22.39
6.	National Aluminium Company Ltd.	7732	64431	24825	12.00	31.15
7.	National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.	3304	13216	14040	25.00	23.53
8.	Uranium Corporation of India Ltd.	74	41982	367	0.18	20.16
	Sub Total	17099	275751	57720	6.20	29.62
Coal And Lignite						
9.	Coal India Ltd.	11568	722054	60620	1.60	19.08
10.	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	16269	39058	40631	41.65	40.04
11.	Neyveli Lignite Corpn. Ltd.	8984	179678	57537	5.00	15.61
12.	Northern Coal Fields Ltd.	21282	57767	52943	36.84	40.20
13.	South Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.	16612	65970	41565	25.18	39.97
14.	Western Coalfields Ltd.	10398	29710	25890	35.00	40.16
	Sub Total	85113	1094237	279186	7.78	30.49
Power						
15.	National Hydro Electric Power Corpn. Ltd.	1500	382500	30530	0.39	4.91
16.	National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.	65000	771255	281573	8.43	23.08
17.	North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.	400	177715	5822	0.23	6.87
18.	Nuclear Power Corpn. of India Ltd.	5044	414879	36153	1.22	13.95
	Sub Total	71944	1746349	354078	4.12	20.32
Petroleum						
19.	Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	18750	15000	70602	125.00	26.56
20.	Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.	1028	19982	3426	5.14	30.01
21.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	5149	14710	20493	35.00	25.13
22.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.	2482	6893	33823	36.01	7.34
23.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	29598	84565	105992	35.00	27.92
24.	Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	24871	22559	90126	110.25	27.60
25.	I.B.P. Co. Ltd.	952	2215	3523	42.98	27.02
26.	Indian Additives Ltd.	148	1972	855	7.51	17.31
27.	Indian Oil Blending Ltd.	10	40	1066	25.00	0.94

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	50614	38931	221352	130.01	22.87
29.	Lubrizol India Ltd.	1248	1920	4124	65.00	30.26
30.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	78426	142593	275450	55.00	28.47
31.	Oil India Ltd.	7847	14267	29160	55.00	26.91
	Sub Total	221123	365647	859992	60.47	25.71
Fertilizers						
32.	National Fertilizers Ltd.	1234	49058	4115	2.52	29.99
33.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.	3311	55169	10564	6.00	31.34
	Sub Total	4545	104227	14679	4.36	30.96
Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals						
34.	Indian Petro Chemicals Corpn. Ltd.	2482	24905	2936	9.97	84.54
35.	Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	30	149	149	20.13	20.13
36.	Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	11	107	43	10.28	25.58
	Sub Total	2523	25161	3128	10.03	80.66
Heavy Engineering						
37.	Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.	7	26604	8	0.03	87.50
38.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	6119	24476	54464	25.00	11.23
39.	Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd.	4	813	19	0.49	21.05
	Sub Total	6130	51893	54491	11.81	11.25
Medium and Light Engineering						
40.	Antrix Corporation Ltd.	154	100	769	154.00	20.03
41.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	489	1629	1683	30.02	29.06
42.	Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	3879	11500	6227	33.73	62.29
43.	Bharat Electronics Ltd.	1600	8000	5363	20.00	29.83
44.	H T L Ltd.	45	1500	684	3.00	6.58
45.	HMT Bearings Ltd.	131	873	84	15.01	155.95
46.	I T I Ltd.	542	8800	2710	6.16	20.00
	Sub Total	6840	32402	17520	21.11	39.04
Transportation Equipment						
47.	Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.	852	12384	4257	6.88	20.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
48.	Goa Shipyard Ltd.	175	1940	194	9.02	90.21
49.	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.	2410	12050	17774	20.00	13.56
50.	Mazagon Dock Ltd.	325	19920	1623	1.63	20.02
	Sub Total	3762	46294	23848	8.13	15.77
Consumer Goods						
51.	Hindustan Latex Ltd.	28	1554	139	1.80	20.14
52.	Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.	454	8254	2108	5.50	21.54
	Sub Total	482	9808	2247	4.91	21.45
Textiles						
53.	National Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd.	15	1500	76	1.00	19.74
	Sub Total	15	1500	76	1.00	19.74
Trading and Marketing Services						
54.	C.M.C. Ltd.	151	1515	731	9.97	20.66
55.	Central Cottage Industries Corpn. of India Ltd.	21	1085	101	1.94	20.79
56.	Central Warehousing Corpn.	816	6802	4150	12.00	19.66
57.	Handicrafts & Handlooms Exports Corp. India Ltd.	54	1082	159	4.99	33.96
58.	HMT (International) Ltd.	3	24	27	12.50	11.11
59.	M M T C Ltd.	1000	5000	1807	20.00	55.34
60.	M S T C Ltd.	55	220	216	25.00	25.46
61.	P E C Ltd.	30	150	108	20.00	27.78
62.	Spices Trading Corporation Ltd.	8	150	140	5.33	5.71
63.	State Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.	600	3000	1251	20.00	47.96
	Sub Total	2738	19028	8690	14.39	31.51
Transportation Services						
64.	Airports Authority of India	4168	33763	20841	12.34	20.00
65.	Container Corporation of India Ltd.	2925	6499	14065	45.01	20.80
66.	Dredging Corpn. of India Ltd.	924	2800	4184	33.00	22.08
67.	Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.	1313	11377	6562	11.54	20.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
68.	Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.	4235	28230	20133	15.00	21.04
	Sub Total	13565	82669	65785	16.41	20.62
Contract and Construction Services						
69.	Ircon International Ltd.	1114	495	5624	225.05	19.81
	Sub Total	1114	495	5624	225.05	19.81
Industrial Dev. and Tech. Consultancy Services						
70.	Broadcast Engg. Consultants India Ltd.	7	37	25	18.92	28.00
71.	Educational Consultants (India) Ltd.	31	125	151	24.80	20.53
72.	Engineers India Ltd.	2808	1872	11806	150.00	23.78
73.	Hospital Services Consultancy Corp. (India) Ltd.	53	40	263	132.50	20.15
74.	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.	2000	304154	44442	0.66	4.50
75.	Rites Ltd.	200	200	902	100.00	22.17
76.	Telecommunications Consultants (India) Ltd.	1512	720	5380	210.00	28.10
77.	Water & Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd.	60	200	314	30.00	19.11
	Sub Total	6671	307348	63283	2.17	10.54
Tourist Services						
78.	India Tourism Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	236	6752	994	3.50	23.74
	Sub Total	236	6752	994	3.50	23.74
Financial Services						
79.	Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.	6496	23200	32611	28.00	19.92
80.	Indian Renewable Energy Devt. Agency Ltd.	400	15435	1878	2.59	21.30
81.	Power Finance Corporation	10800	103045	54136	10.48	19.95
82.	Rural Electrification Corpn. Ltd.	5000	68060	30020	7.35	16.66
	Sub Total	22696	209740	118645	10.82	19.13
Telecommunication Services						
83.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	18900	63000	129724	30.00	14.57
84.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	7600	9500	132496	80.00	5.74
	Sub Total	26500	72500	262220	36.55	10.11
Grand Total:		493156	4452001	2193247	11.08	22.49

Strengthening Capital Base of Regional Rural Banks

4171. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are not making adequate budgetary allocation for strengthening the capital base of Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the money invested by the Government RRBs during each of the last three years; and

(c) the amount of dividend paid by RRBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) During the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 Government of India has released Rs. 200.00 crore, Rs. 152.65 crore and Rs. 168.00 crore respectively for recapitalisation of RRBs. Thus adequate budgetary support is being given.

(c) As per section 21 of the RRBs Act, 1976, after making provisions for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, contribution to staff and superannuation funds and all other matters for which provision is, under law, necessary or which are usually provided for by banking companies, RRBs may, out of its net profits, declare a dividend. Financial performance of RRBs has not so far permitted them to declare dividend.

Consumer Information Centre

4172. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have opened "District Consumer Information Centres" in the country recently under a new Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of centres likely to be opened in each State during 2000-2001; and

(d) the extent to which the consumers are likely to be benefitted as a result thereof?

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

Government have recently announced a new Scheme for setting up of District Consumer Information Centres and circulated it to all States/UTs. The Scheme envisages setting up one such centre in each district of the Country in five years in a phased manner covering 20% of the districts in every year. The proposal is to be implemented with the help of Zilla Parishads and/or Voluntary Consumer Organisations of repute. The response of the State/UTs Government is awaited in this regard.

(d) These information Centres are expected to provide a number of benefits to the consumers in awareness generation as well as in protecting their rights through dissemination of information on all aspects of consumer protection, coordination with the District Weights & Measures authority/laboratories in handling issues relating to quality, weights and measures, adulteration etc., close interaction with the District Civil Supplies Organisation, developing a data base of the VCOs in the region and providing consumer related information such as relating to fair price shops, availability of essential commodities, etc.

MNC's Control on Seed Companies

4173. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign Multinational Corporations have taken over the control over India major seed supply without any responsibility and liability;

(b) whether the role of the multinationals in the seed production and distribution need to be balanced with liabilities and responsibilities; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for regulating the Multinationals to their activities in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) No separate data for seed sector is maintained. The Government have approved a total number of 268 proposals of foreign companies, including MNCs in the Agriculture, Floriculture and Horticulture Sectors (including seed but not plantation) during the period 1.8.91 to 31.10.2000, which involve total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) amounting to Rs. 645.50 crore.

To regulate the activities of the Multi-nationals/foreign companies in the field of seed growing and protect the interest of Indian farmers and growers, the following conditions are usually imposed nowadays while granting foreign collaboration approvals :-

- (a) The company shall not use any genetically engineered planting material for raising seeds;
- (b) Import of materials shall be in accordance with National Seeds Policy; and
- (c) The company will abide by the laws of the land.

Compensation to Film Producer

4174. SHRI N.R.K. REDDY :
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

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

- (a) whether without rights of producer, the film "Hum Aap Ke Dil Me Rehte Hain" was telecast by Doordarshan in October, 2000;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on the complaint lodged by the producer in this connection; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to pay adequate compensation to the producer?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. Doordarshan telecasted the said film only after ascertaining the position of telecast rights by the offerer.

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

Revitalisation Scheme for Public Sector Undertakings

4175. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have approved any revitalization scheme for Public Sector Undertakings;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

- (c) the funds allocated in the annual plan thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) (a) to (c) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to revitalize the Public Sector Undertakings. For sick industrial Central PSUs, the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) sanctions the scheme. Enterprise specific schemes are also formulated and approved by the Government for the desired restructuring/revitalization of potentially viable Central PSUs on case to case basis.

Subject to availability of the resources need based budgetary support in the form of Plan and non-Plan assistance are provided to the Central PSUs. Enterprise-wise Plan assistance allocated to Public Enterprises including Central PSUs are indicated in Statement - 14, Expenditure Budget Volume-I of Union Budget 2000-01, which is a published document.

[Translation]

Smuggled Goods Confiscated

4176. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the value and details of smuggled goods confiscated during the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the number of persons arrested in this connection and action taken against them; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to check the smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The value of smuggled goods including foreign currency seized by the Customs officials from January, 1999 till November, 2000, State-wise, and the number of persons arrested in connection thereto, are given in the statement enclosed. Necessary appropriate action under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962, has been initiated against the persons arrested.

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

Statement

Value of Smuggled Goods and Foreign Currency Seized by the Customs Department from January, 1999 to November, 2000, State-wise and Persons Arrested in Connection Thereto

Sl. No.	State	Value of Smuggled Goods Including Foreign Currency Seized (Rs. In Lakhs)	No. of Persons Arrested
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1066.54	8
2.	Assam	388.92	36
3.	Bihar	6720.65	263
4.	Chhattisgarh	6.50	—
5.	Delhi	11178.48	141
6.	Goa	84.57	8
7.	Gujarat	7397.39	35
8.	Haryana	1947.00	1
9.	Jharkhand	1.22	—
10.	Karnataka	888.55	35
11.	Kerala	2364.26	50
12.	Madhya Pradesh	128.66	5
13.	Maharashtra	49769.68	221
14.	Manipur	764.41	42
15.	Meghalaya	248.35	30
16.	Mizoram	157.86	11
17.	Nagaland	122.49	8
18.	Orissa	1.82	—
19.	Pondicherry	2.25	—
20.	Punjab	683.70	24
21.	Rajasthan	87.88	7
22.	Tamil Nadu	4357.01	218
23.	Tripura	402.59	9

1	2	3	4
24.	U.P.	1247.84	130
25.	West Bengal	11997.73	224
Total		102016.35	1506

Note: Report in respect of the States, which have not been mentioned above, may be treated as "Nil".

[English]

World Bank Aided Projects

4177. SHRI G.S BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank President has intimated that World Bank would undertake a stock-taking exercise on its 79-odd projects currently under implementation in India before taking any decision on increasing the number of projects in the country;

(b) if so, the time by which the World Bank is likely to take the survey on these projects;

(c) whether the Government had asked the World Bank President sanction more projects on roadways and highways, which are essential projects to help the poor people; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the World Bank President has assured the Government to take up more projects in future?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The President, World Bank does not sanction funds. Therefore, no specific request was made nor an assurance given regarding any specific project. However, the need to develop transport sector, inter alia, was identified as a priority.

Second Generation Reforms

4178. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the efforts made to take up the second generation reforms right to the village level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : Economic

reforms have been implemented since 1991 with the overall objective of achieving sustained economic growth and reducing poverty and unemployment. The economic reforms are a continuing process and appropriate policy initiatives are being taken as and when necessary. Several rural development programmes have been restructured to enhance their effectiveness and sustainability.

Vacant Posts for OBCs in Banks

4179. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the posts reserved for OBCs in various Public Sector Banks are lying vacant;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to issue an order to fill up these vacant posts;
- (d) if so, by when; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per the latest information available, 3152 posts reserved for OBCs are lying vacant in different cadres of the public sector banks.

(c) and (d) Instructions have already been issued by the Government to ensure timely filling up of reserved posts to avoid accumulation of backlog.

(e) Does not arise, in view of reply to parts (c) and (d).

[Translation]

Tax Dispute Settlement Scheme

4180. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the objectives of the "Tax dispute Settlement Scheme" Launched by the Government;
- (b) whether this scheme has been successful;
- (c) if so, the extent thereof; and
- (d) the companies whose tax disputes have been settled under this scheme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (d) The Government had launched "The Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme" as a part of the Budget Proposals 1998-99 as incorporated in Chapter-V of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1998. The Scheme was in operation from 01.09.1998 to 31.01.1999. The basic objectives of the Scheme as explained by the Finance Minister's Budget Speech were to bring down the pending litigation/disputes between the Department and the assesses both on the direct tax and indirect taxes side, declog the appellate and judicial system as well as to speedily realize the arrears of taxes locked up in various disputes. The scheme attained a reasonable degree of success which is evident from collection of taxes amounting to Rs. 738.74 crores and settlement of 33,918 disputes under the direct tax enactments and similarly, collection of taxes amounting to Rs. 643.80 crores and settlement of 11,159 disputes under the indirect tax enactments pending before different adjudicating/appellate authorities or courts. In all, over 45,000 disputes were settled under the scheme both under the direct tax enactments and indirect tax enactments.

Sick Companies

4181. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have defined the criteria for declaring a company sick;
- (b) if so, the deciding factors in this regard;
- (c) the state-wise number of companies declared sick during the current year; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for their revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 the sick industrial company mean an industrial company (being company registered for not less than five years) which has at the end of any financial year accumulated losses equal to or exceeding its entire net worth.

(c) As per Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) the details regarding state-wise number of companies declared sick during the year 2000 (upto 30.9.2000) are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Rehabilitation of sick units registered with BIFR are done in accordance with the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, (SICA) 1985. In feasible cases, rehabilitation schemes are sanctioned for the revival of the sick companies which include various measures like restructuring the equity, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, merger with the other companies, change of management, provision for working capital and term loans by banks and financial institutions. Reliefs and concessions from various other concerned parties also form part of the schemes.

Statement

1. Andhra Pradesh	06
2. Assam	01
3. Bihar	02
4. Goa	02
5. Gujarat	09
6. Haryana	06
7. Himachal Pradesh	01
8. Karnataka	10
9. Madhya Pradesh	05
10. Maharashtra	18
11. NCT Delhi	05
12. Orissa	02
13. Pondicherry	01
14. Punjab	03
15. Rajasthan	02
16. Tamil Nadu	15
17. Uttar Pradesh	07
18. West Bengal	10
Total	105

[English]

Deputation to UNO and Affiliated Organizations

4182. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Forum of SC/ST MPs in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on 17.12.1996, 1.9.1997 and 23.7.1998 have demanded posting of adequate number of SCs/STs Officers in the posts/assignments under UNO and its affiliated Organizations in India and abroad;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and the number of Officers belonging to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting working in the above posts as on 1.1.1996 in the grade of class I, II, III, and IV and persons belonging to the SCs/STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total posts;

(c) the number of officers posted to the above posts during 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 and persons belonging to the SCs/STs among them and their percentage as compared to the posts filled in during the said period, year-wise; and

(d) the reasons, if no action is taken on the said representation of the SC/ST MPs Forum?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (d) The memoranda urged the Government of India for taking comprehensive measures for development of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, inter-alia, requesting for posting of suitable persons belonging to the SCs/STs for posts of importance like Governors, Ambassadors, Members of Planning Commission, Secretaries to the Government of India, Members of UPSC, PESB, etc. Selection of an expert for assignment to the UN and its allied agencies is made on the requisition of the organization and nominations are made by the Government of India from a panel of eligible experts.

(b) No officer in Class I, II, III and IV of the Ministry was working in UNO and its affiliated Organizations, in India or abroad, as on 1.1.96.

(c) One officer belonging to Unreserved category, in the grade of Class I was appointed as Consultant in UNDP, India, in the year 1998. While no officer of the Ministry was posted to UNO and its affiliated Organizations, in India and abroad, during 1996, 1997 and 1999.

[Translation]

Facilities to Employees of PSUs

4183. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether new norms have been laid down to provide salary, bonus and other facilities to the employees, workers and officers of the Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the exclusive rights have been bestowed on the managers and executives of Multinational Companies and companies under the private sector in regard to service conditions, payment of dividends and other facilities to be provided to the workers, managers and officers working under them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any provision to pay more than 10% of the total annual sale proceeds of the said companies in terms of salary or other facilities to the employees working under them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (f) Salaries/wages and other facilities for the workers and officers of the Central PSUs are to be implemented as per the latest guidelines issued by the Government which are more or less based on the earlier criteria/norms.

Payment of dividends and other facilities to be paid and extended to the workers, managers and executives working in the Multinational Companies and companies under the private sector are as per their own service conditions as well as per statutory requirements.

[English]

Trade with Nepal by Karnataka

4184. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

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

(a) whether the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Nepal Chamber of Commerce signed memorandum of understanding to encourage inter-trade activities between Karnataka and Nepal;

(b) if so, the main features of the Memorandum of Understanding;

(c) the details of the projects that are likely to be undertaken by the Government of Nepal; and

(d) the time by which the projects are likely to be commissioned?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Nepal Chamber of Commerce on 2nd November 2000.

(b) Main Features of the Memorandum of Understanding are :-

- To facilitate trade between Nepal and Karnataka.
- To encourage investments through joint ventures and technology transfer.
- To set up training facilities and educational institutions.
- To increase the flow of tourists between Karnataka and Nepal.
- To facilitate information exchange and exchange of delegations.
- To participate in trade fairs and organise seminars and trade meets.

(c) and (d) The projects likely to be undertaken under the MoU, between January to June 2001 include Buyer Seller meets in Kathmandu and Bangalore, a workshop on "Doing business with India" in Kathmandu, a Nepal Trade Show in Bangalore, to establish linkages for training facilities and capacity building in technical, commercial and management areas, to set up a South Asian Trade Mart in Bangalore to function as a trade exchange among South Asian Countries including Nepal and a joint mission of Karnataka Government and Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry to Nepal.

Export Oriented Units in U.P.

4185. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a 100% Export Oriented Unit in Uttar Pradesh particularly at Moradabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which hundred percent Export Oriented Units are likely to be set up particularly at Moradabad?

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

(a) and (b) 100% Export Oriented Units are set up by entrepreneurs with prior approval of the Govt. During the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (upto 30.11.2000) 124 applications were received from the entrepreneurs for setting up units in the State of Uttar Pradesh under EOU Scheme. Of these, 44 units were proposed to be located at Moradabad and are mainly for handicraft items. So fa. 124 letters of Permission have been issued.

(c) The Letter of Permission (LOP) issued to the unit under EOU Scheme is valid for 3 years from its date of issue, within which the unit should implement the project and commence commercial production.

Relief to Drought Affected Areas of Rajasthan

4186. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to supply sufficient quantity of foodgrains to Rajasthan free of cost out of surplus stock lying with FCI godowns to start relief work in the drought affected areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the foodgrain is likely to be dispatched?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to allot foodgrains to Rajasthan for relief work in drought affected areas free of cost.

Investment in Industry Sector

4187. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment made by the Government in industry sector during each of the last three years in each State;

(b) the extent to which the investment proposed to be increased in this sector for the next three years; and

(c) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to remove regional imbalances in industry sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) The total investment including share application money pending allotment made by the government in central public sector undertakings during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 works out to Rs. 4920 crores, Rs. 6541 crores and Rs. 2606 crores respectively. The information on investment made by the state Governments and Private Sector in the industry sector is not available. State-wise investment outlays approved for the industrial sector for the 9th Plan (1997-2002) is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Ninth Plan (1997-2002) outlay (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	962.13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	46.10
3.	Assam	380.04
4.	Bihar	400.00
5.	Goa	34.55
6.	Gujarat	1205.00
7.	Haryana	144.68
8.	Himachal Pradesh	150.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	*395.00
10.	Karnataka	1026.00
11.	Kerala	1125.86
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1112.97
13.	Maharashtra	902.60
14.	Manipur	126.51

1	2	3
15.	Meghalaya	102.00
16.	Mizoram	68.92
17.	Nagaland	121.00
18.	Orissa	123.49
19.	Punjab	281.30
20.	Rajasthan	1753.38
21.	Sikkim	70.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	1402.91
23.	Tripura	79.34
24.	Uttar Pradesh	526.65
25.	West Bengal	1326.30
Total States		13866.73
Union Territories		
1.	A & N Islands	38.00
2.	Chandigarh	3.09
3.	D & N Haveli	5.74
4.	Daman & Diu	3.60
5.	Delhi	110.00
6.	Lakshadweep	9.16
7.	Pondicherry	185.00
Total UTs		354.59
Grand Total States/UTs		14221.32

*Indicates proposed outlay only.

(c) Development of industrially backward areas for removing regional imbalances in the industrial sector in the states is primarily the responsibility of the concerned state Government. The centre, as a matter of providing a helping hand has undertaken several measures through appropriate policy reforms from time to time to remove regional imbalances in industry sector. These include:-

- (i) Funds for the development of growth centres to promote industrialization in the backward areas under Growth Centre Scheme.

(ii) Funds under Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme for promoting Small and Village industries.

(iii) Transport Subsidy Scheme to promote industrialisation in hilly and remote areas.

(iv) The New Industrial Policy for North East Region which includes:-

(a) Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme

(b) Interest Subsidy Scheme

(c) Central Comprehensive Insurance Scheme.

World Bank Loan for Karnataka

4188. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry had sent the proposal to the Government of Karnataka for World Bank assistance for the desilting of tanks in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the amount of World Bank assistance sought by Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The project "Karnataka Tank Improvement Project" has been posed to the World Bank for assistance on 5th October 2000. Currently, the World Bank is processing appraisal/preparation of the project with the Government of Karnataka.

(c) Rs. 662.50 crores.

Procurement Centres in Central Bihar

4189. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has abandoned its procurement centre at Daud Nagar, Haspura, Arwal, Warsaiganj, Gaya and Aurangabad in central Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether general petitions have received against the closure of these centres as this is resulting in large scale exploitation of the farmers of central Bihar, who

largely depend upon their paddy and wheat production; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for re-opening of these centers and also to open new procurement centers at Hulasganj, Jahanabad, Wazirganj, Belaganj, Mehandia and Makhdoompur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Food Corporation of India (FCI) has not abandoned its procurement centers at Arwal, Warsoliganj, Gaya and Aurangabad. No procurement center was opened at Daud Nagar. During the current Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001, 30 paddy procurement centers have been opened in Bihar, in consultation with the State Government.

(c) As these centers have not been abandoned, the question of petitions does not arise.

(d) It was agreed by the State Government to operate procurement centers at small places with the help of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS). However, a procurement center at Mahandia has been operated by the FCI earlier, which is operative this year also.

Splitting of UTI

4190. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has suggested splitting of Unit Trust of India (UTI) into smaller entities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) A joint World Bank-IMF mission, in their Financial Sector Assessment Programme report, has referred to the splitting of UTI into independent companies to increase competition.

(c) The Government is not considering this suggestion at this juncture.

Duty on Oils

4191. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
DR. V. SAROJA :
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have hiked the import duties on crude and refined edible oils recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the hike in import duties on crude and refined edible oils would have any positive affect on the domestic industry;

(d) if so, the extent to which domestic industry is to be benefited;

(e) whether the Government are aware that import duty is being avoided by many companies by under invoicing; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Import duties on edible oils have generally been increased with effect from 21st November, 2000. These changes were carried out through Notification Nos. 142 to 144/2000-Customs all dated 21st November, 2000 which have already been laid on the Table of both Houses on the same day.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The hike in import duty is expected to extend support to the domestic vegetable oil processing industry in terms of better capacity utilization and higher value addition. Besides, it will also help in regulating the import of edible oils.

(e) Appropriate action, as per provisions of Law, will be taken in respect of any such cases. Information regarding under-invoicing of imports of edible oils, if any, is being collected from Customs formations.

(f) All the field formations of the Customs Department have been directed to remain vigilant and alive to the threat of under-invoicing of edible oils.

[Translation]

Public Sector Cement Factories

4192. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state the number of public sector cement

factories in each State alongwith their profit/loss during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHABHAI KATHIRIA) : There is only one Central Public Sector Undertaking namely Cement Corporation of India Ltd., having its factories located in different States. State-wise location of the Factories and Profit and Loss for the last year is as under:-

Sl. No.	State	Name of the Factory	Profit/(Loss) during 1999-2000 (Prov.) (Rupees in lakhs)
1.	Assam	Bokajan	34.58
2.	Haryana	Charkhi Dadri	(1295.85)
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Rajban	(524.00)
4.	Karnataka	Kurkunta	(1637.12)
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Mandhar	(1520.64)
		Akaltara	(2627.28)
		Nayagaon	(1746.01)
		Nayagaon Expn. (with DCGU)	(5403.93)
6.	Andhra Pd.	Tandur	(4548.56)
		Adilabad	(2250.22)

[English]

Reservation for SCs/STs

4193. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee recommended to fill the backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action thereon since 1993 by his Ministry in respect of backlog vacancies and results thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs which remained unfilled as on 01-01-1993 in class I, II, III and IV category under his ministry and its autonomous/statutory/attached offices and action taken to fill these vacancies; and

(e) the backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in Class I, II, III and IV categories as on 29.08.1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Import of Gold

4194. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the countries from where the gold has been imported during each of the last three years alongwith quantity thereof;

(b) whether the Government had taken several steps to discourage the import of gold during the last year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The country-wise details of import of gold during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Country	(Quantity in Kgs.)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (April-Nov)*
1	2	3	4
Australia	953	10127	2079
France	0	977	0
Germany F Rep.	911	238	859
Hong Kong	263	4719	112

1	2	3	4
Russia	0	443	54
Saudi Arabia	786	1246	0
Singapore	909	2363	599
South Africa	11882	101334	99188
Switzerland	179590	235161	160341
UAE	30280	26894	6141
UK	34518	65626	40195
USA	4446	5313	1065
Others	919	965	396
Total	265457	455406	311029

*Provisional.

[English]

Settlement of Dues

4195. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees who have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme and their cases not being considered due to diversion and non-release of funds, separately, by the Management in Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi;

(b) the reasons for delayed payment of retirement benefits excluding the Contributory Provident Fund and the total number of such employees and their outstanding amount which remains to be paid; and

(c) the steps being taken/to be taken to make payment of retirement benefits to the employees who have not been paid the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) As per available information, there is no pending case.

(b) and (c) The retiral dues for normal superannuation cases amount to Rs. 8.50 crore (Approx.) as on 31.10.2000 and number of persons involved is 557. This is mainly due to the reasons that the company is passing through acute financial crisis. In some cases, 'No Demand

'Certificate' from the employees have not been received. In order to tide over the financial crisis, efforts have been intensified for improvement in order booking and realising the outstanding dues from customers by the company.

[Translation]

FERA Violation by M/s Jet Airways

4196. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a case of supply of plant and parts to Indian Airlines from M/s Boeing and Airbus Industries and another case involving 600 million U.S. dollars commission of FERA violation was registered during 1990 to 1998 against M/s Jet Airways and their Chairman under FERA and an inquiry is being conducted therein;

(b) if so, the present status of the case and the progress made therein so far; and

(c) whether the Government are considering any action against the erring persons who violated FERA and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (c) The Directorate of Enforcement has received a complaint against M/s Jet Airways and its Chairman about alleged violation of FERA. Investigation has been initiated in the case and it is still in progress.

Export Oriented Units in Gujarat

4197. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal for setting up cent percent export-oriented units in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these units are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the year 2000-2001 (upto Nov., 2000) 137 application were received for setting up units in the Gujarat under EOU Scheme. Of these, 101 units have been approved.

(c) The Letter of Permission (LOP) issued to the unit under EOU scheme is valid for 3 years from its date of issue, within which the unit should implement the project and commence commercial production.

[English]

Closure of Godowns

4198. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether a decision to close down the foodgrains godowns under his control at various places has been taken by the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of godowns closed down in various States, State-wise?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Appointments of SC/STs on Public Sector Boards

4199. SHRI BUTA SINGH :
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :

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

(a) the action taken by his ministry on the representations submitted by SC/ST Parliamentarians to the Prime Minister on December 17, 1996, September 1, 1997 and July 23, 1998 demanding posting/appointment of adequate number of persons from SC and ST community as Heads/CMD and Official/Non-Official Members of Board of Management/Governing Councils of various Public Sector Boards and Undertakings;

(b) the total number of posts in the rank of Heads/CMD, Official/Non-Official Members of Board of Management/Governing Councils of various Public Sector Boards falling under the administrative control of his ministry and the number of persons from SC/ST community working against such posts as on January 1, 1996 and January 1, 2000 and their percentage as compared to the total posts; and

(c) the reasons for not fulfilling the demands of SC and ST Parliamentarians satisfactorily?

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

[Translation]

Expansion of Sugar Mills

4200. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number and name of sugar mills who have submitted Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum for expansion of their units during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Statement showing State-wise, number and names of sugar mills who have submitted Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM) for expansion of their existing capacity during each of last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The Government have acknowledged the IEM submitted by the sugar mills for carrying out Expansion in their existing capacities.

Statement

State-wise Number and Names of Sugar Mills who have filed IEM for Expansion during last three years (Oct.-Sept).

S.No.	State	Season	Name of the Sugar Mills
1	2	3	4
1.	U.P.	1998-99	1. Dwarikesh Sugar Industries Ltd., Bundki, Distt. Bijnor 2. Ghaghara Sugar Ltd., Ajabapur, Distt. Kheri

1	2	3	4
			3. DCM Shriram (I) Ltd., Daurala, Distt. Meerut
			4. Triveni Engg. & Industries Ltd., Khatauli, Distt. Muzaffar Nagar.
			5. Monnet Industries Ltd., Unn, Distt. Muzaffar Nagar
		1999-2000	1. Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd., Babhnan, Distt. Gonda
			2. Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd., Balrampur, Distt. Gonda
			3. Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd., Tulsipur, Distt. Gonda
			4. Bajaj Hindustan Ltd., Palia, Distt. Kheri
			5. DCM Shriram (I) Ltd., Daurala, Distt. Meerut
			6. Tikaula Sugar Mills Ltd., Tikaula, Distt. Muzaffar Nagar
			7. Kamalpur Sugar & (I) Ltd., Kamalpur, Distt. Sitapur
			8. Seksaria Biswan Sugar Factory Ltd., Biswan, Distt. Sitapur.
			9. SBEC Sugar Ltd., Malakpur, Distt. Bagpat
2.	A.P.	1998-99	1. Sudalgunta Sugars Ltd., Butchinaidu, Distt. Chittoor
			2. The Jeypore Sugar Company Ltd., Distt. West Godavari
			3. Ganapati Sugar (I) Ltd., Kulubgur, Distt. Medak
			4. Gayatri Sugar Complex Ltd., Prabhagiri Patnam, Distt. Nellore
			5. NCS Gayatri Sugars Ltd., Adluryaellareddy, Distt. Nizamabad
			6. Varalaxmi Sugars Ltd., Sankiliregidi, Distt. Srikakulam
		1999-2000	1. KCP Sugar & Industries Corporation Ltd., Lakshmipuram, Distt. Krishna
3.	Karnataka	1998-99	1. Davangere Sugar Company Ltd., Kukkuwada, Distt. Chitradurga
			2. Shree Mahadeshwara Sugar Mills Ltd., Kollegal, Distt. Mysore
		1999-2000	1. The Nandi SSK Niyamit, Chikka Gagagali, Distt. Bijapur
4.	Bihar	1999-2000	1. Harinagar Sugar Mills Ltd., Harinagar, Distt. W. Champaran
			2. Upper Ganges Sugar Industries, Sidhwalia, Distt. Gopalganj
5.	Pondicherry	1998-99	1. Pondicherry Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Lingareddipalayam, Pondicherry
6.	Maharashtra	1997-98	1. Malegaon SSK Ltd., Malegaon, Distt. Pune
			2. Rajarambapu Patil SSK Ltd., Rajaramnagar, Distt. Sangli
		1998-99	1. Changdeo Sugar Mills Ltd., Changdeonagar, Distt. Ahmednagar
			2. Mula SSK Ltd., Sonai, Distt. Ahmednagar

1	2	3	4
			3. Satpuda Tapi Parisar SSK Ltd., Shahda, Distt. Dhule 4. Shree Chhatrapati Shahu SSK Ltd., Kagal, Distt. Kolhapur 5. Shri Chhatrapati Rajaram SSK Ltd., Kasba Bhavad, Distt. Kolhapur 6. Jawahar Shetkari SSK Ltd., Hupari, Distt. Kolhapur 7. Indapur SSK Ltd., Indapur, Distt. Pune 8. Ninaidevi SSK Ltd., Arala Shirala, Distt. Sangli 9. Manganga SSK Ltd., Atpadi, Distt. Sangli 10. Hutatma Ahir SSK Ltd., Walwe, Distt. Sangli 11. Bhogawati SSK Ltd., Irle Vairag, Distt. Kolhapur 12. Sant Eknath SSK Ltd., Paithan, Distt. Aurangabad
		1999-2000	1. Sajivani Takli SSK Ltd., Kopargaon, Distt. Ahmednagar 2. Jagdamba SSK Ltd., Rashin, Distt. Ahmednagar 3. Sangamner Bhag SSK Ltd., Sangamner, Distt. Ahmednagar 4. Pravara SSK Ltd., Pravara, Distt. Ahmednagar 5. Gajanan SSK Ltd., Distt. Beed 6. Pushpadanteshwar SSK Ltd., Sameserpur, Distt. Dhule 7. Shri Data Shetkari SSK Ltd., Shirol, Distt. Kolhapur 8. Gadhinglaj Tal. SSK Ltd., Gadhinglaj, Distt. Kolhapur 9. Shri Datta SSK Ltd., Asrule, Distt. Kolhapur 10. Warna SSK Ltd., Warnanagar, Distt. Kolhapur 11. Niphad SSK Ltd., Niphad, Distt. Nasik 12. Kadwa SSK Ltd., Materwadi, Distt. Nasik 13. Nasik SSK Ltd., Palse, Distt. Nasik 14. Vishwas SSK Ltd., Yeshwantnagar, Distt. Sangli 15. Rajaram Bapu Patil SSK Ltd., Wategaon, Distt. Sangli 16. Mahankali SSK Ltd., Mahankal, Distt. Sangli 17. Ajinkayatara SSK Ltd., Shendre, Distt. Satara 18. Adinath SSK Ltd., Karmala, Distt. Solapur 19. Pandurang SSK Ltd., Shreepur, Distt. Solapur
7.	Tamil Nadu	1999-2000	1. Shri Ambika Sugars Ltd., Eryur, Distt. South Arcot 2. Bannari Amman Sugars Ltd., Alathukombai, Distt. Erode.

[English]

Utilisation of Funds by States

4201. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to maintain strict vigilance on the States to ensure per utilisation of Central funds in the development schemes;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received reports from various States about the misuse of funds or under utilisation of Central funds particularly from Bihar and Orissa;

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

(d) the action Government propose to take to check this underutilisation and misuse of Central funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Ministry of Finance releases Central Assistance for State plans as block loans and block grants to States which are not tied to any specific sector/scheme. This assistance is released, based on the expenditure statements furnished by the State Governments to the Government of India. In case of shortfall in plan expenditure as against the approved outlay, a proportionate cut is made from the central assistance. For proper utilisation of funds so released, the State Governments are accountable to their State Legislatures through the Audit Reports prepared by the C&AG of India.

In addition to the central assistance for State plan, central funds are also released to the States for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes by various Central Ministries. Utilisation of these funds is monitored by the respective Central Ministries as per the relevant guidelines and utilisation reported by the States to them. All the CSS fund released to States are also subject to audit of C&AG. Any diversion/misuse/under utilisation of funds are pointed out in the Audit Reports of C&AG on the accounts of Union Government in the Central Audit Reports which are considered by the PAC of Parliament.

[Translation]

Industrially Backward Areas

4202. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Committee was constituted to identify industrially backward areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for the implementation of the recommendation of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a consequence of the amendment in section 80IA of the Income-tax Act by the Finance Act, 1994, Government constituted a Study Group on 17th May, 1994 to lay down the guidelines for identifying backward districts. It submitted its report on 4th October, 1994 and identified 114 districts of the country to be industrially backward. As the Government found that the list of 114 districts represented more or less 1/3rd of the districts, the Government constituted another Group for the purposes of identification of backward districts.

(c) On the basis of reports of the study group and the review group, the Central Government decided that industrially backward districts should be classified into two categories i.e., Category-A and Category-B.

Provisions of the Income-tax Act and the Rules thereunder have been amended to provide a five year tax holiday to industrial units set up in Category-A and three year tax holiday to those set up in Category-B districts. Units in both categories enjoy a further deduction of 25% of their profits (30% in case of companies) from their taxable income for another five years. [Relevant notifications No. 635(E) dt. 3.9.97. No. 713(E) dt. 7.10.97 and 714(E) dt 7.10.97 on industrially backward districts have been tabled in both Houses of Parliament.]

[English]

National Programme of Music on AIR

4203. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Programme of Music originally proposed for ninety minutes in AIR has been curtailed to less than sixty minutes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for the stopping of weekly north and south zone regional hook up concerts of classical music in AIR;

(d) the reasons for stopping of auditions for the fresh artists; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to promote national classical music on AIR?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that keeping in view the programme exigencies, the duration of National Programme of Music was reduced from 90 to 60 minutes since July 1998 but frequency of broadcast was increased from once to twice a week. In order to popularise classical music and give a wider projection to classical music artists, it was decided to broadcast classical music twice a week i.e. on Saturday and Sunday in the National Programme of Music for a duration of 60 minutes on each day, in place of weekly south and north zone regional hook up which had a limited broadcast coverage at the regional level only.

(d) and (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that fresh auditions have been stopped temporarily to clear the pending backlog of audition cases. It remains the continuous endeavour of Prasar Bharati to encourage Indian classical music by regularly broadcasting classical music programmes besides the National Programmes of Music. Apart from this, AIR also organizes Akashvani Sangeet Sammelan concerts and other invited audience concerts of both Hindustani and Karnatic Classical Music throughout the country.

FDI Confidence Index

4204. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is at 11th position of 'the Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index';

(b) if so, the number of positions lost by the country as compared to the last survey;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) A.T. Kearney India, a private financial consultancy agency, has rated India at 11th rank in the FDI Confidence Index for attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in its November, 2000 report. India had been ranked at 6th position by the same agency in its June, 1999 report.

However, the report says the FDI inflow for the current year will be at the 1999 level.

(c) The report has attributed reasons like pace of Government reforms, poor infrastructure, cultural barriers, poverty and income disparity, Government involvement in the economy and bureaucracy for slip of India's position in the index.

(d) With a view to attracting more FDI as also to make India a competitive investment destination, Government has already put into place a liberalised FDI policy thereby placing all activities for upto 100% FDI under the automatic approval route and continuously reviews the FDI Policy. Investment promotion measures are undertaken by organising seminars within the country and abroad. A Foreign Investment Implementation Authority has been set up to work as a single point interface between investors and Government to remove post investment obstacles in consultation with State Governments.

I.T. Department, Gujarat

4205. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars of Offices of Income Tax Department, particularly in Gujarat State who have been assigned the duty of Secretary of Town Area, Official Language Implementation Committee;

(b) the time since when the Ahmedabad office of the Income Tax Department has been assigned the duty to attend to the work of Secretary of Town Area, Official Language Implementation Committee;

(c) whether the sittings of Town Area, Official Language Implementation Committee are held periodically as per the directions/orders/official memorandum issued by Rajbhasha Vibhag of Income Tax Department in Ahmedabad (Gujarat);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Income Tax Department, Ahmedabad is not complying with the order of Department of Official Language regarding giving of cash awards to the officials/officers of Income Tax Department for their training in Hindi and honorarium/awards gives for work performed in Hindi;

(g) if so, whether the Government have ordered or propose to hold an enquiry into it; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The Office of Income Tax Department act as Secretary to the Town Area Official Language Implementation Committee.

(b) Since, 1978.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of the sittings of the Town Area Official Language Implementation Committee are given below :-

Date	Venue
1. 9th July, 1997	Income Tax Office, Ahmedabad
2. 17th February, 1998	NID, Ahmedabad
3. 12th May, 1999	PRL, Ahmedabad
4. 29th December, 1999	IFFCO, Kalor, Gandhinagar
5. 15th March, 2000	Airport Authority of India, Ahmedabad
6. 29th August, 2000	ONGC, Ahmedabad

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The order is being complied with.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

Proposals of FDI from NRI

4206. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

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

(a) the number of FDI proposals cleared by the Government during each month since April, 2000, indicating the extent of investment involved and how much of it is from NRIs;

(b) the sector-wise break up thereof; and

(c) its impact upon SSIs and their development, by way of infringing the area reserved for small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) The monthwise details of foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and NRI proposals approved by the Government since April, 2000 to October, 2000, are given as under :-

Year 2000 (Months)	No. of FDI Proposals Approved	Amount (Rs. in Crore)	No. of NRI Proposals Approved	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
April	189	1829.97	18	122.86
May	215	1728.42	20	93.36
June	156	6499.20	18	207.70
July	143	1454.42	9	8.61
Aug.	217	7804.12	16	135.74
Sept.	223	4363.24	18	120.31
Oct.	145	4369.60	22	639.67
Total	1288	28048.96	121	1328.23

The sectorwise break up of FDI proposals approved is published in the monthly SIA newsletter brought out by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion which is widely circulated, including to the Library of the House.

(c) FDI proposals in the SSI sector involving foreign equity in excess of 24% are approved in accordance with the FDI policy in consultation with the Administrative Ministry concerned and Ministry of SSI & ARI. Approvals, when granted, are subject to compliance with the condition of either 50% export obligation or compulsory procurement of the items from SSI manufacturers only.

Urdu Satellite Channel

4207. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the languages in which Doordarshan has satellite channels;

(b) whether Doordarshan has any Urdu satellite channels;

(c) if not, whether the Doordarshan would consider starting an Urdu channel; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken for the purpose and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that doordarshan has satellite channels in the following languages :-

1. Malayalam-DD-4
2. Tamil-DD-5
3. Oriya-DD-6
4. Bengali-DD-7
5. Telugu-DD-8
6. Kannada-DD-9
7. Marathi-DD-10
8. Gujarati-DD-11
9. Kashmiri-DD-12
10. Assamese and Languages of North-East-DD-13
11. Punjabi-DD-18

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati has intimated that it is not in a position to start an Urdu Channel due to lack of required resources and infrastructure.

Loss of Foodgrains on Transit

4208. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether the Government have plans to create more infrastructural facilities in various Railway Stations and Ports to facilitate easy transit of foodgrains from the above said destinations to other destinations;

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

(c) the value of loss incurred during transit, storage, theft and other reasons;

(d) whether the Government have received any request for setting up more godowns in Tamil Nadu;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to increase the storage potential in Tamil Nadu and to facilitate transit facilities in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Creation of infrastructural facility in Railway Stations and Ports of the country to handle various commodities is an ongoing and continuous process. These facilities are created as and when required for traffic needs by the Railways and Ports, subject to availability of resources. The food Corporation of India proposes to create 86,250 metric tonnes of additional storage capacity during 2000-2001 in various States to handle foodgrains. The State-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The value of loss incurred during transit storage and theft is given below :-

		Qty. in MTs.	Value in Rs. Crores
Transit Loss			
Year	Qty. Lost	Value	%age
1998-99	2.66	198.00	1.17
Storage Loss			
Year	Qty. Lost	Value	%age
1998-99	1.51	130.08	0.40
Loss due to theft			
Year	No. of Cases	Amount involved	
1998-99	18	Rs. 7,02,924/-	

(d) to (f) The Government has approved construction of a 10,000 MT Capacity godown at Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu, and the construction work has been awarded recently by the Food Corporation of India. The State Government of Tamil Nadu was also sanctioned an amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs for construction of 18 godowns with a total capacity of 2480 MT during 1996-97. The State Government has requested for utilizing this amount for construction of 6 godowns with a total capacity of 1600 MT. Under the Annual Action Plan 2000-2001 construction of one godown of 18000 MT capacity and one covered godown of 15000 MT capacity in Tuticorin CFS by the Central Warehousing Corporation, is in progress.

Statement

State	Additional Storage Capacity to be Created by FCI during 2000-2001
Orissa	6,660 MTs
Karnataka	30,000 MTs
Kerala	25,000 MTs
Uttar Pradesh	5,000 MTs
Tamil Nadu	5,000 MTs
Jammu & Kashmir	2,500 MTs
Mizoram	3,340 MTs
Tripura	5,000 MTs
Meghalaya	3,750 MTS
Total	86,250 MTs

[Translation]

Enhancement of Foreign Currency

4209. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to enhance the allocation limit of foreign currency for foreign tour is pending with the Government from a long time.

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

(c) the decision of the union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) While there is no proposal to raise foreign exchange quota for travel abroad, the quota has been raised under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 which has come into force from 1st June, 2000. Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transaction) Rules, 2000, have been framed under FEMA and notified by the Government vide Notification No. GSR-381(E) dated 3rd May, 2000, which deal with Basic Travel Quota. The quota has been increased upto US\$ 5,000/- per calendar year for travel abroad and US\$ 25,000/- for business travel etc. If the amount of foreign exchange exceeds the above limits prior approval of Reserve Bank of India is necessary as indicated in schedule III of Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transaction) Rules, 2000.

[English]

SCs/STs In Prasar Bharati Board

4210. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of posts in the rank of Head/ CMD, Official/Non-Official Members of the Prasar Bharati Board; and

(b) the total number of persons from SC/ST community working against such posts as on 1.1.2000 and their percentage as compared to the total posts?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) As per Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, the Prasar Bharati Board shall consist of following Members :-

- (i) Chairman;
- (ii) an Executive Member;
- (iii) one Member (Finance);
- (iv) one Member (Personnel);
- (v) Six part-time Members;
- (vi) Director General (Akashvani) - ex-officio;
- (vii) Director General (Doordarshan) - ex-officio;
- (viii) one representative of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; and
- (ix) two representatives of the employees of the Corporation.

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

[Translation]

Disbursement of Loan by IDBI

4211. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the volume of loan advanced by IDBI (Industrial Development Bank of India) has declined during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage decline in loan distribution by IDBI during 2000 as compared to 1998 and 1999;

(d) whether there has been a decline in the Industrial Production Index during the first eight months (from April to November) of the current financial year;

- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Comparative data on overall disbursements by IDBI during April-November of fiscal years 2000, 1999 and 1998 are given in the table below which indicate that there has been a marginal increase in disbursements during the current year.

(Rs. in crores)

Period	Disbursement
April-November, 2000	9360.91
April-November, 1999	9252.65
April-November, 1998	7844.90

(d) to (g) Overall growth rates of industrial production during April-October, 2000 was 5.7% as compared to 6.7% during the corresponding period last year. Major reasons for the industry's slow down were:-

- (i) Slackening in aggregate demand coupled with decline in rural demand owing to low agricultural output;
- (ii) Slow down in general investment climate;
- (iii) Erosion of competitive advantage of Indian exports due to steep depreciation of South-East Asian currencies;
- (iv) Persistence of infrastructure bottlenecks; and
- (v) Increasing competition from imports as a result of opening of the economy.

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

[English]

Income Tax Arrears

4212. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) The total Amount of Income Tax arrears in Tamil Nadu, region-wise till date; and
- (b) the measures taken to reduce these arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The total amount of arrears in Tamil Nadu region in respect of Corporation Tax and Income Tax as on 31st Oct., 2000 is Rs. 681.22 crores.

(b) The Income Tax Act prescribes a statutory procedure for recovery of taxes. The recovery of the outstanding tax is a continuous process. The process starts after the demand falls due after 30 days of the service of the demand notice. Thereafter, action is taken by Assessing Officer in respect of unstayed demand by charging interest, levying penalty, attaching bank accounts etc. In difficult cases, matter is referred to Tax Recovery Officer who takes various coercive measures as per the Act. The recovery action taken by the Assessing Officer and TRO is closely monitored by the higher Income Tax Authorities.

Dossier cases having outstanding demand of Rs.10 lakhs and above are monitored by high authorities on a regular periodic basis and necessary instructions are issued for taking various coercive measures for effecting the recovery of outstanding demands.

[Translation]

G-20 Conference of Finance Ministers

4213. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether he has proposed a six point programme for international funding agencies in order to ensure alleviation of poverty in underdeveloped countries;
- (b) if so, whether this plea raised in the G-20 conference of Finance Ministers and Governors of Central Banks at Canada;

- (c) if so, the response of the member countries;
- (d) the main suggestions made by him; and
- (e) the extent to which the Poverty Eradication Programme in India has been successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Union Finance Minister proposed a six-point programme for ensuring international cooperation and development.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) Although no specific agreement was arrived at on the six-point programme, the member countries (as a Group) noted the suggestions made by Finance Minister and this was reflected in the statement released at the end of the conference.
- (d) The six-point programme enunciated on October 25, 2000 suggested the following action points: ensuring genuine free market access to goods and services from developing countries to industrialised country markets; rededication to increasing Official Development Assistance and World Bank lending; equipping IMF with adequate resources to deal with fiscal emergencies; reaffirming basic mandate of the World Bank for long term development finance for infrastructure and human resource development; undertaking reform in international institutions including envisaging a much greater role for G-20 countries in Financial Stability Forum; and ensuring that G-20 act speedily on issues, like need to take early action to reduce oil prices, where consensus existed.
- (e) The strategy followed in India for poverty alleviation includes acceleration of economic growth, access to basic minimum services and direct State intervention in the form of targeted anti-poverty programmes.

The performance of the country in reducing poverty, shows that substantial progress has been achieved. The ratio of population below poverty line declined from 54.9% in 1973-74 to 35.97% in 1993-94.

Doordarshan/Akashvani Kendras

4214. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of Doordarshan and Akashvani Kendras operating in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

- (b) if so, the performance and shortcomings of Doordarshan and Akashvani kendras during the year 1999-2000; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) the performance of Doordarshan and Akashvani installations in the country including those in Maharashtra is being monitored regularly at various levels in Prasar Bharati. Performance of Doordarshan/AIR Kendras has generally been satisfactory and complaints/shortcomings, as and when reported, are being attended to promptly. It is the constant endeavour of Prasar Bharati to maintain high quality of its telecasts/broadcasts.

Tax Collection

4215. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have lost Rs. 12,000 crore as tax dues due to lesser tax collections;
- (b) if so, the main causes of lesser tax collection;
- (c) whether 20 percent of total sales revenue is from the foreign companies,
- (d) if so, the efforts being made to improve tax collection;
- (e) whether large number of tax amount is still due from the filmstars and industrialists;
- (f) if so, the total arrears from these tax payers for the last three years, year-wise; and
- (g) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir. The tax collection upto November, 2000 is Rs.107261 crore, which is 17.57% higher than the collection during the corresponding period of last year.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Records of the sales tax department are kept assessee-wise and not in terms of the nationality of the company.
- (d) In view of reply to (a) above, question does not arise.

(e) The total arrears of income tax demand as on 31.3.2000, was Rs. 52970 crore. This includes arrear demand of film personalities and industrialists.

(f) The arrears in respect of individual film personalities are consolidated as dossier cases, where total tax outstanding is Rs. 1 lakh and more. The total tax demands outstanding for such cases were Rs. 1712.74 lakh as on 31.12.98, Rs. 4243.18 lakh as on 31.12.99 and Rs. 6711.64 lakh as on 30.9.2000. Separate details of outstanding demands under the head of arrears due from industrialists alone, are not maintained.

(g) High priority is give to collection/reduction of arrears demand, and appropriate administrative, legal and other measures are taken to recover the same. Request is made to the concerned appellate authorities for early disposal of the cases. Coercive measures are also taken in suitable cases for speedy recovery of demand. In bigger cases, dossiers are maintained, and the recovery position is reviewed regularly.

[English]

UN Summit on Globalisation

4216. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UN Summit held in September, 2000 declared globalisation as the biggest challenge for humanity;

(b) if so, the precise declaration adopted at the summit; and

(c) the strategy adopted by Government in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The UN Millennium Declaration adopted at the conclusion of the Millennium Summit of the of the Heads of State and Government held in New York from September, 6 to 8 recognised that the central challenge is to ensure that globalisation becomes a positive force for all the world's people. The Declaration states that while globalisation offers great opportunities, its benefits are very unevenly shared at present, while its costs are unevenly distributed. It also recognises that developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to the central challenge of globalisation. Only through broad and sustained efforts to create a

shared future, based upon common humanity in all its diversity, can globalisation be made fully inclusive and equitable. These efforts must include policies and measures at the global level, which correspond to the needs of developing countries and economies in transition, and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation.

(c) India will work in close cooperation with other developing countries in dealing with the challenge of globalisation and its impact on the developing countries.

Weak Signals in Border States

4217. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) The existing network of Doordarshan/AIR stations in the border States, especially in North-Eastern States of the country;

(b) whether people in these border States mainly view the programmes of neighbouring countries for news and entertainments as signals of our stations are too weak; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to beam strong signals in these border areas?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) At present, 27 radio stations of varying power and type including 16 radio stations in the North Eastern States are functioning in the border states of the country. 29 Studios and 638 Transmitters of varying power of Doordarshan including 10 Studios and 118 Transmitters in the North Eastern States are presently functioning in the border states of the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Strengthening of AIR and Doordarshan network in the border states is an ongoing process. For further expansion of Radio and Doordarshan coverage in the border states, 22 AIR projects and 7 Studios and 151 Transmitter projects of Doordarshan are presently under various stages of implementation. Apart from the above, a special J&K package to improve AIR and Doordarshan coverage in Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab etc. is under implementation and is targetted for completion by 2001-2002.

[Translation]

New Serials on Indian Mythology

4218. CH. TEJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to encourage production of new serials on Indian Mythology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of such T.V. Serials submitted for approval during last year and number of them approved so far?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have intimated that it is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to select/approve serials based on Indian mythology for telecast on its various channels. The proposals submitted by the private producers on sponsorship/minimum guarantee are considered on merits keeping in view the following factors:-

- (i) concept/storyline of the programme;
- (ii) production values/quality of the programme;
- (iii) commercial viability and revenue generation potential of the programme; and
- (iv) programme requirement of Doordarshan.

Presently, Doordarshan is telecasting serials viz. 'Jai Hanuman', 'Jai Ganga Maiya', 'Jai Mahalaxmi', 'Om Namah Shivay' and 'Jap Tap Vrat'. which are based on Indian mythology:

(c) The details of such TV serials submitted for approval during the last year are as under:-

Vishnu Puran	– M/s B.R. Films, Mumbai
Ganesh Mahima	– M/s Hansa Vision, New Delhi
Shrimad Bhagwat	– M/s Shant Ketan Films, Mumbai
Jai Jai Sri Ganesh	– M/s Namesh Shivay Ent. Mumbai
Jai Jwala Maa	– M/s Bodh Shilp Movies Pvt. Ltd.
Jai Jagdambe	– M/s Numero Uno Int. Ltd., Mumbai

Jai Santoshi Maa – M/s One Minute Films Prod., Mumbai

Jap Tap Vrat – M/s Namah Shivay Enterprises

Shrimad Bhagwat – M/s B.R. TV, Mumbai

Jai Ganga Maiya – M/s Sagar Group, Mumbai (earlier titled Holy Ganga)

Out of the above mentioned serials, only 2 serials viz. 'Jai Ganga Maiya' and 'Jap Tap Vrat' have been approved.

[English]

Strike by RRB Employees

4219. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the All India Regional Rural Bank Employees Association observed strike on the 15th November, 2000;
- (b) if so, the main demands of the employees of these banks; and
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government to these demands?

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

(b) The main demands of the employees of Regional Rural Banks were as follows:-

- (i) Immediate promotion from workman in the RRB as per promotion Rules;
- (ii) Formation of National Rural Bank of India (NRBI) by amalgamation of 196 RRBs;
- (iii) Lifting ban on recruitment in RRBs; and
- (iv) Promotion Rules as per sponsor bank.

(c) The reaction of the Government of India to these demands is as below:-

- (i) The promotion of Officers and other employees are being made in accordance with RRBs (Appointment and Promotion of Officers and other employees) Rules, 1998.
- (ii) After considering a number of alternative models, including formation of National Rural Bank of India (NRBI) it was decided to revamp Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on a "Stand

alone" basis by way of infusion of additional capital for cleansing of balance sheets of selected RRBs rather than creating NRBI.

- (iii) The matter is under examination in the light of the report of the Working Group on Manpower Planning in RRBs.
- (iv) Promotion in RRBs and Sponsor Banks are governed by different set of Rules. As such, promotion in RRBs cannot be governed by promotion Rules of Sponsor Banks.

Unsettled Claims in Public Sector Undertakings

4220. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the unsettled claims in Public Sector Undertakings under his Ministry have increased steeply during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details of such claims and the total amount involved in these claims;
- (c) the number of cases referred for Arbitration, PSU-wise; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to tackle the problem?

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

Car for Handicapped Persons

4221. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether car with special gadgets for handicapped persons are not available in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps propose to be taken by the Government to help these handicapped persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) As per Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), cars with special

gadgets for handicapped persons are not normally available in the country for off-the-shelf sale. However, in special cases car manufacturers have been fabricating such cars against specific orders and supplying vehicles fitted with imported kits. The main reasons for non-availability of vehicles off-the-shelf are low demand and wide variation in types of kit depending on different disability.

AIR FM-Station at Bagalkot, Karnataka

4222. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a proposal to establish AIR-FM in Karnataka;
- (b) whether the Government have received any representation from the State Government of Karnataka regarding establishing a radio station at Bagalkot; and
- (c) if so, the time by which this AIR-FM station is likely to be sanctioned to Bagalkot?

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

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

Investment of UTI

4223. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Unit Trust of India made investment in those companies which have suffered losses for the year ending March 31, 2000;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for the Unit Trust of India investing in the companies which have suffered losses during the above said financial year;
- (d) whether the UTI took note of the latest Audit report of these loss making companies; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. UTI has invested in four companies, which have made losses for the year ending March 31, 2000.

(b) The details are provided below:-

	Name of the Company	Instrument
1.	Jindal Vijaynagar Steel Ltd.	NCDs*
2.	Lloyds Steel Ltd.	NCDs
3.	Hughes Tele. Com	Equity
4.	Birla AT&T Communication	NCDs

*NCDs – Non Convertible Debentures.

(c) As per the appraisal reports of ICICI, the lead institution, these projects are viable and would generate sufficient cash flows to service the debt obligations. Hughes Tele. Com and Birla AT&T Communication are presently implementing basic line/cellular services projects, where the losses in the initial years are consistent with other large scale infrastructure projects.

NCDs of Birla AT&T were short-term instruments of 12 months tenor. Credit rating assigned to it was 'P1+', which is the highest rating for short-term paper.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In the case of Jindal Vijaynagar Steel Ltd., the auditor has pointed out that no provisions have been made towards fees of foreign contractors, sundry debtors and overdue corporate deposits.

Retirement Age of PSUs Employees

4224. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the Public Sector Undertakings which have adopted the decision of the Government to raise the retirement age of their employees;

(b) the details of PSUs which reverted back to their earlier retirement age;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of PSUs which employed their officers after their retirement as consultants;

(e) whether any set of rules were followed in the appointment of consultants;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) All Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) except Fertilizer Corporation of India, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. and Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd. adopted the decision for raising the retirement age of their employees. Subsequently, Indian Airlines Ltd., Air India Ltd., Cotton Corporation of India Ltd., National Textile Corporation Ltd. and India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. have reverted the retirement age to 58 years. The reasons for reverting are surplus/idle manpower, sickness, deteriorating financial position, high wage cost, restructuring, etc.

(d) to (g) Appointment of Consultants comes under the purview of respective PSUs and details in this regard are not maintained centrally.

Kerosene Quota for Fishermen

4225. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the kerosene quota for traditional fishermen using outboard engines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Kerosene is an allocated product. Government of India allocates SKO to the States/UTs on annual basis and same is released on monthly basis. The distribution within the State is the responsibility of the concerned State Government.

Any separate SKO allocation for the fishing sector within the State is to be adjusted/given by the concerned State Government within its overall SKO allocation. Presently only the State of Gujarat gets monthly allocation of SKO for fishing sector, which is specifically earmarked by the Government out of its total monthly PDS allocation. The kerosene requirement of fishermen for their boats can be met through parallel marketeers etc.

Growth in Cement Sector

4226. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is negative growth in cement sector in the first half of 2000-2001;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to step up the growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) No Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Government has provided various incentives for the housing and infrastructure sectors in the last budget which have resulted in growth in cement industry. These measures are expected to improve the demand for cement further.

Registration and Renewal Fee

4227. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the number of merchant bankers have failed to pay registration and renewal fee to SEBI;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the amount due from defaulting merchant bankers; and
- (d) the steps taken to recover the dues from merchant bankers?

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

(b) As on March 31, 1996, there were 1163 merchant bankers. Subsequently their number has come down and presently 172 are registered as merchant bankers with SEBI. A large number of merchant bankers discontinued their merchant banking business and in turn defaulted in payment of fees for the following reasons:-

- (i) Amendment in the SEBI (Merchant Bankers) Rules & Regulations in December 1997 prohibiting merchant bankers from undertaking NBFC activities.
- (ii) The decline in the number of primary issues during the period 1996-99 resulting in closing of their businesses.
- (c) As on 30th November 2000, an amount of Rs. 230.59 lakh was due to SEBI as outstanding registration/renewal fees from merchant bankers.

(d) SEBI issued notices to defaulting merchant bankers for non-payment of fees and simultaneously initiated inquiries against 230 merchant bankers. Pursuant to inquiries, registrations of 6 merchant bankers were cancelled, 59 were suspended and warning letters were issued to 12. As a result of the action taken by SEBI, an amount of Rs. 37.79 lakhs was received during the year 1999-2000 and Rs. 20.41 lakhs during April 1–November 30, 2000. Further, while considering the applications for registration of various intermediaries, it is verified that there is no default in payment of registration fees to SEBI by the applicant company, its directors or any of its associates in the past.

India Millennium Deposit Bonds

4228. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether SBI paid commissions to financial agencies to help sell the IMD bonds in foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether this has affected the most of the Indian private and public sector banks which mobilised forex for IMD issued by SBI; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India had appointed Indian and foreign Banks as collecting and arranger banks to mobilise deposits under the IMD programme both in India and abroad. Commission is payable at 0.25% of the amount collected. Arranger fee is payable as under:-

Procurement (In USD) Million	Arranger Fee
Upto \$ 5 mio	0.50%
More than \$ 5 mio upto \$ 25 mio	0.75%
More than \$ 25 mio upto \$ 50 mio	1.00%
More than \$ 50 mio upto \$ 100 mio	1.25%
More than \$ 100 mio	1.50%

(c) and (d) Indian private and public sector banks are also eligible to be paid commission and arranger fee depending on the amounts collected and procured

respectively as per international practice for such programmes.

NPA of ICICI

4229. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "ICICI understates NPAs : credit Lyonnais—Actual figure may touch 26.4% as against declared 9% in 1999-2000" appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the November 28, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the reasons for granting more loans to companies which have failed to pay their old loan dues;

(d) whether there is any proposal to conduct any inquiry in this regard;

(e) whether ICICI comes under the purview of CAG audit;

(f) if so, whether there is any proposal to conduct a special audit of it by CAG to break the nexus between it and the companies;

(g) the actual quantum of NPA of ICICI as on date and the reasons for investing in debentures of weak companies indicating quantum of amount invested therein, company-wise; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to recover the dues?

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

(b) to (d) ICICI have reported that its net NPAs on September 30, 2000 were about 7.3% of net loan assets under the existing Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and about 5.9% under USGAAP and that ICICI makes all provision under the Indian GAAP strictly in accordance with RBI guidelines.

ICICI has focused on improving incremental asset quality while at the same time tackling the problem of existing NPAs through an approach based on restructuring and settlement. ICICI has attempted to improve incremental

asset quality through appropriate structuring mechanism in project finance, focussing on highly rated customers for corporate lending and moving towards retail assets. The focus on top tier corporate has led to improvement in the overall asset quality.

(e) to (h) An increasing proportion of ICICI's financing is being provided in the form of debentures. Further as a financial institution, ICICI uses several financing instruments to provide funds to corporates, one of which is preference shares. ICICI has invested under preference shares of companies. However, it is not correct to state that many of ICICI's investments in preference shares and debentures are on account of conversion of overdue interest or principal.

Since in ICICI Ltd. the holding of the corporations/institutions owned and controlled by the Government is less than 51%, CAG Audit is not applicable to ICICI Ltd.

Procurement of Rice

4230. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether the specifications for procurement of rice are fixed annually by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the scientific criteria adopted for fixation of rice specifications; and

(d) the reasons for changing the rice specifications every year?

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

(b) to (d) the Uniform Specifications (FAQ standards) for procurement of foodgrains including rice for the Central Pool are prescribed by the Government every year before commencement of the marketing seasons for adoption uniformly by all procuring agencies. This is done in consultation with the procuring and consuming States, as well as the Food Corporation of India, the weather and crop conditions, Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act norms etc. Since the weather and crop conditions are necessarily taken into consideration, the specification is fixed for each marketing season.

Soviet Debt Burden on India

4231. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Russian President to New Delhi, the question of Soviet debt burden on India was discussed;

(b) if so, the precise issues and proposals discussed therein, and

(c) the debt burden outstanding as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) During discussions with the President of the Russian Federation, the question of trade and economic cooperation through the rupee repayment track was touched upon.

(c) The "Soviet debt burden on India" at present is about Rs. 18,683 crores.

Production and Consumption of Vanaspati

4232. SHRI VAIKO :
DR. C. KRISHNAN :

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

(a) the consumption and production of Vanaspati in the country during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the quantity of Vanaspati imported during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) According to available information, the production of vanaspati in the country during the last three years has been as under:

Year (Nov-Oct)	Production of Vanaspati (in lakh MTs)
1997-98	10.07
1998-99	13.31
1999-2000	14.00 (Provisional)

Vanaspati produced could be considered as consumed.

(b) Precise figures for the quantity of vanaspati imported are not available. However, estimated quantity of vanaspati imported from Nepal during last three years has been as under :-

Year (Nov-Oct)	Vanaspati imported (in '000 MTs)
1997-98	53.90
1998-99	67.13
1999-2000	84.54

Committee on Small Investors

4233. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have appointed a committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mitra of National School of Law, Bangalore to study the problems of small investors;

(b) if so, the terms of reference made to the Committee; and

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) On the suggestion of the Ministry of Finance, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) requested Prof. N.L. Mitra, former Principal, National School of Law, Bangalore, to conduct a study and prepare a draft on legislation for investor protection.

(b) The terms of reference for this study include, inter-alia, examination of the necessity for a separate law for investor protection vis-a-vis existing legislation; identification of provisions/powers which a regulatory authority must have for investor protection; to examine whether the regulator should have the power to restrict access to the capital market by prohibiting issues under certain circumstances; to consider provisions for disgorging of undue gains and to guard against asset stripping and siphoning of funds; to identify provisions for recovery of money from the company/its directors and to compensate aggrieved investors; examination of the existing redressal mechanisms for investors etc.

(c) Prof. Mitra has been requested to complete the study and submit the report the earliest.

[Translation]

Serial on Sant Lal Das

4234. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have granted a permission for shooting of T.V. serial being produced on Sant Lal Das and Gorakhnath in Alwar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when production of this serial will be completed and will be telecast on T.V.?

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

[English]

Proposal from Bangladesh to Have Common Currency

4235. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Bangladesh to have common currency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Aurangabad AIR Station

4236. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade the AIR station, Aurangabad by replacing existing 1 KW MW Transmitter by a 10 KW FM Transmitter;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the existing transmitter at AIR Aurangabad is likely to be replaced?

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

(b) and (c) The existing 1 KW MW Tr. at AIR, Aurangabad is proposed to be replaced by a 10 KW FM Tr. by the year 2001-02, subject to availability of funds and infrastructural facilities.

Payment of State Warehousing Corporation

4237. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether both Food Corporation of India and Railways do not adopt scientific method for storing and transporting food stocks;

(b) whether the State Warehousing Corporation of Andhra Pradesh has to suffer a huge loss as a result thereof;

(c) whether Food Corporation of India has stopped the payment of Rs. 3.5 crore to State Warehousing Corporation due to transit loss;

(d) if so, whether State Warehousing Corporation has stopped to release the stocks unless the amount is paid to them; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to instruct the Food Corporation of India to pay the amount urgently to Warehousing Corporation of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The Food Corporation of India and the Railways adopt scientific methods for storage and transportation of food stocks.

(b) The FCI has not received any report of Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation (APSWC) to have suffered losses as a result of unscientific storage and transportation of foodgrains.

(c) An amount of Rs. 1.40 crores has been withheld by the FCI on account of shortages found in the foodgrain stocks transported by the APSWC.

(d) The APSWC had stopped the release of stocks to the FCI in August, 2000, but had restored it in November, 2000.

(e) The claims and counter-claims of the FCI and the APSWC arising out of storage of foodgrains are a continuous exercise. All dues payable to the APSWC are being released periodically in time. Periodical meetings at the Regional and Zonal levels are held in order to sort out the disputes.

[Translation]

Assistance under NRF

4238. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the names of states which have sent proposals during the current year till date seeking financial assistance under the various schemes which were earlier funded from the National Renewal Fund;

(b) the details of such proposals, state-wise; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) During the current year, following proposals from State Government of Assam and Tripura for assistance from National Renewal Fund (NRF) have been received in the Department.

Sl. No.	Name of State Government/ State PSUs	Assistance sought from NRF (Rs. lakhs)
1. Government of Assam		
(i)	Assam Agro-Industries Development Corporation Limited	786.00
(ii)	Assam State Transport Corporation	5500.00
(iii)	Assam State Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited	184.67
2. Government of Tripura		
(i)	Tripura Jute Mills Limited	1371.00
(ii)	Tripura Small Industries Corporation Limited	39.00

The NRF has since been abolished vide a gazette notification on 12.7.2000. This position has been informed to the State Governments concerned.

[English]

Permission to Private Millers to Procure Rice

4239. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government to permit private millers and exporters to procure and export rice outside the country with same kind of incentives that are being extended to the Government agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government alongwith the action likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested that as the Government of India was considering to permit Government agencies to procure and export rice outside the country by providing some incentives, some of the private millers and exporters may also be permitted to take this responsibility with the same kind of incentives that are being extended to the Government agencies.

(c) No decision has so far been taken to permit Government agencies to export rice by providing them with incentives.

Land for National Centre for Films for Children and Young People

4240. SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has allotted an extent of 10 acres of land free of cost to National Centre for Films for Children and Young People;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken over the possession of the land and has started the construction work;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the funds earmarked for this purpose during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in construction of this and the time by which the work is likely to start?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had originally allotted ten acres of land to the National Centre for Films for Children and Young People, now called the Children's Film Society, India (CFSI), in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, possession of which was handed over to CFSI in September, 1997. However, due to unsuitability of land, work on the Complex could not commence and the land was surrendered. Thereafter, in November, 2000, the Andhra Pradesh State Government has approved allotment of another ten acres of land in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad for the proposed Complex.

A provision of Rs. 8 crores has been made in the Ninth Five Year Plan for the Golden Jubilee Children's Film Complex. Work on the Complex will commence immediately after clearances/approvals of various agencies have been obtained.

Diversion of PDS Items

4241. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 997 on 28.7.2000 and state :

(a) whether CBI has registered case against some private parties and State Government officials who were involved in diverting subsidized items in the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the commodities that were diverted in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reported by FCI, twenty three private persons, six State Government employees and five FCI employees have been involved in diverting subsidised items in the open market in the CBI report.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As per the report of CBI, the officials for whom the prosecution sanction has been sought, have been

charged for their involvement in the alleged racket for diverting the following quantity of rice and wheat:-

Wheat- 1430 bags = 1354.10 quintals

Rice - 1600 bags = 1457.25 quintals

Equity Base of NABARD

4242. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present equity of NABARD;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the equity base of NABARD; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The present equity of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as per NABARD Act, 1981 is Rs. 500 crore, contributed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Government in equal proportion. However, RBI and Government of India have contributed another Rs. 1500 crores as "Advance towards Capital" pending amendments to NABARD Act, 1981.

(b) and (c) Government has decided to increase the authorised capital of NABARD to Rs. 5000 crore. An amendment bill in this regard is proposed to be introduced in the current session of Parliament. The main reason for increasing the equity base of the NABARD is to enable it to discharge its role and functions effectively.

Competition in Insurance Sector

4243. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have stressed the need for the insurance sector to offer a wider choice of insurance schemes/facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken by Insurance Companies to prepare itself for the increased competition in the insurance sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) One of the main objectives of opening up the insurance

sector is to provide a wider choice of products and facilities to the consumer. The insurance companies would be free to design and market new products keeping in view the requirements of the market as per legal provisions.

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

[Translation]

Target of FDI

4244. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the target of foreign investment fixed by the Government for the current financial year;
- (b) whether the said target is likely to be achieved;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the number of proposals of foreign investment under consideration of the Government for approval for the last six months alongwith the company-wise and region-wise details thereof;
- (e) the reasons for pendency of these proposals; and
- (f) the time by which the Government are likely to clear these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) Government have not fixed any target for foreign direct investment (FDI) for the current financial year. However, Government have liberalised the FDI policy, thereby putting almost all the activities under the automatic route, except a small negative list, with a view to attract more FDI.

(d) to (f) Disposal of proposals for FDI is a continuous process in which the proposals are disposed of on the basis of the comments of the Administrative Ministries and as per the sectoral policy. A total of 23 proposals where the comments of the Administrative Ministries had not been received, or there are policy considerations, are awaiting disposal of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).

[English]

Doordarshan/AIR Stations in Assam

4245. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of the population catered to by the Doordarshan and All India Radio in Assam;
- (b) the Doordarshan and AIR Transmission Stations in Assam; and
- (c) the steps taken to provide these media facilities to the entire population, including the Tribal population of Assam, under the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) 94.22% area and 97.50% population of Assam is estimated to be covered by AIR whereas coverage by Doordarshan is to an extent of 74.6% by area and 82.8% by population (inclusive of fringe coverage).

(b) 10 AIR Stations and 28 Doordarshan Transmitters of varying power are presently functioning in Assam.

(c) During the 9th Five Year Plan, 10 KW MW Tr. at Silchar is being upgraded to 20 KW MW Tr. The project is targetted for completion during 2000-01. Besides the high power transmitters (DD2) at Silchar and Guwahati and low power transmitter at Dibrugarh (DD II), Gohpur (DD I) and Bokakhat (DD I) have already been commissioned in Assam during the 9th plan period. A transposer (DD I) is under implementation at Guwahati which is expected to be commissioned during 2001.

Market Development Assistance/ Export Development Fund

4246. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have created a Market Development Assistance Scheme/Export Development Fund to facilitate development activities to promote exports of Indian products;
- (b) if so, the modalities for operation of said scheme/fund;
- (c) the number of export/trade houses benefited therefrom in the country, State-wise;

(d) the amount disbursed to each agency in each State during the last three years; year-wise; and

(e) the extent to which these export/trade houses have been benefited during the above period?

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

(b) To facilitate development activities to promote exports of Indian products, the following activities are eligible for assistance under Marketing Development Assistance Scheme:-

- (i) Subsidising marketing development expenses overseas by individual exporters from India under sales-cum-study tours, participation in trade fairs/Exhibitions and advertisement and publicity.
- (ii) Assistance to recognised Export Promotion Councils for development and promotional activities for exports of Indian products and commodities, contesting countervailing duty and anti-dumping duties cases abroad.

(iii) Any other development or promotional activities which are considered conducive to promote the export of Indian products and commodities.

(c) to (e) The Marketing Development Assistance is provided through the approved grantee organisations on national basis on specific product grouping basis. The recognised export/trading houses receive the assistance through the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) with Head Office at New Delhi and other exporters receive the assistance through the Export Promotion Councils with whom they are registered as members. The number of export/trade houses benefited therefrom in the country and the amount disbursed to them during the last three years, by FIEO State-wise is given in the statement enclosed.

Though, it is difficult to ascertain the exact extent of impact of such assistance on growth of exports of Indian products and commodities as growth in exports depend upon a number of factors, the feedback received indicates that this is very useful in exploring the new markets and marketing of the Indian products overseas.

Statement

State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Amount disbursed Rs.	No. of Export/ Trade Houses benefited	Amount disbursed Rs.	No. of Export/ Trade Houses benefited	Amount disbursed Rs.	No. of Export/ Trade Houses benefited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Andhra Pradesh	75125	1	-	-	50000	1
2. Delhi	6407679	77	10366323	91	3312493	48
3. Gujarat	218775	4	84410	2	150000	3
4. Haryana	548687	8	952756	5	170000	2
5. J&K	66512	1	34239	1	-	-
6. Karnataka	461292	7	41098	1	100000	2
7. Kerala	642542	6	1632386	11	278577	3
8. Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	212199	2
9. Maharashtra	3877185	44	7016052	71	2735976	42
10. Pondicherry	84274	1	-	-	98106	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11. Punjab	2604757	18	3736963	28	1533408	14
12. Rajasthan	1329872	14	4178802	25	376843	5
13. Tamil Nadu	1490056	13	1769839	24	661165	9
14. Uttar Pradesh	6553617	51	8219747	67	2283993	28
15. West Bengal	732433	10	2474693	20	422390	7

Loans for Higher Studies

4247. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on December 1, 2000 to Unstarred Question No. 2167 and state :

(a) the number of students selected for granting the educational loan during last three years in each State particularly in Maharashtra, Bank-wise;

(b) the amount of loan given to them, bank-wise;

(c) the eligibility conditions prescribed by the banks for obtaining the loan; and

(d) the names of courses for which loans are being provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b)

As per the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, the State-wise details of the outstanding loan against education by scheduled commercial banks during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed. The bank-wise data is not generated by RBI.

(c) and (d) The public sector banks have formulated their own schemes for grant of educational loans to needy students for pursuing higher studies in India under its policy guidelines issued from time to time. All students who are not gainfully employed and have been selected for admission to any general, professional courses are eligible under the scheme.

The loans sanctioned under these schemes are subject to terms and conditions prescribed under the scheme by the banks. The name of the courses under the scheme in the faculties are Engineering, Agriculture, Technology, Architecture, Medicine, Surgery, Commerce, Law, Industrial and Business Management or Administration and professional examinations like Chartered Accountancy and Chartered Secretaries etc.

Statement

The State-wise Details of Educational Loan Outstanding Extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks for the year ended March 1997, 1998 and 1999

(Amount Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Year					
		1997		1998		1999	
		No. of A/C	Amt. O/S	No. of A/C	Amt. O/S	No. of A/C	Amt. O/S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10684	52.31	12237	68.60	13783	84.29
2.	Assam	180	0.65	143	0.60	137	0.69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	7	0.56
4.	Bihar	39348	32.20	669	3.07	733	4.71
5.	Goa	136	0.67	181	1.17	172	1.32
6.	Gujarat	2325	8.18	1570	7.20	1852	10.21
7.	Haryana	385	1.24	524	2.28	506	3.02
8.	Himachal Pradesh	111	0.29	155	0.45	151	0.76
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	69	0.19	46	0.19	37	0.28
10.	Karnataka	17542	63.09	19210	83.60	18050	102.48
11.	Kerala	8983	20.25	5979	24.20	7670	32.22
12.	Madhya Pradesh	622	2.20	616	3.39	891	5.10
13.	Maharashtra	12068	31.47	11652	43.78	71835	110.33
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	5	0.02
15.	Meghalaya	11	0.05	14	0.04	16	0.07
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	42	0.08	2	0.01	4	0.04
18.	Orissa	1097	2.46	8813	5.83	1262	6.92
19.	Punjab	446	2.01	437	2.24	561	4.38
20.	Rajasthan	683	1.85	469	1.55	1069	2.62
21.	Sikkim	12	0.02	2	0.01	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	16221	50.81	16349	63.72	15478	70.79
23.	Tripura	14	0.03	14	0.03	13	0.02
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1276	5.18	1222	6.68	754	11.72
25.	West Bengal	820	3.31	966	4.88	1068	7.37
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	9	0.02	10	0.02	13	0.03
27.	Chandigarh	111	0.81	140	1.24	129	1.74
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Delhi	1662	6.73	1722	14.21	736	12.27
30.	Diu & Daman	3	0.02	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	248	0.54	244	0.89	374	0.70

Amt. — Amount

O/S — Outstanding

A/C — Account

[Translation]

Assistance to Musical Groups

4248. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared a list of dance, drama and musical groups to give assistance to them so that they could perform programmes abroad to build a good image of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have provided any assistance to the enlisted groups through Indian Ambassadors for production of programmes, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) The Song and Drama Division, under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, neither enlists artists in the field of dance, drama nor musical groups for performances abroad. It does not arrange for assistance through Indian Ambassadors for production of programmes. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of External Affairs, prepares reference panels of artistes/groups in the field of dance, drama and music who could be considered for tours abroad. A list of such artistes/groups who have been sponsored/being sponsored by the ICCR, during the current financial year is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

List showing the names of artistes/groups in the field of dance, drama, music etc., who have been sponsored/being sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) during the current financial year i.e. 2000-2001

S.No.	Countries	Name of the Group	Period	Particulars of the Visit
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil	Kathakali Group of International Centre for Kathakali x 12, Delhi	1 April-4 May, 2000	For participation in the VIth Edition of the Biennial Iberoamerican Festival in Colombia and the 12th International Theatre Festival in Caracas.
2.	Indonesia, North Korea, China, Malaysia	10-Member Bharatnatyam Dance Group of Ms. Jayalakshmi Iswar, Delhi	8 April-1 May, 2000	To participate in the Spring Arts Festival in Pyong Yong and to give performances in other countries.
3.	USA	* Dr. M. Balamurali Krishna (Carnatic Vocal) x 5, Chennai	20 April-30 April, 2000	To participate in the Tyagraja Music Festival.
4.	USA	* Ms. Ashwini Bhide (vocal) x 3, Mumbai	4 April-24 May, 2000	To visit USA at the invitation of Prof. Dixit for concerts on the US University circuit.
5.	Israel	12-Member Gujarati Folk Dance Group of Halar Lok Kala Mandal, Jamnagar x 12	1-10 May, 2000	To participate in the "India Week" to coincide with India Trade Fair Organised by ITPO.

1	2	3	4	5
6.	USA	10-Member Pung Dhol, Cholam Group of Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academy for performing arts Imphal	4-30 May, 2000	To participate in "May 2000 Festival" at Memphis between 3-14 May and to give performances in other cities in the U.S.A.
7.	Trinidad & Tobago	Ms. Deepa Raghvan (Bharatanatyam) x 1 and Ms. Bani Ray (Odissi) x 1	17-31 May, 2000	To participate in the Festival of India.
8.	China	** Dr. L. Subramaniam (Violin) x 11	24 May-5 June, 2000	To Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relation between India and Peoples Republic of China during the visit of President of India to China in May, 2000.
9.	Singapore	12-Member Charkula Nritya Avam Brij Geet Manch led by Shri Murali Lal Sharma, U.P.	30 May-5 June, 2000	To participate in Singapore Arts Festival 2000 being organised by the National Arts Council NAC of Singapore.
10.	Germany, Bratislava, Romania, Russia	Ms. Pragati Sood (Kathak) x 5, Delhi	2 June-23 June	To give performances at an International Conference at Indian Pavilion at Hannover Expo and in Region.
11.	South Korea, Malaysia	* Koodiyattam Dance Group from Natanakairali of Shri Ammannur Chakyar Madhom, Kerala x 6	7 June-20 June	To give performances at the invitation of the Korean National University of Arts School of Dance.
12.	Poland, UK, Morocco	Ms. Sharan Rani Backliwal (Sarod) x 4, Delhi	11-28 June, 2000	To participate in the 14th International Organ and Chamber Music Festival Kolodzko - 2000 and Performances in Region.
13.	Morocco, Egypt	Rehmat Khan Langa (Rajasthani Folk Singer) x 6, Delhi	15-28 June, 2000	To participate in the National Festival of Popular Arts in Marrakesh.
14.	UK, Hungary, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Poland, France	Kuchipudi Dance Group led by Ms. Kaushalya Reddy x 6, Delhi	23 June-16 July, 2000	To participate in Budapest Farewell Festival 2000 & Bucusu Festival and Performances in Region.
15.	South Africa	Bharatnatyam Dance Group of Ms. Priyadarshini Govind x 5, Chennai	24 June-12 July, 2000	To participate in the "Grahamstown" Festival and Performances in Region.

1	2	3	4	5
16. Poland, Germany	'Anjika' Manipuri Dance Group led by August, Ms. Priti Patel x 9, Calcutta		8 July-3 August, 2000	To participate in the Krakow Festival and to give performances at Indian Pavilion at Hannover Expo.
17. USA	*Prime Time Theatre Group led by Lillette Dubey x 6, Mumbai		13 July-2 August, 2000	To give shows of "Dance Like a Man" in New York and other cities of USA.
18. Canada, USA	*Ms. Sutapa Talukdar (Odissi) x 5, Calcutta		25 July-27 September	To give performances in Houston at the Invitation of Indo-American Association, Texas and in the Region.
19. Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles	Rajasthani Folk Dance Group of Rajki Puran Nath Sapera x 10		4 August-4 September, 2000	To give performances.
20. Mynamar, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines	Folk Dance Group Sri Idagunji Mahaganapati Yakshagani Mandali Kere-man x 10, Karnataka.		13-29 August, 2000	To give performances on the occasion of India's Independence Day Celebrations and other Performances.
21. UK	* Ms. Roshan Date (Kathak) x 1, Pune (T.G.).		16 August-17 Sept., 2000	To participate in project "Navagraha" A Celebration of Diwali in the Millennium at the invitation of "Nilmani Kathak Kendra - Center for Indian Classical Dance in Leicester, U.K.
22. Egypt, Turkey	CGH Police Cultural Club Group led by Shri Atamjeet Singh x 12		22 August-20 Sept., 2000	To participate in the "Ismailia International Folklore Festival" in Cairo.
23- Uzbekistan 25. Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan	** <i>(i)</i> Shri Rajendra Prasanna (Shehnai & Flute) x 4, Delhi <i>(ii)</i> Ms. Manjari Chaturvedi (Kathak to Sufi Singing) x 10 <i>(iii)</i> 10-Member Bhangra / Giddha Group "Rangla" Punjab Cultural Youth Club, led by Shri Tehal Singh, Punjab.		26 August-10 Sept., 2000	To give performances to coincide with the celebrations of 3000th Anniversary of Osh city and also to participate in the Cultural Festival "Days of Indian Culture in Turkmenistan" in connection with the 500th Anniversary of Bairam Khan in Turkmenistan.
26. Germany, Czech-Republic, Italy, Hungary, Spain	Ms. Meera Das (Odissi) x 5 Orissa		1 Sept.-4 October, 2000	To give performances.

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Saudi Arabia, Syria, Qatar, Kuwait, UAF.	Ms. Kiran Segal (Odissi) x 5, Delhi	2 Sept.,-20 Sept., 2000	To give performances.
28.	USA	*Ms. Padma Talwalkar (Vocal) x 3	5 Sept.,-24 Oct., 2000	To visit USA at the Invitation of Prof. Dixit for performances on the US University Circuit
29.	Sri Lanka	Bharatanatyam Ballet Group led by Ms. Lakshmi Vishwanathan x 12	14-21 Sept., 2000	To Give performances
30.	USA	* Shri T.K.S. Swaminathan and Ms. T.K.S. Meenakshi Sundaram (Nadaswaram) x 5, Chennai	15 Sept.,-24 Sept., 2000	To participate in a Cultural Programme of Navratri Festival of Indian Music and Dance for the New Millennium being organised by the Music Department Wesbeyan University.
31.	USA	** Contemporary Theatre led by Shri Ratan Thiyam x 7, Imphal	17 Sept.,-30 Oct., 2000	Invitation received from Asia Society, New York for performances of "Utra Priyadarshini".
32.	Finland, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Hungary	Kohinoor Langa (Rajasthani Folk Dance Group) x 10	21 Sept.,-04 Nov., 2000	To participate in the Helsinki Festival - 2000 and performances in region.
33.	Germany	Jaya Rama Rao and Vanasree Rao (Kuchipudi) x 6	22 Sept.,-13 Oct., 2000	To give performances for Dig Chian Tour.
34.	Iraq, Egypt, Azerbaijan, Turkey	Ms. Aloka Kanungo (Odissi) x 5	22 Sept.,-4 Oct., 2000	To participate in the "Bosra Festival" in Syria and "Babylon Festival" in Iraq.
35.	Bangladesh	'Dhawani' Kathak Dance Group led by Krishan Mohan and Ms. Vaswati Misra	24-29 Sept., 2000	To participate in the Music and Dance Festival.
36.	USA	* "Sarjan" Odissi Dance Group led by Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra x 4, Orissa	26 Sept.,-26th Nov., 2000	To give performances at the Invitation of Centre for South Asian Arts, Palo Alto, California, USA.
37.	Mexico	Sachin Shanker Ballet x 12, Mumbai	1-18 Oct., 2000	To participate in the Cervantino Festival and to give performances in other cities.
38.	Netherlands	*Lalgudi GJR Krishnan (Violin) x 4, Chennai (T.G.)	6-15 October, 2000	To give performances at the Invitation of Royal Tropical Institute.

1	2	3	4	5
39.	Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Iran	(i) Shri Vikas Gupta (Sitar & Surbahar) x 3	7-26 October, 2000	To participate in the Music Festival in Bahrain.
40.	Trinidad & Tobago, Surinam, Kingston	Sharma Bandhu (Bhajan Singer) x 6, U.P.	17 Oct.-06 Nov., 2000	Performances at the time of Diwali.
41.	Turkey, Syria, Egypt, Dubai	Karagam/Dummy Horse Folk Group (Chennai) x 10.	21 Oct.-11 Nov., 2000	To give performances.
42.	Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia, Uganda	Agnihotri Bandhu (Bhajan) x 6, Lucknow.	25 Oct.,-17 Nov., 2000	To give performances.
43.	Vietnam, Laos	**Madhavi Mudgal (Odissi) x 15	5-11 November, 2000	To give performances.
44.	Pakistan	Harji Bhatt and Party x 5 (Puppet Theatre), Rajasthan.	10-21 November, 2000	To participate in the 5th International Puppet Festival at the Invitation of Rafi Peer Theatre.
45.	Myanmar, Malaysia	** Shri Niyaz Ahmed Khan (Qawwali Group) x 6	17-25 November, 2000	To give performances.
46.	Bhutan	Ms. Penaz Masani Popular and Ghazal Singer x 9	19-27 November, 2000	To give performances.
47.	Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia, UAE	Ms. Madhumita Bose (Light Classical) x 4 New Delhi	27 Dec., 2000-17 January, 2001	To give performances.
48.	Muscat, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Tunisia	12-Member Gujarati Folk Music & Dance Group of "Aavishkar", Ahmedabad	4th Jan.-4 Feb., 2001	To give performances on the occasion of India's Republic Day Celebrations.
49.	Germany	Ms. Malavika Sarukkai (Bharatanatyam) x 6 Chennai	16-20 Jan., 2001	Inauguration Ceremony of the New Chancery Building in Berlin.
50.	Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia, Uganda	Ghulam Waris and Ghulam Sabir (Qawwali) x 6 Delhi	17 Jan-15 Feb., 2001	To give performances.
51.	Sri Lanka	Ms. Pramita Mallick x (Rabindra Sangeet) x 9 Calcutta	19-28 Jan., 2001	To give cultural performances.
52-54.	Bangladesh	(i) Ms. Priyadarshini Govind (Bharatanatyam) x 5 Chennai	19-23 Jan., 2001	To participate in the Dance and Music Festival.
		(ii) Ms. Meeta Pandit (Hindustani Vocal) x 4 New Delhi	19-24 Jan., 2001	
		(iii) Sh. Mukesh Sharma & Ms. Anupriya Deotale (Sarod & Violin Duo) x 4 New Delhi	21-25 Jan., 2001	

1	2	3	4	5
55.	Hong Kong, Indonesia, Laos, Singapore, Vietnam, Myanmar	Ms. M. Laliitha and Ms. M. Nandini (Violin) x 4	23 January-8 Feb., 2001	To give performances on the occasion of India's Republic Day Celebrations and other performances.
56.	Nepal	Ms. Vasanthi Sridhar Bharatanatyam x 5, New Delhi	24-26 January, 2001	To give performances.
57.	Pakistan	A Vocal Group x 4	25 Jan.-30 Jan., 2001	To coincide with the Republic Day Celebrations.
58.	Nepal	Ms. Madhavi Mudgal (Odissi) x 16	25-28 January, 2001	To give cultural performances.
59.	Sri Lanka	10-Member Chhau Dance Group of the Mayur Arts Centre, Orissa	23-30 January, 2001	To give performances.
60.	Sri Lanka	* A Theatre Group of Ms. Anamika Haksar x 16, New Delhi	February, 2001	
61.	Australia, New Zealand	* Shri N. Ramani (Flute) x 4	13-28 February, 2001	To present India at the "2001 WOMAD (World of Music Art and Dance)" Festival in Adelaide, and to give performances in other cities of Australia and New Zealand,
62.	Nepal	Ustad Zakir Hussain (Tabla) x 4	13-15 February, 2001	To give performances.
63.	Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany	Ms. Shruti Sadolikar (Vocal) x 4, Mumbai	March, 2001	To give performances.
64.	Australia, Netherlands	Royal Chhau Group x 10, West Bengal	March, 2001	To participate in the "Asia 2000" Festival.
65.	Pakistan	Ms. Savita Devi (Vocal) x 4, New Delhi	March, 2001	To participate in the 2nd World Music Festival.
66.	Thailand, Hongkong, Singapore, Myanmar	Puppet Group "Tolpavakothu Sangham" led by Shri K.L. Krishnankutty Pulavar x 8, Kerala	March, 2001	To participate in the International Shadow Puppet Festival.
67.	Maldives	Shri Pradeep Roy (Popular) x 6, New Delhi	March, 2001	To give performances.

*Travel Grant

**Agency Work

[English]

Corruption in NCCF

4249. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received by Anti-corruption unit set up in the Prime Minister Office regarding corruption/corrupt practice in National Co-operative Consumers' Federation; and

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) According to the information received from the Prime Minister's Office, a complaint alleging corruption/irregularities in supply of cleaning material and other items to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences by National Cooperative Consumers' Federation was received in the Anti-corruption unit and forwarded to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

(b) The NCCF has informed that this matter is under investigation by the C.B.I. and further action will be taken by the NCCF on receipt of the CBI report.

[Translation]

Recruitment Rules in PSUs

4250. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

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

(a) the existing rule for recruitment of higher officers in the Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) the criteria adopted to appoint SC/ST/OBC incumbents for the higher posts;

(c) whether these rules have been violated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) There is no

reservation for SC/ST/OBC in appointment to Board level posts. The appointment is made on the recommendation of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).

As for posts below Board level, the appointments thereto come under the purview of respective Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). Public Sector Undertakings generally follow the instructions issued from time to time by Department of Personnel and Training with regard to reservation, relaxations/concessions in favour of SC/ST/OBC, which are extended to PSUs through their Administrative Ministries/Departments.

[English]

Foreign Direct Investment in Small Scale Industries

4251. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to give sanction for Foreign Direct Investment upto certain percentage in Small Scale Industries under certain sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of foreign investments, proposal-wise;

(c) the details of sectors of industries benefited from such proposals with special reference to Maharashtra; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase such investment in future particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) As per the present policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 24% is allowed in industries reserved for SSI sector under the automatic route. In case foreign investment exceeds the limit in this sector, the industrial undertaking has to forego SSI status, undertake 50% export obligation or undertake to procure reserved items from SSI units only.

(b) The details of the foreign direct investment (FDI) approvals in various sectors, which also include approvals granted to small scale industrial units are incorporated in the SIA Newsletter brought out by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, which is widely circulated, including to the Library of the House.

(c) During the period from 1.1.1991 to 31.10.2000, FDI amounting to Rs. 41,256 crores has been approved for the State of Maharashtra. This amount includes FDI in the SSI sector also.

(d) The Government has already put in place a liberalised FDI policy to attract more FDI into the country. The foreign investment that will accrue to Maharashtra will depend upon factors such as degree of development of industrial and financial infrastructure, the potential size of market, the skilled human resources and natural resources of the State and the various fiscal and other incentives provided by the State Government.

Development of Border Town

4252. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the status of the Detail Project Report (DPR) for the development of Border Town of Moreh, Zokawthar, Dawki and Sutarkhandi;

(b) whether the DPR for the development of these four places as Border Towns was to be completed by July 2000;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for delay in preparing the DPR; and

(e) the progress in regard to the implementation of recommendations of the Empowered Committee on Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Border Trade and Inter-country Trade issues in North-East?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) As a part of Prime Minister's initiatives for development of North East Region announced in Shillong in January 2000, Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for the development of border townships of Moreh, Dawki and Sutarkhandi are being prepared by the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) at the behest of Department of Commerce. The finalisation of the DPRs has been delayed as the respective State Governments are yet to make the land available for the proposed facilities at the aforesaid locations.

As regards Zokhawthar, the BRO who are entrusted with the task of developing the center will prepare the detail project report shortly after the land is handed over by the State Government of Mizoram.

(e) The recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Border trade and inter country trade issues in North East are being regularly monitored and reviewed for implementation by an Empowered Committee headed by the Commerce Secretary. The status of the actions on the Task Force report has been reviewed in the meetings of the Empowered Committee held on 14-6-2000, 7.7.2000

and 25.9.2000. The last such meeting of the Empowered Committee was held at Guwahati on 25.9.2000.

[Translation]

Debt Recovery Tribunals

4253. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI SAHIB SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Public Sector banks/FIs, loan defaulting cases referred to each Debt Recovery Tribunal during each of the last three years and the current year, so far;

(b) the amount involved in these cases alongwith the amount recovered out of it so far;

(c) the number of cases referred to High Courts by DRTs during the above period;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up some more Debt Recovery Tribunals in view of increasing number of bank loan defaulting cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) Nil.

(d) and (e) Initially, it was decided to set up only 10 Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) in the country. However, keeping in view the workload on the existing DRTs Government decided to set up twelve more DRTs in the country. Out of these, Government has already set up DRTs one each at Calcutta, Delhi, Jaipur, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Jabalpur, Patna, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Allahabad, Chandigarh, Ernakulam and Aurangabad. Remaining DRTs one each at Delhi, Calcutta, Cuttack, Chennai, Nagpur and two at Mumbai are in the process of being set up.

[English]

Restructuring I.T. Department

4254. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to restructure Income Tax Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of posts likely to be surrendered; and

(c) the actions taken to streamline the appellate bodies to look into the grievances of the tax payers?

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

(b) The approval accorded by the Government for restructuring of the Income Tax Department envisages abolition of 2752 posts at the staff level without retrenching any serving staff or officer. The restructuring has been approved with a view to facilitate absorption of information technology, providing improved services to the tax payers and enhancement of revenue.

(c) Any grievance caused to the tax payers in the course of the implementation of tax laws is redressed through the first appellate authority known as Commissioner (Appeals). The proposed restructuring of the Income Tax Department contemplates considerable reduction in the period of disposal of appeals and for this purpose, the number of Commissioner (Appeals) are being increased.

Debt Burden of Various States

4255. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the debt burden of various States is increasing alarmingly;

(b) if so, the details of the external and internal debt of the various States till the end of March, 2000;

(c) the details of debt service compared to the national average in terms of State Gross Domestic products and Gross Domestic products respectively; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to arrest the debt burden of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Eleventh Finance Commission as per its terms of reference was required to make an assessment of the debt position of the States as on 31.3.1999 and suggest such corrective measures as are deemed necessary, keeping in view the long term sustainability for both the Centre and the States. The Finance Commission has indicated that debt liability of States as percentage of GDP is projected to increase to 24.52% at the end of 1999-2000 as compared to 21.53% in 1993-94. A statement showing State-wise composition of debt as on 31.3.2000 and debt as percentage of GSDP is enclosed.

External assistance is disbursed to the State Governments as Additional Central Assistance for EAP in the form of block loans and block grant and therefore form part of internal debt.

(d) The Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended continuation of the existing debt relief scheme recommended by Tenth Finance Commission, linked to improvement in the ratio of revenue receipts of a State to its total revenue expenditure, with enhanced incentive. Besides the Commission has also recommended a moratorium on the payment of installments of debt and interest on the special loans given to Punjab during 1984-94 for combating insurgency and militancy due for repayment from the State of Punjab during the period 2000-05. The Commission has further recommended debt relief to Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir on the basis of specified expenditure incurred on security. The Government of India have accepted the recommendations of the Finance Commission.

Statement

State	Debt of States as on March 31, 2000 in Rs. crores							
	Loans from			W&M Adv. from RBI	Provident Funds etc.	Reserve Funds & Deposits	Total Debt	Debt as % age of GSDP
	Centre	Market	Banks etc.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	16057	7037	1721	220	2857	4587	32479	20.95
Arunachal Pradesh	409	58	220	0	193	16	896	48.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Assam	4591	1888	220	85	1082	689	8555	24.12
Bihar	16018	6185	168	0	7903	1782	32056	35.31
Goa	1242	253	119	0	339	187	2140	34.54
Gujarat	16410	3007	853	0	2404	6130	28804	18.95
Haryana	6130	1462	561	18	3288	739	12198	22.58
Himachal Pradesh	3141	613	530	853	1793	768	7698	58.59
Jammu & Kashmir	3630	665	328	1108	1329	30	7090	47.15
Karnataka	10751	3641	832	0	3644	3198	22066	18.94
Kerala	6556	3929	1221	124	6584	1778	20192	28.16
Madhya Pradesh	10990	4017	774	193	6423	2591	24988	19.17
Maharashtra	27333	4442	1153	0	4561	14067	51556	13.92
Manipur	406	224	158	411	280	160	1639	46.80
Meghalaya	358	309	108	0	148	208	1131	26.71
Mizoram	355	124	164	83	269	102	1097	59.76
Nagaland	352	464	185	169	380	6	1556	50.36
Orissa	8224	4189	549	304	4721	1504	19491	39.95
Punjab	14488	2049	1683	1006	4574	801	24601	34.89
Rajasthan	12222	5119	1777	885	6517	3139	29559	31.95
Sikkim	221	186	69	0	155	10	641	71.24
Tamil Nadu	12377	4777	1189	0	4267	3718	26328	16.77
Tripura	657	331	179	0	541	51	1759	40.25
Uttar Pradesh	35226	11872	1205	570	8636	14423	71932	29.28
West Bengal	28552	4979	1328	0	2972	5394	43225	30.44
Total	236696	71720	17294	6029	75860	66078	473677	24.33

Source: Report of Eleventh Finance Commission for 2000-05.

[Translation]

Disturbed Area Allowance

4256. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are giving "disturbed

area allowance" to the employees of Doordarshan and A.I.R. posted in disturbed areas;

(b) if so, the details of such stations/kendras in the country where employees are getting such allowance;

(c) the details of the amount per year given under this account;

(d) whether the Government propose to make any alternative arrangement against this account;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Loan to Foreign Countries

4257. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the countries to whom our country has given loans alongwith the amount thereof till October, 2000, country-wise; and

(b) the amount received from these countries as interest every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) During the period from January, 1996 to October, 2000, following countries were extended GOI lines of credit :-

Name of the country	Amount of credit	Name of the country	Amount of credit
Sri Lanka	US\$ 30 million	Myanmar	US\$ 10 million
Vietnam	Rs. 232 crores	Lao PDR	US\$ 2 million
Mauritius	US\$ 12 million	Iraq	US\$ 25 million
Bangladesh	Rs. 270 crores	Seychelles	US\$ 2 million
Bhutan	Rs. 563.20 crores		

(b) The details of amounts received as interest (both in Indian Rupees and US Dollars) from the recipient countries during the above period are furnished as under:

Name of the Country	Amount of Interest (In Indian Rupees)	Amount of interest (In US Dollars)
1	2	3
Bangladesh	1,40,56,864	-

1	2	3
Bhutan	5,57,08,445	-
Ghana	6,36,892	-
Guyana	1,63,39,830	-
Kyrgyzstan	-	344,660
Mauritius	1,71,99,637	362,179
Mongolia	-	245,070
Sri Lanka	1,14,19,723	2,498,341
Surinam	58,16,638	-
Turkmenistan	-	49,827
Uzbekistan	-	2,728,824
Vietnam	27,18,58,915	-
Zimbabwe	3,78,626	-

Financial Status of BHEL

4258. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the present financial Status of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL);

(b) the total number of vacant posts in various categories in the company, alongwith the time since when these posts are lying vacant unit-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) As per the last Audited Accounts of BHEL for the year ending March 31, 2000, the financial status of the company is as under:-

Parameter	(Rupees in crores) 1999-2000
Turnover	6634
Profit before tax	865
Profit after tax	599
Net Worth	3358

(b) and (c) The Post of Director (Finance) fell vacant on 1.12.2000. The process for filling up the vacancy has already been set in motion. There are no vacancies as on date in the category of Executive Directors and General Managers. With regard to other categories, the company does not have a system of cadre strengths/fixed sanction. Fresh induction is strictly need based.

Export Obligation for Auto Industry

4259. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Auto Industry has requested the Government to do away with the existing provisions relating to export obligation;

(b) if so, the date on which the said request was received by the Government and the decision taken thereon;

(c) whether Auto Industry has been fulfilling the export obligations so far; and

(d) if so, the names of the institutions in the country, which have fulfilled the said obligations and exported accordingly alongwith the names of those which have not fulfilled these obligations in the matter of exports?

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

(a) and (b) No specific proposal/suggestion on this issue from any company has been received. However, several suggestions from different quarters including the car manufacturing Industry have been received for incorporation in the new Auto Policy which is in the process of being finalised.

(c) and (d) As per the present policy the passenger car manufacturers are required to sign a Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) with the Government of India committing themselves to achieving a broad neutralisation of foreign exchange in terms of balancing between the actual CIF value of imports of CKD/SKD kits/ Components and the FOB value of exports of cars and auto components. The period for this export obligation commences from the third year of commencement of production. The period of fulfillment of Export Obligation is still not over. Hence, the question of a company not

fulfilling the export obligation does not arise at this stage.

[English]

World Bank Loan to Orissa

4260. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has resumed the financing of projects in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details regarding the loan provided, alongwith fiscal reforms and power sector restructuring programmes; and

(c) the terms and conditions in regard to sanction this loan to Orissa Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The question of resumption does not arise because the World Bank financing of projects in Orissa was not stopped.

(b) The details of the assistance provided by World Bank in Orissa are given in the statement enclosed.

The World Bank has provided a loan of \$ 350 million for Orissa Power Sector Reforms and Restructuring Project, agreements for which were signed on 10.7.1996 and became effective on 7.10.96. The closing date of the project is 31.12.2002. As on 30.9.2000, \$ 92.681 million has been disbursed under the project. As regard the Orissa Fiscal Reforms Project, it is under preparation. The details of project scope, size and cost of the project will be known at the time of appraisal/approval of the project. Presently, there is no commitment from the World Bank to fund the aforementioned project.

(c) The Government of India has standard terms and conditions for passing the assistance under Externally Aided Projects to the States.

The funds are released to the States on the basis of 70% loan and 30% grant to non-special category States. The interest rate on the loan portion is currently at 12.5%. The repayment period is 20 years including a 5 years of grace period for 50% of the loan.

Statement*Ongoing IBRD/International Development Assistance Projects in Orissa*

(\$ Million)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Donor	Date of Agreement	Loan/Credit Amount	Nature
1.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project	IDA	05.01.1996	290.90	Orissa State
2.	Orissa Health Systems Development Project	IDA	13.08.1998	76.40	Orissa State
3.	Hydrology Project	IDA	22.09.1995	142.00	Multi-State
4.	Second National Highway Project	IDA	18.06.1992	153.00	Multi-State
		IBRD		153.00	
5.	Shrimp & Fish Culture Project	IDA	29.01.1992	85.00	Multi-State
6.	National Agriculture Technology Project	IDA	22.06.1998	100.00	Multi-State
		IBRD		96.80	
7.	Cataract Blindness Control Project	IDA	19.05.1994	117.80	Multi-State
8.	District Primary Education Project-II	IDA	15.07.1996	425.20	Multi-State
9.	Reproductive and Child Health Services Project	IDA	30.07.1997	248.30	Multi-State
10.	Tuberculosis Control Project	IDA	14.03.1995	142.40	Multi-State
11.	Malaria Control Project	IDA	30.07.1997	164.80	Multi-State
12.	Second AIDS Control Project	IDA	14.09.1999	194.75	Multi-State
13.	Immunization Strengthening Project	IDA	19.05.2000	142.60	Multi-State

Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings

4261. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of the Committee headed by the Economic Advisor had suggested that the Public Sector Undertakings identified for disinvestment should off-load their shares at a discount in the domestic market rather than sell them abroad;

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

(c) whether these recommendations have been implemented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) As per the information available, no committee headed by the Economic Advisor has given such recommendations.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Promotion of Gem Industry

4262. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had taken several measures to promote synthetic/artificial gem stone industry during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to omit Synthetic Gem Stone industries from the Core Gem Stone Industries Guild in India;

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

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to rehabilitate or to help those who are engaged in Synthetic Gem Stone Industries particularly in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh?

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

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) Some of the important steps announced in the Exim Policy during the last two years including this year are:-

- (i) Permission for import of Capital Goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% customs duty subject to an export obligation equivalent to 5 times CIF value of capital goods on F.O.B. basis or four times the C.I.F. value of capital goods on Net Foreign Exchange (NFE) basis, to be fulfilled over a period of 8 years reckoned from the date of issuance of licence;
- (ii) Permission for personal carriage of gems and jewellery export/import parcels;
- (iii) Permission for export of gems and jewellery items by courier from selected ports up to a value of Rs. 20 lakhs per consignment. With effect from 1st April 2000 exports through speed post have also been permitted;
- (iv) Permission for duty free import of consumables required by the gems and jewellery industry to the extent of 1% of the FOB value of gems and jewellery exports in the preceding year; and
- (v) For Mangalsutras studded with synthetic gemstones, a lower value addition norm equal to plain jewellery has been prescribed.

Besides the above measures taken under the EXIM Policy, Govt. have also reduced the Customs Duty on rough

synthetic stones to 15%. Value wise exports of cut and polished synthetic stones during the last two years are as under:-

Year	Value of Exports (in U.S. \$ Millions)
1998-1999	2.41
1999-2000	2.62

Source: Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), Mumbai.

(c) No, Sir. Government has not constituted any body under the name of "Core Gem Stone Industries Guild" in India.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Continuous efforts are made to promote Synthetic or artificial gem stone industry so as to increase exports of these items. With a view to give boost to the synthetic stone industry the concerned State Governments have been requested to consider exempting the sale of synthetic gemstones from the levy of sales tax and other taxes like, Octroi, etc., as has been done in the states of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Besides the Export Import Policy is being regularly fine-tuned by announcing new policy initiatives to boost the exports of gems and jewellery sector including exports of synthetic stones and jewellery studded with synthetic stones.

Export of Cement to Bangladesh

4263. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of cement exported to Bangladesh during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there was a shortfall in cement exports to Bangladesh during the current year; and

(c) the steps being taken to maintain at least the previous level of export to Bangladesh?

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

(a) Quantity wise export data is not maintained separately for Cement. However, the value of Export of Cement to Bangladesh for the last three years is as under :

Year	Exports (In Rs. Crores)
1997-98	21.85
1998-99	66.89
1999-2000 (Estimated)	54.00

(Source : CAPEXIL)

(b) Yes Sir, there has been a slight fall in exports of cement to Bangladesh during 1999-2000 as compared to the previous year.

(c) No specific problem in exports of cement to Bangladesh had been reported. Normal export incentives applicable to all exports are available to exports of cement also. Moreover, Government is extending Market Development Assistance for exporters through the Export Promotion Councils for competing in foreign markets through participation in overseas fairs, exhibitions and for mounting trade delegations.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Public Sector Banks

4264. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of financial irregularity/corruption detected in Public Sector Banks during the previous and current financial year;

(b) the number of bank officers involved in these cases; and

(c) the concrete steps being taken by the Government to check such irregularities and corruptions in these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The number of fraud cases as reported by public sector banks to Reserve Bank of India during the years 1998 and 1999 are 1855 and 1839 respectively. Action has been taken against the 5366 and 4713 number of bank employees for their involvement in such cases for the years 1998 and 1999 respectively.

(c) Banks are implementing comprehensive guidelines issued by RBI regarding prevention of frauds which

inter-alia include strengthening of internal control mechanisms, review of fraud cases of continual basis, undertaking concurrent audit covering branches accounting for 50 per cent of bank's business, scrutiny of cash deposits and withdrawals of Rs. 10 lakhs and above, improving housekeeping and imparting training to operational personnel. Whenever a fraud is detected by a bank, a preliminary investigation is made. Based on the findings, a decision is taken whether to conduct a thorough investigation departmentally or to handover the case to local police or the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). On the basis of enquiry reports received after internal enquiry, or from police or CBI, banks take regular departmental action wherever necessary and award punishment to the officials who are found responsible for the fraud. The police and the CBI also file criminal cases for prosecution in Courts.

[English]

Special Cell in FCI for Wheat Export

4265. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a special cell in Food Corporation of India to monitor and facilitate wheat exports in a bid to off-load huge stocks lying in the open without proper storage facilities;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered and taken final decision in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help to facilitate the exports and also help in reducing the pressure on godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) An independent division already exists in the Food Corporation of India to deal with the subject.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rice for Welfare Programmes in A.P.

4266. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding supply of rice at PDS rates for various welfare programmes in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) The Andhra Pradesh Government has requested for monthly allocation of rice at PDS rates for Welfare Scheme as follows:-

	(In Tonnes)
1. Under PDS, based on 2000 population at BPL rate	85,000
—at APL rate of Rs. 950 per qtl.	1,15,000
2. Welfare Hostels etc.	15,000
3. Annapurna Scheme (free of cost)	932
4. Employment Generation Scheme	20,000
Total	2,35,932

The allocation of rice at BPL rate under PDS for BPL families has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month from 1.4.2000. The BPL allocation has now been based on projection of population by Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of earlier base of 1995. The revised allocation of rice for Andhra Pradesh is 81,256 tonnes from December, 2000 as against 37,780 tonnes in March, 2000. The monthly APL allocation of rice to Andhra Pradesh is 1,53,920 tonnes.

In addition to above FCI has been authorized to issue one and two years old rice to Andhra Pradesh @ Rs. 950/- per quintal in convenient instalments out of the authorisation for open sale. FCI has also been authorized to release stocks of rice other than one and two years old rice available in Andhra Pradesh to the State Government @ Rs. 950/- per quintal, if one year old and above stocks are not available at the points where rice is issued for normal PDS in that State.

Allotment under welfare schemes as demanded has not been made so far.

[Translation]

IDBI Bonds

4267. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Bonds sold by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) since 1999;

(b) the profit earned by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) through the sale of said bonds;

(c) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has closed the scheme and has started refunding the amount collected through the Flexi Bond Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The details of the number of Bonds issued by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) since 1999 are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) IDBI raises resources through Bonds to meet its requirements of funds for financing industry, infrastructure sector and deployment in its overall operations. IDBI, therefore, does not earn any profit by sale of these Bonds.

(c) and (d) Having regard to market dynamics and mutual interests, the Flexibonds carried options on either side for early redemption. In view of the present prevailing interest rate conditions, IDBI has exercised the call option available under Flexibonds-I (1996) in respect of Deep Discount Bonds and Retirement Bonds on August 1, 2000 as under:-

Scheme	No. of Folios (in lakh)	No. of Bonds (in lakh)	Amount (Rs. in crore)
Flexibonds-96 (Flexi-1)	18.90	22.21	2197.94
Redeemed upto December 1, 2000	14.47	17.21	1707.92
Balance to be redeemed as on December 1, 2000	4.43	5.00	490.02

Statement

Bonds issued by IDBI since 1999

Scheme	No. of Bonds	Amount raised (Rs. crore)
(A) Public Issue		
Flexibonds-5	290960	1500.00
Flexibonds-6	225834	1500.00
Flexibonds-7	63953	1500.00
Flexibonds-8	147036	573.52
Total (A)	727783	5073.82
(B) Omni Bonds Private Placement		
OMNI-1	530383	5273.22
MIBOR 99A	77	77.00
OMNI 99 B&C (TIER-II)	150000	1500.00
OMNI-I (TIER-II)	62165	621.65
MIBOR 2000B	116	116.00
OMNI-2000A	84080	840.80
Total (B)	826821	8428.67
Grand Total (A+B)	1554604	13502.19

[English]

States Facing Debt Trap

4268. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the States which are reeling under the debt-trap:

(b) the debt amount on these States, State-wise as on date;

(c) the reasons for facing such problem by the State Governments; and

(d) the kind of help Union Government propose to provide to State Governments to get rid of debt-trap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Eleventh Finance Commission as per its terms of reference was required to make an assessment of the debt position of the States as on 31.3.1999 and suggest such corrective measures as are deemed necessary, keeping in view the long term sustainability for both the Centre and the States. A statement showing State-wise composition of debt as on 31.3.2000 and debt as percentage of GSDP is enclosed.

(c) Financing of Persistent mismatch between receipts and expenditures of the State Governments, through borrowed funds has led to accumulation of debt.

(d) The Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended continuation of the existing debt relief scheme recommended by Tenth Finance Commission, linked to improvement in the ratio of revenue receipts of a State to its total revenue expenditure, with enhanced incentive. Besides the Commission has also recommended a moratorium on the payment of installments of debt and interest on the special loans given to Punjab during 1984-94 for combating insurgency and militancy due for repayment from the State of Punjab during the period 2000-05. The commission has further recommended debt relief to Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir on the basis of specified expenditure incurred on security. The Government of India have accepted the recommendations of the Finance Commission.

Statement

State	Debt of States as on March 31, 2000 in Rs. crores										
	Loans from			W&M Adv. from RBI	Provident Funds etc.	Reserve Funds & Deposits	Total Debt	Debt as % age of GSDP			
Centre	Market	Banks etc.	1						2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	16057	7037	1721	220	2857	4587	32479	20.95			
Arunachal Pradesh	409	58	220	0	193	16	896	48.00			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Assam	4591	1888	220	85	1082	689	8555	24.12
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Goa	1242	253	119	0	339	187	2140	34.54
Gujarat	16410	3007	853	0	2404	6130	28804	18.95
Haryana	6130	1462	561	18	3288	739	12198	22.58
Himachal Pradesh	3141	613	530	853	1793	768	7698	58.59
Jammu & Kashmir	3630	665	328	1108	1329	30	7090	47.15
Karnataka	10751	3641	832	0	3644	3198	22066	18.94
Kerala	6556	3929	1221	124	6584	1778	20192	28.16
Madhya Pradesh	10990	4017	774	193	6423	2591	24988	19.17
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Meghalaya	358	309	108	0	148	208	1131	26.71
Mizoram	355	124	164	83	269	102	1097	59.76
Nagaland	352	464	185	169	380	6	1556	50.36
Orissa	8224	4189	549	304	4721	1504	19491	39.95
Punjab	14488	2049	1683	1006	4574	801	24601	34.89
Rajasthan	12222	5019	1777	885	6517	3139	29559	31.95
Sikkim	221	186	69	0	155	10	641	71.24
Tamil Nadu	12377	4777	1189	0	4267	3718	26328	16.77
Tripura	657	331	179	0	541	51	1759	40.25
Uttar Pradesh	35226	11872	1205	570	8636	14423	71932	29.28
West Bengal	28552	4979	1328	0	2972	5394	43225	30.44
Total States	236696	71720	17294	6029	75860	66078	473677	24.33

Source: Report of Eleventh Finance Commission for 2000-05.

Bank Financing on Equities and Investment

4269. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Financial Committee appointed by Reserve Bank of India on bank financing of equities and investments in shares has given their recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a Standing Technical Committee on co-ordination between RBI and

SEBI, was set up to develop operating guidelines for a transparent and stable system of bank financing of equities. The Committee has submitted its recommendations, which, inter-alia, include IPO financing issue of guarantee on behalf of brokers, banks investment in shares etc. Based on the Committee's recommendations, RBI, in its Mid-Term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy for the year 2000-2001, announced the guidelines on Bank Financing of Equities and Investments in shares. The operating guidelines in this regard have been issued by RBI to all commercial banks vide its circular letter dated 10th November, 2000. As per these guidelines, banks' Board are required to frame suitable operational guidelines for financing of equities as well as investment in shares taking into account its overall risk profile, etc. The banks are also required to build up adequate expertise in equity research, formulate transparent policy and procedure for investments and also to review the portfolio of investment in shares on an ongoing basis to assess the risk of downward movement in prices and take appropriate steps to minimise the losses.

Indo-Nepal Treaty

4270. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have to initiate action to amend the Indo-Nepal treaty to prevent duty free re-export;

(b) if so, the main issues that are being considered;

(c) whether new measures are proposed to be taken to prevent Nepal from being a duty free re-export centre; and

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

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

(a) to (d) The current Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade provides for access to the Indian market free of customs duties and quantitative restrictions for all articles manufactured in Nepal except for a Negative List of three articles. The Treaty also provides that in the event of this facility leading to a surge in the imports generally or in the import of any particular article, the two Governments shall enter into consultation with a view to taking appropriate measures.

The Indian authorities are keeping a watch on the import of goods from Nepal under the facility mentioned above. It has been noticed that imports of some of the articles manufactured in Nepal has increased substantially. A dialogue has been initiated with His Majesty's Government of Nepal for taking appropriate measures as provided under the Treaty.

[Translation]

New Norms for Censor Board

4271. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the regional offices attached to Central Film Board of Certification have circulated new guidelines for the perusal and comments of the members of board which are aimed at checking vulgar and objectionable scenes in the films;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these norms are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Films, for public exhibition in India, continue to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification as per the guidelines issued by the Government on 6th December, 1991, and amended in September, 1997. No new guidelines have been issued recently.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Wholesale Price and Consumer Price Index

4272. CH. TEJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of wholesale price index and consumer price index of essential commodities during the last one year and upto October 30, 2000;

(b) the point to point weekly rate of inflation during the said period;

(c) the reasons for continuous increase in the price index;

(d) the impact of price hike of petrol and petroleum products on the rate of inflation; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to check increase in prices of essential commodities and to contain inflation rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The details of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) of essential commodities since October 1999 and the point to point inflation rate of essential commodities for this period is as follows :

Year/ Month	WPI-Essential Comm.		CPI-Essential Comm.	
	Index	Annual Inflation (%)	Index	Annual Inflation (%)
	1	2	3	4
1999				
Oct.	156	3.5	415	-4.8
Nov.	156	2.8	415	-4.9
Dec.	153	2.8	410	-3.0
2000				
Jan.	152	2.9	408	0.0
Feb.	152	1.7	406	-0.4
Mar.	157	5.4	407	2.8
Apr.	162	8.4	416	-0.2

	1	2	3	4	5
May		163	8.0	418	4.6
June		163	7.2	419	4.1
July		163	5.9	423	5.3
Aug.		161	4.8	420	4.9
Sep.		161	4.0	418	2.3
Oct.		165	5.9	-	-

(b) As indicated in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Increase in the administered price of fuel products in March, 2000 followed by a further rise in prices of LPG, Petrol, Kerosene and Diesel in the last week of September, 2000, has pushed up the wholesale price index and the general inflation rate. The latest WPI based inflation rate is 7.4%.

The fuel group currently accounts for about 66% of the inflation, but the stability in the prices of primary and manufactured products groups have had a sobering effect on the inflation rate.

(e) Government has been making concerted efforts to keep inflation under control through effective supply management and also through close monitoring of prices and supply of essential commodities. Corrective action is being taken as and when required so as to maintain the stability in prices.

Statement

Weekly Movement of Wholesale Price Index and Annual Inflation

Week No.	Week Ending Date	Wholesale Price Index			% change in WPI				Annual rate of Inflation (Per cent)				
		(Base 1993-94)			Weekly Change		Financial Year		Point-to-Point		52-week average		
		98-99	99-00	00-01	99-00	00-01	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	99-00	00-01
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	01 Apr-2000	136.3	142.2	151.8	0.35	0.60	0.35	0.60	4.20	4.33	6.75	5.95	3.34
2	08 Apr-2000	136.4	142.3	151.9	0.07	0.07	0.42	0.66	3.88	4.33	6.75	5.95	3.39
3	15 Apr-2000	137.6	142.3	151.6	0.00	-0.20	0.42	0.46	5.12	3.42	6.54	5.92	3.45
4	22 Apr-2000	137.4	142.7	151.7	0.28	0.07	0.71	0.53	5.05	3.86	6.31	5.89	3.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
5	29 Apr- 2000	138.1	143.0	151.6	0.21	-0.07	0.92	0.46	5.50	3.55	6.01	5.85	3.55
6	06 May- 2000	138.0	142.7	151.6	-0.21	0.00	0.71	0.46	5.59	3.41	6.24	5.81	3.60
7	13 May- 2000	138.2	142.6	151.7	-0.07	0.07	0.64	0.53	5.66	3.18	6.38	5.76	3.66
8	20 May- 2000	138.3	142.9	152.0	0.21	0.20	0.85	0.73	5.65	3.33	6.37	5.72	3.72
9	27 May- 2000	138.4	142.7	152.1	-0.14	0.07	0.71	0.80	5.81	3.11	6.59	5.66	3.79
10	03 Jun- 2000	138.9	143.1	152.2	0.28	0.07	0.99	0.86	5.95	3.02	6.36	5.60	3.85
11	10 Jun- 2000	139.5	143.3	152.5	0.14	0.20	1.13	1.06	6.33	2.72	6.42	5.53	3.92
12	17 Jun- 2000	140.6	143.4	152.9	0.07	0.26	1.20	1.33	6.84	1.99	6.62	5.44	4.01
13	24 Jun- 2000	140.4	143.5	153.0	0.07	0.07	1.27	1.39	6.61	2.21	6.62	5.35	4.10
14	01 Jul- 2000	141.0	143.7	153.0	0.14	0.00	1.41	1.39	7.31	1.91	6.47	5.24	4.19
15	08 Jul- 2000	140.9	143.7	152.9	0.00	-0.07	1.41	1.33	7.15	1.99	6.40	5.14	4.27
16	15 Jul- 2000	140.9	143.7	153.0	0.00	0.07	1.41	1.39	6.90	1.99	6.47	5.05	4.36
17	22 Jul- 2000	141.0	143.7	153.2	0.00	0.13	1.41	1.52	7.06	1.91	6.61	4.95	4.45
18	29 Jul- 2000	140.7	143.8	153.3	0.07	0.07	1.48	1.59	6.67	2.20	6.61	4.86	4.53
19	05 Aug- 2000	140.3	144.3	153.4	0.35	0.07	1.83	1.66	6.21	2.85	6.31	4.79	4.60
20	12 Aug- 2000	140.6	144.2	153.3	-0.07	-0.07	1.76	1.59	6.43	2.56	6.31	4.72	4.67
21	19 Aug- 2000	140.7	144.9	153.2	0.49	-0.07	2.26	1.52	6.59	2.99	5.73	4.65	4.73
22	26 Aug- 2000	140.8	144.8	153.7	-0.07	0.33	2.19	1.86	6.91	2.84	6.15	4.57	4.79
23	02 Sep- 2000	140.9	145.3	154.2	0.35	0.33	2.54	2.19	5.94	3.12	6.13	4.52	4.85
24	09 Sep- 2000	140.8	145.2	154.1	-0.07	-0.06	2.47	2.12	5.71	3.13	6.13	4.47	4.90
25	16 Sep- 2000	140.7	145.6	154.2	0.28	0.06	2.75	2.19	5.95	3.48	5.91	4.42	4.95
26	23 Sep- 2000	140.7	145.2	154.0	-0.27	-0.13	2.47	2.05	5.95	3.20	6.06	4.37	5.01
27	30 Sep- 2000	141.3	145.5	156.8	0.21	1.82	2.68	3.91	6.00	2.97	7.77	4.31	5.10
28	07 Oct- 2000	141.6	146.6	156.9	0.76	0.06	3.46	3.98	6.07	3.53	7.03	4.26	5.17
29	14 Oct- 2000	141.7	147.2	157.3	0.41	0.25	3.88	4.24	6.30	3.88	6.86	4.21	5.23
30	21 Oct- 2000	142.6	147.5	157.5	0.20	0.13	4.09	4.37	6.98	3.44	6.78	4.15	5.29
31	28 Oct- 2000	142.9	147.5	157.7	0.00	0.13	4.09	4.51	7.28	3.22	6.92	4.07	5.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
32	04 Nov- 2000	142.6	147.2	157.9	-0.20	0.13	3.88	4.64	7.22	3.23	7.27	4.00	5.44
33	11 Nov- 2000	142.5	147.1	158.2	-0.07	0.19	3.81	4.84	7.06	3.23	7.55	3.92	5.52
34	18 Nov- 2000	142.5	147.0	157.9	-0.07	-0.19	3.74	4.64	7.14	3.16	7.41	3.85	5.61
35	25 Nov- 2000	142.7	146.7	157.6	-0.20	-0.19	3.53	4.44	7.29	2.80	7.43	3.76	5.70
36	02 Dec- 2000	142.8	146.4		-0.20		3.32		7.13	2.52		3.68	
37	09 Dec- 2000	142.5	146.1		-0.20		3.11		6.82	2.53		3.60	
38	16 Dec- 2000	141.9	146.0		-0.07		3.03		6.13	2.89		3.54	
39	23 Dec- 2000	141.3	145.9		-0.07		2.96		5.21	3.26		3.50	
40	30 Dec- 2000	141.5	145.8		-0.07		2.89		5.20	3.04		3.46	
41	06 Jan- 2001	140.9	145.9		0.07		2.96		4.29	3.55		3.44	
42	13 Jan- 2001	140.6	145.9		0.00		2.96		4.15	3.77		3.44	
43	20 Jan- 2001	140.4	145.9		0.00		2.96		4.15	3.92		3.43	
44	27 Jan- 2001	141.0	146.1		0.14		3.11		4.60	3.62		3.42	
45	03 Feb- 2001	141.6	146.2		0.07		3.18		5.28	3.25		3.38	
46	10 Feb- 2001	141.6	146.0		-0.21		2.96		5.44	0.04		0.00	
47	17 Feb- 2001	141.4	146.1		0.14		3.11		5.60	3.32		3.29	
48	24 Feb- 2001	141.2	147.4		0.89		4.02		5.29	4.39		3.28	
49	04 Mar- 2001	141.7	148.8		0.95		5.01		5.59	5.01		3.27	
50	11 Mar- 2001	141.6	149.1		0.20		5.22		5.51	5.30		3.26	
51	17 Mar- 2001	141.6	149.2		0.07		5.29		5.28	5.37		3.27	
52	24 Mar- 2001	141.7	150.9		1.14		6.49		5.27	6.49		3.29	

[English]

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Process of Disinvestment

4273. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to accelerate the process of disinvestment to achieve better acceleration of economy; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL,

PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) Government of India is carrying out disinvestment in accordance with the prescribed procedure that ensures complete transparency. The procedure is reviewed from time to time and modified with a view to accelerating the process further. At present it is as follows:-

- Proposals for disinvestment in any PSU, based on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission or in accordance with the declared Disinvestment Policy of the Government, are placed for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment (CCD).
- After CCD clears the Disinvestment proposal, selection of the Advisor is done through a Competitive Bidding process.
- The Advisor assists the Government in preparation and issue of advertisement in leading newspapers inviting the Expression of Interest (EOI) offers from interested parties.
- After receipt of the EOIs, Prospective Bidders are short listed based on objective screening in the light of announced criteria/requirements.
- The Advisors, after due diligence of the PSU, prepare the Information Memorandum in consultation with the concern PSU. This is given to the short listed Prospective Bidders who have entered into a Confidentiality Agreement.
- The draft Share Purchase Agreement and the Shareholder Agreement are also prepared by the Advisors with the help of the Legal Advisors.
- The Prospective Bidders undertake due diligence of the PSU and hold discussions with the Advisors/the Government/the Representatives of the PSU for any clarifications.
- Concurrently, the task of valuation of the PSU is undertaken in accordance with the standard national and international practices.
- Based on the reactions received from the Prospective Bidders, the Share Purchase Agreement and Shareholders Agreement are prepared. After getting them vetted by the Ministry of Law, they are approved by the Government.

Thereafter, they are sent to the Prospective Bidders for inviting the final binding bids (Technical and Financial).

- After examination, analysis and evaluation, the recommendations of the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) are placed before the CCD for a final decision regarding selection of the Strategic Partner, signing of the Share Purchase Agreement and Shareholder Agreement, and other ancillary issues.
- In the disinvestment process mentioned above, Department of Disinvestment is assisted at each stage by an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) comprising officers from the Ministry of Finance, Department of Public Enterprises, the Administrative Ministry / Department controlling the PSU, apart from the officers of the Department of Disinvestment and the Advisors.
- After the transaction is completed, all papers and documents relating to it shall be turned over to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India; the CAG shall prepare an evaluation for sending to Parliament and releasing to the public.

Export of Spices

4274. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :

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

(a) whether the export of spices has declined during last two years;

(b) if so, the quantum and value of spices exported from the country during the above period, year-wise and the names of States and Union territories affected due to such decline;

(c) whether the Government have taken some effective steps to boost the export of spices;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred by Spices Board for the promotion of spices exports during the last two years;

(e) whether the Government have received any complaints about the mismanagement in Spices Board; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to rectify the same?

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

(a) and (b) The export earnings from spices have gone up during the last two years, both in rupee and dollar terms. However, there has been a decline in the quantity of spices exported as given below:-

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. crores)	Value (US\$)
1998-99(P)	231389	1758.02	419.68
1999-2000(E)	208825	1861.02	430.20

(P) Provisional (E) Estimated

Source: Spices Board.

Since no data is maintained on State-wise sourcing of spices for export, it is not possible to identify the States and Union Territories from where sourcing of spices for export has declined.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some of the steps taken to boost exports of spices include :-

- (i) Rationalisation of cess on export of spices at a uniform rate of 0.5%.
- (ii) Implementation of Brand Promotion Schemes like award of "Indian Spices Logo" to exporter of value added spices and the grant of "Spice House Certificate" to exporters of spices in bulk who adhere to quality standards.
- (iii) Striving to improve quality to Indian spices and spices products besides making products cost competitive through introduction of improved technology.
- (iv) Technology transfer, process upgradation and product development.
- (v) Product diversification by developing new markets, new applications and new brands.
- (vi) Developing organic spices and spice products for catering to the niche markets for organic spice products.
- (vii) Sending business delegations to develop market for Indian spices.

The Spices Board has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 343.88 lakhs during 1998-99 and Rs. 410.00 lakhs during 1999-2000 on various export promotion schemes.

(e) and (f) Representations/references of general nature on the performance/working of the Spices Board have been received which have been attended to. However, no specific complaints have been received on the mis-management of the Board.

Technical Assistance from UNIDO

4275. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the technical assistance provided by UNIDO during the last three years to our country;

(b) whether the above technical assistance is not commensurate with the monetary contribution made to UNIDO by India for their regular budget and also voluntary contribution;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have sought quality technical assistance to our country from UNIDO; and

(e) if so, the response of UNIDO thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) The details of the technical assistance provided by UNIDO to India over the last three years are as follows:-

Approved/ongoing projects	US\$ 37,188,850/- (total allotment)
Completed projects	US\$ 15,072,227/- (total budget)

(b) to (e) UNIDO which is a specialized agency of the United Nations aims to promote sustainable industrial development and cooperation at the global, regional, nation and sectoral levels through its technical assistance programmes. The technical assistance received from UNIDO by India is commensurate with the monetary contribution made by India to UNIDO.

Consumer Cooperative Societies in Delhi

4276. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the aims and objectives to authorize some cooperative consumer societies like Super Bazar and National Cooperative Consumer Federation (NCCF) in Delhi to make supplies of stationery, office automation, furniture and other items to the Government departments making it obligatory for the Government offices to buy items from them only;

(b) the extent to which the aims and objectives have been achieved and the reasons for many Government offices resorting for calling open tenders and quotations;

(c) whether the system brought any decrease in the Government expenditure and whether the Government propose to review the order making incumbent on Government offices to make purchase from those societies;

(d) whether those societies introducing suppliers one after the other of the items irrespective of ratio between the sale of those items giving the lists of items where more number of suppliers have been enrolled in comparison to sales thereof;

(e) the reasons therefor and whether the Government propose to inquire into those cases; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Government of India, having taken note of the fact that objectives of the cooperatives was to ensure supply of quality goods and services to the consumers at most economic and competitive prices, had issued, in 1968, guidelines to all State/UT Governments to the effect that Government offices should patronize the consumer cooperative stores while making purchase of their requirements. The Department of Personnel and Training in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the erstwhile Ministry of Works and Housing had issued the Office Memorandum dated 14th July, 1981, wherein it has been made incumbent on all the Central Government Offices to make their purchase of stationery and other items from Kendriya Bhandar only. Subsequently, the Super Bazar, Delhi and NCCF were included in the above mentioned O.M in 1987 and 1994 respectively as both these cooperative societies are registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act and Government of India are major shareholders in these two organizations.

Notwithstanding the above O.M., the Central Government Offices have a choice to call for tenders/quotations, in case of purchase of some special items. The ultimate aim of the Government offices is to buy items of good quality at reasonable and competitive prices. No study has, however, been carried out to indicate whether there had been any decrease in the Government expenditure on purchase of stationery and other items by following the procedures as laid down in the DOPT's O.M. of 1981. The review of this policy is, however, an on-going process.

(d) to (f) The NCCF, the Super Bazar, Delhi and the Kendriya Bhandar are autonomous cooperative organizations having their own Board of Directors to decide about their administrative and other business matters. Government of India do not interfere in these matters as the business policy of these organizations is guided by their financial and other operational considerations

Drriage Allowance on Raw Rice

4277. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether the Government had been allowing 2% drriage allowance on manufacture of raw/par boiled rice before 1995-96 kharif season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the case of raw rice, it has been reduced to 1% from the kharif season of 1999-2000;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to restore the same;

(f) if not, details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two percent drriage allowance was permissible on raw and par-boiled rice up to the year 1995-96.

(c) to (g) The Expert Committee on rice milling (Gokak Committee) appointed by Government of India, had not recommended any drriage allowances for both raw and par-boiled rice as it had taken this factor into consideration while fixing the out-tum ratio of raw and par-boiled rice.

The Committee observed that 'during par-boiling operations, irrespective of moisture content, the paddy imbibes water and the overall moisture content will increase to an extent of 28 to 35 percent. During drying operations, the same is reduced to milliable level of moisture content and the same is between 12 to 15 percent. In view of such change, there is no justifiable reason for allowing any driage loss due to reduction in moisture content during storage for milling par-bolled paddy'.

However, considering that some driage in paddy takes place before the same is milled, a driage of two percent in raw rice was allowed in case of Punjab in 1998-99. The same has been reduced to one percent for all the States for Custom Milling of Paddy for production of raw rice as decided by the Government on 1st December, 1998.

Import of Sub-standard Quality Goods

4278. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision on the issue of import of sub-standard quality goods and decided to introduce a scheme to ensure conformity with normal quality norms;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme prepared by the Government to screen import: and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Imports in India apart from being subject to compliance of Export Import Policy, are also subject to compliance of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force. Thus all imported goods will have to comply with all domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods.

The Government is determined that import of substandard quality goods shall not be permitted in the country. Towards that end, import of 131 products has been made subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian quality standards as applicable to domestic goods. For compliance of this requirements all manufacturers/exporters of these products to India are required to register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The list of 131 products includes various food preservatives and

additives, milk powder, infant milk food, certain kinds of cement, household and similar electrical appliances, gas cylinders and multipurpose dry batteries.

[Translation]

Seizure of Smuggled Goods

4279. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of smuggled goods seized in various air-ports and sea ports in the country during the last six months;

(b) the details thereof airport and sea portwise;

(c) the number of Indians and foreigners arrested in this regard separately; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check the said smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The details of smuggled goods seized at various air-ports and sea ports in the country during 1st May, 2000 to 15th November, 2000 are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The numbers of Indians and foreigners arrested in this regard are 105 and 46 respectively.

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

Statement

Details of Smuggled Goods Seized at Various Airports and Seaports in the Country during 1st May, 2000 to 15 November, 2000

I. Airports

Sl. No.	Name of the Airport	Value of Seizure (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad Airport	62.87
2.	Bangalore Airport	21.50
3.	Calicut Airport	120.64
4.	Chennai Airport	1248.65

1	2	3
5.	CSI Airport, Mumbai	2388.06
6.	Cochin Airport	43.49
7.	Goa Airport	35.41
8.	Hyderabad Airport	24.30
9.	IGI Airport, New Delhi	1242.99
10.	Lucknow Airport	4.87
11.	NSCB Airport, Calcutta	113.34
12.	Patna Airport	7.43
13.	Rajasansi Airport, Amritsar	23.00
14.	Trichy Airport	2.32
15.	Trivandrum Airport	153.67
16.	Varanasi Airport	0.03
Total		5492.57

ii. Sea Ports

Sl. No.	Name of the Sea Port	Value of Seizure (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Ahmedabad Sea Port	1658.13
2.	Calcutta Sea Port	214.49
3.	Chennai Sea Port	281.23
4.	Goa Sea Port	7.80
5.	Mumbai Sea Port	352.00
6.	Nhava Sheva Sea Port	228.00
7.	Paradeep Sea Port	0.01
8.	Vizag Sea Port	65.76
Total		2807.42

[English]

Revenue Expenditure

4280. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether funds are being borrowed more to meet the revenue expenditure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) its impact on our economy; and

(d) the steps have been taken to reduce the revenue expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As may be seen from the "Budget at a Glance, 2000-01" tabled in the House on 29th February, 2000, the capital expenditure is budgeted to be Rs. 57389 crore whereas net borrowings (fiscal deficit) is budgeted at Rs. 111275 crore. Thus a portion of borrowings is being used to finance revenue expenditure.

(c) High levels of Government borrowings decrease the availability of resources for capital formation in the economy, crowd out private investment and put pressure on interest rates.

(d) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to contain the gap between receipts and expenditure by maximising revenues and controlling non-productive expenditure.

Launching of News Portal

4281. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

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

(a) whether Doordarshan propose to launch a news web portal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said portal is propose to be launched in joint venture;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be launched?

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

(b) The portal will supplement Doordarshan News and will have text as well as streaming audio and video and on demand audio and video.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is likely to be launched in the first quarter of 2001.

Rice for BPL in Andhra Pradesh

4282. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh requested the Union Government to release rice upto a quantity of 15 lakh tonnes to enable the State Government to supply the same to the BPL families;

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government; and

(c) the time by which the rice is likely to be released?

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

(b) Government of India has instructed Food Corporation of India (FCI) to release rice @ Rs. 950/- per quintal to Government of Andhra Pradesh in convenient installments.

(c) FCI will release the rice as and when requested by Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Individual Investors

4283. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have restricted the share-holding of an individual in a PSU Bank to 1% of the equity;

(b) if so, the rationale behind this move;

(c) whether a group of investors can manipulate their restricted 1% equity to usurp the bank; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to avoid exploitation by such investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The statutes governing the public sector banks do not impose any restrictions on the number of shares an individual can hold in these banks. However, there are certain restrictions regarding voting rights of the individuals shareholders of public sector banks, which are indicated below:-

(i) **Nationalised Banks** : One per-cent of the total voting rights of all share-holders in the bank;

(ii) **State-Bank of India** : Ten per-cent of the issued capital of the bank; and

(iii) **Subsidiary banks of State Bank of India** : Not exceeding two hundred shares of the bank.

Sugarcane Based Industries

4284. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lift all controls and regulations imposed on sugarcane based industries to develop its own strength and face free trade regime under World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reason therefor; and

(d) the other measures suggested for growth of sugarcane based industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Sugar industry is the major sugarcane based industry in the country. Since sugar is an essential commodity, it is duty and responsibility of the Government to make it available to the consumers at reasonable prices. In order to ensure its availability to consumers at reasonable prices as also to ensure fair realisation to sugar mills, Government has put reasonable restrictions on its production, supply and distribution. Recently, Government has taken certain measures to remove or relax the restrictions/controls as under:-

(i) Sugar industry has been delicensed in September, 98.

(ii) Government has liberalized the sugar trade by lifting the stock holding limit imposed on recognised dealers of sugar, but the turn-over period limit of 30 days has been retained which has been made applicable to domestic as well as imported sugar vide Notification date 7.7.2000.

(iii) There were restrictions on sale of at least 47.5% of monthly freesale quota during each fortnight. Government has removed the said restriction

vide Notification dated 13.4.99. Further, Government has also allowed the sugar factories to sell upto 10% of the monthly free sale quota in the succeeding month subject to the condition that the sale should be effected by 7th of succeeding month vide Notification dated 25.1.2000.

(d) In order to encourage growth of the sugar industry, the Government has been taking various measures. Some of them are given below:-

- (i) Levy obligation on sugar factories has been reduced from 40% to 30% w.e.f. 1.1.2000.
- (ii) Assistance is given to sugar factories at concessional rates of interest from the Sugar Development Fund for their modernization, rehabilitation as also for cane development in their areas.
- (iii) Incentives are given to the newly set up/ expanded capacity sugar factories under the incentive scheme if they fulfill all the conditions laid down in the incentive scheme.

[Translation]

Soyabean Processing Industries

4285. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industries functioning in the country which are engaged in soyabean production, State-wise;

(b) the number out of them closed at present, State-wise;

(c) the number out of them functioning under loss, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government are providing any assistance to such sick industries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Soyabean is processed by solvent extraction method. At present, 506 solvent extraction units are engaged in the processing of soyabean.

311 solvent extraction units are at present closed. State-wise position of the working and closed units is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) No such data are being maintained.

(d) and (e) According to available information 112 units are registered with the BIFR for financial assistance through BIFR route.

Statement

Name of the State	No. of SEO Units working	No. of SEO units closed
Haryana	38	19
Himachal Pradesh	—	2
Jammu & Kashmir	—	1
Punjab	55	29
Rajasthan	24	21
Uttar Pradesh	28	26
Assam	2	1
Bihar	1	5
Orissa	4	8
Sikkim	—	—
West Bengal	18	4
Gujarat	60	30
Madhya Pradesh	81	41
Maharashtra	56	24
Goa	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	66	46
Karnataka	34	25
Kerala	8	3
Tamil Nadu	29	24
Pondicherry	2	2
Total	506	311

VRS for Public Sector Undertakings

4286. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) The Public Sector Undertakings where Voluntary Retirement Scheme is being implemented;

(b) The employees who have opted for voluntary retirement in each public sector undertakings and the criteria for making payment to employees of group C and D employees; and

(c) The Public Sector Undertakings where the said scheme is likely to be implemented in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) As per available information 2,31,885 employees of PSUs have taken Voluntary Retirement till 31.3.1999. The PSU-wise details where VRS has been implemented are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

The VRS likely to be implemented in near future in the Public Sector Undertakings will depend on the surplus manpower in the PSUs. The criteria for making payment to all the employees including Group C and D are briefly given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Number of Employees in Central PSEs who have taken VRS since Inception upto 31.3.99

1. National Seeds Corpn. Ltd.	727	12. Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	1751
2. Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	553	13. Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	158
3. Bengal Immunity Ltd.	345	14. Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	25
4. Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	384	15. Projects & Development India Ltd.	714
5. Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	192	16. Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd.	507
6. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	66	17. Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.	240
7. Indian Petro Chemicals Corpn. Ltd.	76	18. Air India Ltd.	17
8. Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	9	19. India Airlines Ltd.	232
9. Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	341	20. India Trade Promotion Organisation	69
10. Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	1537	21. M M T C Ltd.	1193
11. Fertilizers & Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.	367	22. Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	971
		23. P E C Ltd.	17
		24. Spices Trading Corporation Ltd.	10
		25. State Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.	717
		26. H T L Ltd.	485
		27. I T I Ltd.	5495
		28. Central Warehousing Corpn.	884
		29. Food Corpn. of India	18
		30. Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corpn. Ltd.	736
		31. Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	131
		32. Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	1992
		33. Bharat Electronics Ltd.	3237
		34. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.	268
		35. Goa Shipyard Ltd.	3
		36. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.	2013
		37. Mazagon Dock Ltd.	1325
		38. Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.	7
		39. Vignyan Industries Ltd.	85
		40. Andaman & Nicobar Isl. Forest & Plant. Dev. Corp. Ltd.	4
		41. Hindustan Latex Ltd.	48
		42. Andrew Yule & Company Ltd.	624

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43.	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.	155	74. Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	2139
44.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	987	75. Sambhar Salts Ltd.	79
45.	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.	143	76. Scooters India Ltd.	1070
46.	Bharat Leather Corpn. Ltd.	94	77. Tannery & Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd.	339
47.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.	72	78. Triveni Structurals Ltd.	619
48.	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd.	620	79. Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	204
49.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	163	80. Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	1132
50.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	1405	81. Weighbird (India) Ltd.	219
51.	Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.	351	82. National Film Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	68
52.	Burn Standard Company Ltd.	3094	83. C.M.C. Ltd.	45
53.	Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	413	84. Electronics Trade & Technology Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	28
54.	Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.	191	85. Semi-Conductor Complex Ltd.	20
55.	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	6266	86. Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	13203
56.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	1918	87. Neyveli Lignite Corpn. Ltd.	543
57.	Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.	32	88. South Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.	1887
58.	Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.	67	89. Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd.	507
59.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Corpn. Ltd.	881	90. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.	4329
60.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	21	91. Hindustan Copper Ltd.	7486
61.	HMT Ltd.	5653	92. Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	1769
62.	Instrumentation Ltd.	1004	93. Mineral Exploration Corpn. Ltd.	4163
63.	Jessop & Co. Ltd.	657	94. National Aluminium Company Ltd.	20
64.	Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd.	298	95. Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	148
65.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd.	2129	96. Biecco Lawrie Ltd.	423
66.	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd.	335	97. Engineers India Ltd.	53
67.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.	683	98. I.B.P. Co. Ltd.	35
68.	National Industrial Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	55	99. Indian Oil Blending Ltd.	21
69.	National Instruments Ltd.	513	100. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	794
70.	Nepa Ltd.	854	101. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	3551
71.	Praga Tools Ltd.	269	102. Oil India Ltd.	5
72.	R B L Ltd.	63	103. National Hydro Electric Power Corpn. Ltd.	847
73.	Rehabilitation Industries Corpn. Ltd.	1940	104. National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.	478

105. Central Electronics Ltd.	113	134. NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.	8186
106. National Small Industries Corpn. Ltd.	437	135. NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.	12315
107. Bharat Refractories Ltd.	582	136. NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.	11700
108. Hindustan Steel Works Costn. Ltd.	8068	137. NTC (Tamilnadu & Pondicherry) Ltd.	4884
109. Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	1889	138. NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.	9485
110. Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.	7	139. NTC (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar & Orissa) Ltd.	8677
111. Maharashtra Electros melt Ltd.	41	140. India Tourism Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	973
112. Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.	398	141. Hindustan Prefab Ltd.	481
113. Metallurgical & Engg. Consultants (India) Ltd.	73	142. National Bldg. Constn. Corpn. Ltd.	362
114. Sponge Iron India Ltd.	108	143. National Projects Construction Corpn. Ltd.	1835
115. Steel Authority of India Ltd.	21516	144. Electronics Corpn. of India Ltd.	1036
116. Visvesvarayya Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	1076	145. Indian Rare Earths Ltd.	95
117. Central Inland Water Transport Corpn. Ltd.	840		
118. Cochin Shipyard Ltd.	154		
119. Dredging Corpn. of India Ltd.	18		
120. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.	1818		
121. Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.	514		
122. British India Corporation Ltd.	1735		
123. Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.	1097		
124. Central Cottage Industries Corpn. of India Ltd.	120		
125. Cotton Corpn. of India Ltd.	12		
126. Elgin Mills Company Ltd.	4529		
127. Handicrafts & Handlooms Exports Corp. India Ltd.	97		
128. Jute Corpn. of India Ltd.	176		
129. National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd.	3231		
130. North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Dev. Corp. Ltd.	4		
131. NTC (A. Pradesh, Kamataka, Kerala & Mahe) Ltd.	7588		
132. NTC (Delhi, Punjab & Rajasthan) Ltd.	745		
133. NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.	8747		
		Total	231885

Statement-II

The Criteria for Making Payment to all the Employees of Central Public Sector Undertaking Including Group 'C' and 'D'

Enterprises which are financially sound and can sustain a scheme of VRS on their own surplus resources may devise and implement and variants of the existing VRS but in no case shall the compensation exceed 60 days salary for each completed year of service or the salary for the number of months service left, whichever is less. Salary for the purpose of VRS shall consist of Basic Pay and DA only and no other element.

2. Enterprises that make marginal profits or loss-making enterprises may adopt the revised scheme of VRS which is modelled on the Scheme that exists in the State of Gujarat. The details of the scheme are set out hereunder:-

- (i) The Compensation will consist of salary of 35 days for every completed year of service and 25 days for the balance of service left until superannuation. The compensation will be subject to a minimum of Rs. 25,000/- or 250 days salary whichever is higher. However, this compensation shall not exceed the sum of the salary that the employee would draw at the

prevailing level for the balance of the period left before superannuation.

- (ii) Salary for purpose of VRS will consist of basic pay and DA only.
- (iii) Arrears of wages due to revision etc. will not be included in computing the eligible amount.
- (iv) Payment of bonus should conform to the provisions in the Bonus Act; Casual Leave may be encashed in proportionate measure upto the date of VRS.

3. For sick and unviable units, the VSS package of Department of Heavy Industry will be adopted. As a corollary, the VSS scheme may be modelled on Gujarat pattern and be made applicable as in para 2 above. The details of VSS are as under:-

- (i) An employee would be entitled to an ex-gratia payment equivalent to 45 days emoluments (pay + DA) for each completed year of service or the monthly emolument at the time of retirement multiplied by the balance months of service left before the normal date of retirement, whichever is less; and
- (ii) All those who have completed not less than 30 years of service, will be eligible for a maximum of 60 (sixty) months salary/wage as compensation. This will be subject to the amount not exceeding the salary/wage for the balance period of service left (at the rate of monthly salary/wage at the time of voluntary retirement).

[English]

Corporate Take-Over

4287. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Financial Institutions are to meet shortly and work out a common approach towards hostile corporate take-over;
- (b) if so, the reasons for common policy on this issue;
- (c) the manner in which the equity of FIs be detrimentally affected if there is competition for equity shares; and
- (d) the details for financial Institutions hindering rising share-holder value?

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

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The equity of Financial Institutions (FIs) will not be detrimentally affected if there is competition for acquisition of equity shares of corporates.
- (d) FIs do not come in the way of rising shareholder value.

Short Documentaries

4288. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of short documentaries produced by Bhubaneswar Doordarshan Kendra yet to be televised for more than a year;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures taken for early telecast of these documentaries?

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

NBF Companies in Post Office Saving Schemes

4289. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to set up Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) to undertake the Post Office Saving Schemes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which huge deposit base of office saving bank is proposed to be mobilised for micro credit as well as in capital market; and
- (d) the steps taken to amend the Post Office Act in order to change the method utilisation of the proceeds under the post office saving schemes?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to change the pattern of utilisation of the collections under post office savings schemes.

Prasar Bharati Board

4290. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prasar Bharati Board is formally functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some members of the Prasar Bharati Board have recently retired;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the period for which they were appointed;

(e) whether the said members have retired before the expiry of their term; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Board is formally functioning with three part-time Members namely, Shri B.G. Verghese, Prof. U.R. Rao and Dr. Abid Hussain; one Executive Member, namely, Shri R.R. Shah and one representative of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, namely Ms. Aruna Makhan, Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(c) to (f) Sub-section 3 of Section 6 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 provides that term of office of part-time Members shall be six years but one-third of such Members shall retire on the expiration of every second year. Sub-section 5 of Section 6 empowers the President to make such provisions as he thinks fit for curtailing the term of office of some of the part-time Members in order that one-third of them shall retire every second year. In order to meet the legal requirement of these provisions, term of office of two part-time members, namely, Prof. U.R. Rao and Dr. Abid Hussain has been curtailed in 1999 from 6 years to 4 years and the term of office of another two part-time Members namely Prof. Romila Thapar and Shri Rajendra Yadav has been curtailed from 6 years to 2 years.

Retention Plan for Coffee Industry

4291. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

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

(a) whether the global coffee industry particularly India is in crisis;

(b) if so, whether the Coffee Board has come up with a Coffee Retention Plan to help farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a two day Conference of United Planters Association of Southern India and the Karnataka Planters Association was organised in Bangalore recently;

(e) if so, the main deliberations made at the Conference; and

(f) the steps suggested in the Conference to raise further sliding prices of the coffee in the country and total amount required to make the Coffee Retention Plan a success?

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

(a) to (c) In the recent months, the international coffee prices have fallen due to surplus supply situation. Since nearly 80% of the coffee produced in India is exported, the industry is mainly dependent on the international coffee prices. Hence, the Indian coffee growers are not getting the same prices today as they were getting 2-3 years ago. However, the domestic prices of both the varieties of coffee are still higher than the international prices.

The Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC), of which India became member in 1999, has proposed a Retention Plan to bring about a balance between supply and demand of coffee by retaining 20% of exportable coffee to be exported from each country in order to stabilise the falling coffee prices.

(d) to (e) A one-day Conference is reported to have been organised jointly by UPASI and Karnataka Planters Association on 14th November, 2000 in Bangalore, to which Chairperson, Coffee Board was invited. The Conference focussed on price situation of coffee, retention plan of the ACPC, WTO Agreement and its implications on Indian Coffee Sector.

(f) No suggestions have been received by the Govt. from the organizers of the Conference so far. However, a suggestion for a retention plan has been received from the Coffee Board. The actual amount will depend upon the structure of the plan that is decided to be implemented.

White Paper on FDI

4292. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised a detailed white paper on the thrust areas of foreign Direct Investment;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed paper; and

(c) if not, the time by which the Government are likely to take a final decision on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The review of Foreign Direct Investment policy is a consultative and continuous process, aimed at attracting more foreign direct investment. Since FDI policy liberalisation involves consultations among various departments and ministries of the Government, it is difficult to predict the specific areas in which the policy will be liberalised in the future.

Loans to States

4293. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the loans payable by each State Government to the Union Government as on date;

(b) whether the some States have requested for soft, long-term loan for the purpose of tiding over difficulties faced by them during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) A statement showing the details of loans payable by the State Governments to the Union Government (Ministry of Finance) is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Some State Governments have requested for soft term loans in view of fiscal stress being faced by them. Government of India has assisted the States by providing Ways & Means Advances and also by advancing plan and non plan assistance to take care of their temporary mismatches in receipts and expenditure during the course of the current year.

Statement

The details of the loans payable by the State Governments to the Union Government (Ministry of Finance) as on 11.12.2000

(Rs. in crores)		
Sl. No.	State	Amount
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15994.53
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	375.64
3.	Assam	3776.48
4.	Bihar	14721.45
5.	Chhattisgarh	31.18
6.	Goa	759.26
7.	Gujarat	15283.06
8.	Haryana	5209.47
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2684.74
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3417.71
11.	Jharkhand	21.19
12.	Karnataka	9770.67
13.	Kerala	6112.24
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10486.70
15.	Maharashtra	23304.41
16.	Manipur	382.18
17.	Meghalaya	339.13
18.	Mizoram	247.13
19.	Nagaland	346.93
20.	Orissa	7693.76

1	2	3
21.	Punjab	12510.65
22.	Rajasthan	10427.33
23.	Sikkim	210.77
24.	Tamil Nadu	11558.09
25.	Tripura	607.02
26.	Uttar Pradesh	31701.53
27.	Uttaranchal	4.56
28.	West Bengal	22839.37
Total		210817.18

Electricity from Urban Waste

4294. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether R&D wing of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited is presently engaged in research work in producing electricity from urban waste; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

100% FDI Industries

4295. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the industries which have been permitted hundred percent foreign direct investment States and Territory-wise, Sector-wise;

(b) whether such hundred percent foreign investment has been permitted in profitable consumer goods industry, trading sector etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) A total number of 2334 proposals for 100% foreign equity participation in various sectors for different States and Union Territories envisaging total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the tune of Rs. 82907.32 crore, have been approved during the period from August 91 to October 2000. The proposals were approved in accordance with the prevailing FDI policy in consultation with concerned administrative Ministries/Department. Statements I and II depicting Statewise and Sectorwise break-up of such proposals approved during this period are enclosed.

Statement-I

State-wise Break up of Industries with 100% Foreign Direct Investment Proposals Approved during (August, 1991 to October, 2000)

State	No. of Approvals			Amt. of FDI Approved (Rs. Crore)	% to total
	Total	Tech.	Fin.		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	75	0	75	1906.16	2.30
Bihar	6	0	6	626.80	0.76
Gujarat	59	0	59	3401.69	4.10
Haryana	50	0	50	1189.23	1.43
Himachal Pradesh	2	0	2	6.55	0.01
Karnataka	300	0	300	6963.18	8.40
Kerala	25	0	25	143.10	0.17
Madhya Pradesh	12	0	12	5923.58	7.14

1	2	3	4	5	6
Maharashtra	392	0	392	9457.54	11.41
Meghalaya	1	0	1	44.46	0.05
Orissa	12	0	12	2511.80	3.03
Punjab	9	0	9	166.63	0.20
Rajasthan	17	0	17	455.96	0.55
Tamil Nadu	235	0	235	6106.82	7.37
Uttar Pradesh	73	0	73	699.01	0.84
West Bengal	28	0	28	499.50	0.60
Andaman & Nicobar	2	0	2	1.58	0.00
Chandigarh	4	0	4	2.50	0.00
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4	0	4	62.78	0.08
Delhi	351	0	351	9395.49	11.33
Goa	14	0	14	30.76	0.04
Pondicherry	7	0	7	32.08	0.04
Daman & Diu	1	0	1	1.64	0.00
State Not Indicated	655	0	655	33278.48	40.14
Total	2334	0	2334	82907.32	

Statement-II

Sector-wise Break-up of 100% Foreign Direct Investment and Technical Collaboration approved during the Post – Policy Period (from 1/8/1991 to 31/10/2000)

(Amt. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Industry	No. of approval			Amount of FDI Approved	% to total Amount
		Total	Tech.	Fin.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Metallurgical Industries					
	Ferrous	9	0	9	2369.25	2.86
	Non-Ferrous	1	0	1	50.50	0.06
	Special Alloys	2	0	2	1.88	0.00
	Mining Service	17	0	17	3664.06	4.42
	Misc. (other items) – Metallurgy	16	0	16	843.09	1.02
	Total	45	0	45	6928.78	6.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Fuels					
	Power	50	0	50	16195.71	19.53
	Oil Refinery	21	0	21	6040.14	7.29
	Power (Other)	28	0	28	1274.15	1.54
	Oil Refinery (Other)	9	0	9	4151.38	5.01
	Others (Fuels)	20	0	20	1855.62	2.24
	Total	128	0	128	29517.00	35.60
3.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	1	0	1	10.00	0.01
4.	Prime Movers other than Electrical	2	0	2	0.82	0.00
5.	Electricals Equipment					
	Electrical Equipment	76	0	76	2204.37	2.66
	Computer Software Industry	590	0	590	5132.83	6.19
	Electronics	73	0	73	1511.77	1.82
	Computer Hardware	1	0	1	0.19	0.00
	Others (S/W)	8	0	8	59.11	0.07
	Total	748	0	748	8908.28	10.74
6.	Telecommunications					
	Telecommunications	38	0	38	1494.29	1.80
	Radio Paging	1	0	1	0.00	0.00
	Cellular Mobile/Basic Telephone Service	6	0	6	101.71	0.12
	Telecommunication (I&B)	22	0	22	257.56	0.32
	Others (Telecommunications)	8	0	8	61.13	0.07
	Total	75	0	75	1914.69	2.31
7.	Transportation Industry					
	Automobile Industry	41	0	41	1611.26	1.94
	Air/Sea Transport	28	0	28	580.15	0.70
	Passenger Cars	8	0	8	3199.70	3.86
	Auto Ancillaries/Parts	31	0	31	1808.25	2.18
	Ports	6	0	6	361.80	0.44
	Others (Transport)	28	0	28	453.94	0.55
	Total	142	0	142	8015.11	9.67

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Industrial Machinery	63	0	63	271.31	0.33
9.	Machine Tools	16	0	16	177.59	0.21
10.	Agricultural Machinery	3	0	3	266.46	0.32
11.	Earth-Moving Machinery	2	0	2	0.62	0.00
12.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	110	0	110	671.43	0.81
13.	Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	7	0	7	327.32	0.99
14.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	18	0	18	241.54	0.29
15.	Industrial Instruments	8	0	8	13.80	0.02
16.	Scientific Instruments	5	0	5	18.22	0.02
17.	Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing	1	0	1	38.00	0.05
18.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilisers)	124	0	124	3669.26	4.43
19.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	4	0	4	187.32	0.23
20.	Dye-Stuffs	1	0	1	15.78	0.02
21.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	23	0	23	380.23	0.46
22.	Textiles (Includ Dyed, Printed)	63	0	63	484.35	0.58
23.	Paper and Pulp Including Paper Product	17	0	17	1567.44	1.89
24.	Sugar	2	0	2	910.00	1.10
25.	Fermentation Industries	8	0	8	437.26	0.53
26.	Food Processing Industries					
	Food Products	69	0	69	6050.88	7.30
	Marine Products	7	0	7	22.79	0.03
	Miscellaneous (Food Prod.)	1	0	1	0.80	0.00
	Total	77	0	77	6074.47	7.33
27.	Vegetable oils and Vanaspati	2	0	2	10.85	0.01
28.	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	15	0	15	283.27	0.34
29.	Rubber Goods	17	0	17	719.44	0.87
30.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	25	0	25	145.17	0.18
31.	Glue and Gelatin	1	0	1	1.20	0.00
32.	Glass	14	0	14	641.87	0.77
33.	Ceramics	11	0	11	62.50	0.08
34.	Cement and Gypsum Products	7	0	7	749.86	0.90
35.	Timber Products	3	0	3	19.81	0.02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
36.	Consultancy Services					
	Design & Eng. Services	78	0	78	337.11	0.41
	Management Services	57	0	57	274.74	0.33
	Marketing	11	0	11	45.71	0.06
	Construction	3	0	3	42.90	0.05
	Others (Consultancy Service)	10	0	10	372.11	0.45
	Total	159	0	159	1072.58	1.29
37.	Service Sector					
	Financial	32	0	32	955.99	1.15
	Non-Financial Services	64	0	64	2076.76	2.50
	Banking Services	1	0	1	10.00	0.01
	Hospital & Diagnostic Centres	24	0	24	183.37	0.22
	Other Services	8	0	8	645.92	0.78
	Total	129	0	129	3872.03	4.67
38.	Hotel & Tourism					
	Hotel & Restaurants	32	0	32	1368.91	1.65
	Tourism	13	0	13	239.54	0.29
	Others (Hotel & Tourism)	2	0	2	20.15	0.02
	Total	47	0	47	1628.61	1.96
39.	Trading	100	0	100	1145.59	1.38
40.	Miscellaneous Industries					
	Horticulture	8	0	8	17.31	0.02
	Agriculture	13	0	13	53.83	0.06
	Floriculture	2	0	2	0.33	0.00
	Diamond	2	0	2	5.89	0.01
	Construction Activities	12	0	12	440.91	0.53
	Printing of Books etc.	1	0	1	0.50	0.00
	Other (Misc. Industries)	73	0	73	988.69	1.19
	Total	111	0	111	1507.47	1.82
	Grand Total	2334	0	2334	82907.30	

[Translation]

Financial Institutions Loan to Cotton Mills

4296. CH. TEJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain State Governments have sought long term loan from Central Financial Institutions for setting up Government Cotton Mills;

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

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Upgradation of Sugar Mills

4297. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the technologies are being upgraded in the sugar industry and work for the improvement in production of sugarcane so that the projected demand of sugar for the Ninth Plan could be met;

(b) if so, the details of upgraded technology so far introduced in the sugar industry;

(c) whether foreign technology has been introduced in this sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken to introduce the latest technology in the sugar sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has set up Sugar Technology Mission (STM) under the Department of Science and Technology for upgradation of technological level of sugar industry. STM, besides taking trials of new technologies, is also engaged in preparing detailed upgradation schemes for introduction of latest proven technologies for various sugar mills. Funding for such scheme is through soft loan from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) alongwith commercial loans from financial institutions/banks. The STM has introduced the following four technologies in the sugar industry:-

(i) Separate clarification of vacuum filtrate

(ii) PLC Based Integrated Clarification Control System

(iii) Thin Film Sulphur Burner

(iv) Syrup Treatment System.

Besides, 12 other technologies are on commercial trial and observation in various sugar mills.

As regards development of sugarcane, the Government of India is providing financial assistance to the sugar factories on concessional terms for the purpose. As on 30.09.2000, a sum of Rs. 670.04 crores has been sanctioned to 615 cases from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for various cane development schemes.

(c) and (d) For the following eight technologies, know-how has been acquired from various foreign companies for the purpose of introduction in the country:-

Sl. No.	Technology	Indian Collaborator	Foreign Technology Source
1	2	3	4
1.	Separate Clarification of Vacuum Filtrates	Four Eyes, Pune	Engeno Nova, Brazil
2.	Low Pressure Extraction System	Vikram Projects, Mumbai	Liebig Engg., USA
3.	Cane Separation System	Praj Industries, Pune	Amcane International, USA
4.	Blanco Director Process	Diftech, New Delhi	Novatech, Salvador

1	2	3	4
5.	Short Retention Clarifier	Menally Bangalore	Supaflo Technologies, Australia
6.	PTH System	Metos Instruments, Delhi	HOP Engineering, Israel
7.	Massecuite Filter	Kay Bouvet Engg., Satara	J. Bouvet & Associates, USA
8.	ERP System	Siemens, Mumbai	SAP, Germany

(e) and (f) Question does not arise.

Releasing of Advertisements to the Private Agencies

4298. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Government Departments are releasing advertisements through private advertising agencies;

(b) if so, the names of such private advertising agencies, location-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount of advertisements released through private agencies during 1999-2000 by the Government Departments?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Ministries/Departments which may be releasing advertisements directly through private advertising agencies do not intimate this Ministry the names of the private advertising agencies or the amount of advertisements so released. This information is not collated in this Ministry. During the year 1999-2000 Department of Youth Affairs and Sports had approached this Ministry for grant of ex-post facto approval for release of an advertisement through a private advertisement agency namely M/s Garuda Advertising, New Delhi. the amount spent was Rs. 21.80 lakhs. The Department had indicated that the work had to be undertaken at short notice.

One Man District Offices

4299. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NABARD has opened one-man District Offices in the country to provide expert guidance to the financing banks in the areas of credit planning;

(b) if so, the State-wise and location-wise details of such District Offices opened so far;

(c) the achievements made after establishment of said offices;

(d) whether the Government propose to open some more offices in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the assistance provided by NABARD to State Government of Maharashtra for various projects/schemes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had started opening of one man District Offices since 1989 to provide expert guidance to the financing banks in the areas of credit planning, monitoring and coordination. During the period 1988-89 to 2000-01, NABARD has opened 304 District Development Managers (DDM) Offices in the country. The State-wise details of the number of such offices are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) NABARD has reported that opening of DDM Offices at the district level has helped in increasing the pace of rural development of the country through augmenting the ground level credit flow, employment generation and economic prosperity of the rural people. The DDMs render useful help and guidance to the district authorities/credit institutions in tapping of exploitable potentials available in the districts and also help in identification/formation of Self Help Groups/Non-Government Organisations/Voluntary Associations, etc. and their credit linkage with financing banks to help poor people under the scheme of micro-credit innovations. Further, DDMs also monitor implementation of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) Projects/Watershed Development Programmes, etc. in the district and issuance of Kisan Credit Cards to the farmers.

(d) and (e) NABARD has reported that it proposes to open some more new DDM offices in the country in a phased manner. During the current year, NABARD has opened twenty three new DDM offices.

(f) NABARD sanctions loans to State Governments out of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for

taking up incomplete infrastructure projects as also new projects under irrigation sector, rural roads and bridges, watershed development, flood protection, command area development, etc. The details of the number of projects and amount sanctioned under RIDF to the State Government of Maharashtra during the last three years are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Purpose	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
Rural Bridges	68	9.73	245	21.82	285	23.39
Rural Roads	654	244.58	654	179.67	1264	326.89
Minor Irrigation	-	-	12	88.77	-	-
Medium Irrigation	-	-	1	11.71	-	-

Statement

*State-wise details of the number of District Development Managers Offices of NABARD
(As on 30th November, 2000)*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Districts	No. of DDM Offices
1	2	3	4
1.	A&N Islands	2	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	23	18
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	-
4.	Assam	23	11
5.	Bihar	37	19
6.	Chandigarh	1	-
7.	Chhattisgarh	16	8
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	-
9.	Daman & Diu	2	-
10.	Goa	2	2
11.	Gujarat	25	13
12.	Haryana	19	13
13.	Himachal Pradesh	12	7

1	2	3	4
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	2
15.	Jharkhand	18	10
16.	Karnataka	27	18
17.	Kerala	14	13
18.	Lakshadweep	1	-
19.	Madhya Pradesh	45	22
20.	Maharashtra	32	23
21.	Manipur	9	-
22.	Meghalaya	7	2
23.	Mizoram	8	-
24.	Nagaland	8	-
25.	NCT of Delhi	1	-
26.	Orissa	30	17
27.	Pondicherry	4	1
28.	Punjab	17	11
29.	Rajasthan	32	19#
30.	Sikkim	4	-

1	2	3	4
31. Tamil Nadu		29	19
32. Tripura		4	1
33. Uttar Pradesh		70	40
34. Uttaranchal		13	5
35. West Bengal		18	10
Total		581	304#

#Including DDM Office at Jhalawar (Rajasthan) to be opened shortly.

Export of Maize

4300. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of maize exported during each of the last three years and current year till date;

(b) whether the Government have any special plan to encourage export of maize keeping in view the fall in price of maize in the indigenous market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The total quantity and value of maize exported during the last 3 years and current year is as under:-

Year	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. crores)
1997-98	1605	1.62
1998-99	2063	1.85
1999-2000 (Provisional)	2446	5.11
Apr.-July, 2000 (Provisional)	1140	4.87

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(b) and (c) As per EXIM Policy, exports of coarse grains (including maize) are allowed freely subject to quantitative ceilings announced by DGFT and issue of Registration-cum-Allocation Certificates (RCACs) by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). for the year 2000-2001, an export ceiling of 50,000 MT of coarse grains has been announced.

Transfer of Foreign Exchange

4301. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Maruti Udyog Limited is transferring India's foreign exchange as profit to Suzuki Motor Company, Japan;

(b) if so, the amount transferred to Japan so far; and

(c) the measures the Government propose to take to check the repatriation of profit out of the country and to increase the Indian share of profit in Maruti Udyog Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL) has been paying dividend to Suzuki Motor Company (SMC), Japan under the normal Government policy. The total gross dividend paid by MUL to SMC, as a shareholder since 1982-83 to 1999-2000 is Rs. 114.84 crores. There is no proposal, as of now, to increase the GOI share in MUL.

In-built Safety Device for Vehicles

4302. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have instructed the automobile and truck manufacturers to design their vehicles with more in-built safety devices;

(b) if so, whether no coordination exists in this aspect of road safety;

(c) whether any meeting was held with automobile manufacturers in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the automobile sector to create more in-built safety devices in their vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) Under Section 110 of the Motor Vehicles Act, the Central Government has prescribed rules for various safety related items.

As reported by the Ministry of Surface Transport, no special instructions have separately been issued in this regard.

In order to ensure proper coordination, the Central Motor Vehicle Rules are finalized in consultation with all concerned including vehicle manufacturers. The process of consultation with other Ministries and vehicle manufacturers is a continuing process and for this purpose the Ministry of Surface Transport has a Technical Standing Committee to review the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, particularly, those relating to safety components. The recommendations of the Committee are given due consideration before making any changes in the rules.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan for Poverty Eradication

4303. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned Rs. 2000 crore for eradication of poverty in the Country; and

(b) if so, the details of the programmes likely to be adopted for eradication of poverty with the help of the said assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHAB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Poverty eradication is one of the primary objectives of all World Bank assisted projects in India. The World Bank has in the recent past approved assistance amounting to US \$ 321.6 million (equivalent to approx. Rs 1479.36 crores) for the District Poverty Initiatives Projects (DPIP) that aim to directly target poverty for the States of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Whereas the Andhra Pradesh DPIP and Rajasthan DPIP have become effective in August 2000, the Madhya Pradesh DPIP is yet to become effective.

The District Poverty Initiatives Projects seek to improve the opportunities for the rural poor in meeting their social and economic needs through a community driven participatory approach and demand based investments. Social, economic and infrastructural activities including group based income generating activities, small infrastructure investments, improving access to public services and improving skills and organization are to be taken up under these projects.

[English]

FDI Inflow from USA

4304. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether the actual inflow of US F.D. investment in the country was less than the approvals during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have set up a Strategic Management Group to deal with the problems of the Foreign Direct Investors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps being taken by the Government to boost the US / developed countries' investment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) The year-wise FDI approvals and inflow for USA during the last three years is given below :-

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Year	FDI Approval	FDI Inflow
1997	13569.82	2578.07
1998	3561.96	1371.09
1999	3575.17	1811.20
2000 (Jan. to Oct.)	3999.59	1340.36
Total	24706.54	7100.72

The actual inflow is dependent upon the commercial judgement of investors. The inflow of funds for projects, particularly in the case of large projects in sectors like Power, Telecom, Infrastructure, etc., where the gestation period is long, may take place in phased manner.

(c) and (d) A Strategic Management Group has been set up in Prime Minister's Office with the following objectives :-

- To undertake Inter Ministerial coordination for speedier implementation of large projects.

- To encourage and interact with State Governments for adoption of suitable steps towards realisation of the aforesaid objectives.
- To examine policy measures and undertake consultations designed to accelerate inward capital flows.
- To interact with economic Ministries for catalysing reform initiatives and policies announced by Government.
- To consider policy measures designed for an improved macro-management of the economy.

(e) The review of FDI Policy to attract more FDI (from all countries, including USA) and to make it more investor-friendly is a continuous process. Earlier this year, moving towards further liberalisation and simplification, the Government has permitted FDI/NRI/OCB investment upto 100% in all items/activities under the automatic route barring a small negative list. Subsequently other policy changes have been made for various sectors. For facilitating speedy implementation and for removal of problems faced by investors during implementation stage, a Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) comprising representatives from various Departments and State Governments has been set up.

Mega IMD Bonds

4305. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal to go in for a Mega-IMD foreign Exchange Bond offering;
- (b) if so, whether UTI and some other FI's propose to come forward with similar schemes; and
- (c) if so, the time by which such schemes are likley to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHIB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The State Bank of India launched the India Millennium Deposit programme on 21st October, 2000, which closed on 6th November, 2000. Non Resident Indians (NRIs)/Overseas Corporate Bodies (OBCs)/Banks acting in fiduciary capacity on behalf of NRIs/OBCs were eligible to deposit. The total amount mobilised was approximately US \$ 5514 Million.

(b) and (c) The proposal from UTI to mobilise foreign exchange in the Overseas Market has not been found acceptable by the Government.

Violation of Press Freedom

4306. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the International Press Freedom Group has charged 13 Commonwealth Countries including India for flouting press freedom;
- (b) if so, the other countries named by the International Press Freedom Group;
- (c) the main charges made against India for violating press freedom; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) A Press Release dated 3rd November, 1999 by "reporters sans Frontiers" (Asia-Pacific Desk) has mentioned that 13 Commonwealth Countries, including India, have flouted Press freedom. Besides India, the other countries named in the said Report are Bangladesh, Cameroon, Gambia, Kenya, Malaysia, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

(c) The main charges made against India relate to the authorities not conducting timely and serious inquiries into the incidents of killings/arrest of journalists.

(d) As and when ordered, all efforts are made to finalise the inquiries quickly and to take action against the criminals as per law.

Negotiations for Eliminating Trade Barriers

4307. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) whether in an effort to restart global trade talks which failed in Seattle last year twenty-one nations of the Asia and Pacific region have again agreed to set a date of 2001 to prepare an agenda and begin negotiations for eliminating trade barriers;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) the main suggestions and recommendations made in this regard by the members of Asia and Pacific region; and

(d) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) The Ministerial Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was held on 12-13 November, 2000 in Bandar Seri Bagwan, Brunei Darussalam. While reaffirming their support to the launch of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations at the earliest opportunity, the APEC Joint Ministerial Statement states that they have agreed that the successful and expeditious launch of a new round requires an agenda that is balanced and sufficiently broad-based to respond to the interests and concerns of all WTO members. With this in mind, they have called on delegations in Geneva to agree on an agenda in 2001 and urged all WTO members to muster the political will and exercise flexibility. They have, inter-alia, commended the confidence building measures adopted in the WTO, including those on market access for the least developed economies and those addressing concerns over aspects of the implementation of WTO agreements. This was also reiterated in the APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration on 16th November, 2000.

(d) India is not in favour of overloading the WTO agenda with wide-ranging new round of negotiations and is, in any case, opposed to adding of new non-trade issues on the WTO agenda such as core labour standards, environmental issues, coherent global architecture, investment and competition policy. India is, however, prepared for a few new items being taken up for negotiations, provided implementation issues arising from the Uruguay Round are also resolved to its satisfaction.

Recovery of Bank Loans

4308. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered and issued directions to the banks that they can take possession and sell securities without going to the court to recover the dues from the defaulters of the loans;

(b) if so, whether high power panel looking into this has also finalised the draft legislation for a new bill on force closure and asset recovery for banks and financial institutions;

(c) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations; and

(d) if so, by what time, they are likely to be implemented?

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

(c) and (d) The Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri T.R. Andhyarujina, former Solicitor General of India has inter alia made recommendation for enactment of Law empowering banks and financial institutions for taking possession and sale of securities of defaulting borrowers without the intervention of the Court. A Working Group has been set up in October, 2000 to examine the recommendation and submit its report. The report is expected shortly.

Liberalisation and Its Impact

4309. SHRI RAMSHETHH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the foreign companies which have entered the Indian market after global liberalisation;

(b) the effect of the global liberalisation on the Indian economy and Indian Companies;

(c) whether the global liberalisation has created large scale unemployment in the country;

(d) if so, the action taken / being taken by the Government to rehabilitate these persons; and

(e) the policy of the Government on global liberalisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The total number of Foreign collaboration approvals since 1991 and up to 31 August 2000 are as following :-

Year	SIA*	RBI+	FIPB**	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1991	760	188	2	950
1992	585	736	199	1520
1993	307	676	493	1476
1994	382	702	770	1854

1	2	3	4	5
1995	593	799	945	2337
1996	410	719	1174	2303
1997	167	801	1357	2325
1998	193	432	1161	1786
1999	221	571	1432	2224
2000	137	324	1004	1465

*SIA : Secretariat of Industrial Assistance, Department of Industrial Policy and promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

+RBI : Reserve Bank of India.

**FIPB : Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

(b) The average growth rate of real GDP in the post reforms period of 1992-93 to 1999-2000 was 6.4 percent per annum, which was higher than the average growth of 5.8% achieved in the pre-reforms period of 1980-81 to 1990-91. The average annual growth rate in the post reforms period is not only higher, but also more stable than the average growth rate in the pre-reforms period.

As per Index of Industrial Production (IIP) the growth rates of Manufacturing sector and overall industrial growth rates have been as under :-

Year	Manufacturing	Overall IIP	
1991-92	-0.8	0.6	
1992-93	2.2	2.3	
1993-94	6.1	6.0	Note: Growth rates from 1994-95 are as per IIP base : 1993-94 = 100 and those for earlier years are for IIP base: 1980-81 = 100.
1994-95	9.1	8.9	
1995-96	14.1	13.0	
1996-97	7.3	6.1	
1997-98	6.7	6.5	
1998-99	4.1	3.8	Source : CSO
1999-00	9.2	8.2	
2000-01 (April-Oct.)	5.8	5.7	

(c) and (d) The average annual growth rate of overall employment (in both organized and unorganized sectors) declined continuously from 2.75 per cent in the period 1972-78 to 1.77 per cent in 1983-88 but increased to 2.37 per cent in the period 1987-94. The annual growth rates of employment in the organized public and private sector during 1991 to 1998 are indicated below. For the private sector, growth rates of employment had been positive for all the years, while the public sector witnessed marginal decline of employment in 1996 and 1998.

Growth Rates of Employment in Organised Sector (per cent)

Year	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total Organized
1991	1.52	1.24	1.44
1992	0.80	2.21	1.21
1993	0.60	0.06	0.44
1994	0.62	1.01	0.73
1995	0.11	1.63	0.55
1996	(-)0.19	5.62	1.51
1997	0.67	2.04	1.09
1998	(-)0.09	1.72	0.46

Source : Planning Commission.

(e) The economic reforms introduced in the Indian economy since 1991, have substantially improved the balance of payments scenario of the country, improved the external debt situation and enhanced the inflow of foreign investment in the country. Overall economic growth has picked up. The positive impact is also evident on the inflation, poverty and unemployment. In order to take the advantage of the globalization, the policy focus is on knowledge-based industries, exports and foreign investment. The policies and programs are guided by the overriding objectives of "Faster Growth with employment and equity".

Reservation for SCs/STs in Satyajit Ray Film and TV Institute

4310. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of seats offered to SC/ST students in various disciplines in the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Calcutta during each of the last three years in terms of recommendations made by Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee; and

(b) the actual number of SC/ST students admitted against total seats reserved for them during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The Regulations of Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Calcutta provide reservations of students of SC/ST community as per the reservation policy of Government of India.

The total number of SC/ST students admitted and their percentage against total seats in each discipline in the academic year 1997 are as under :-

Discipline	Total Seats	No. of SC/ST	%age
Film Direction	8	1	12.5
Motion Picture Photography	8	1	12.5
Editing	8	1	12.5
Sound Recording	8	nil	nil

There was no admission in the year 1998 and 1999.

Objectives of Growth Centres

4311. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether objective of New Growth Centre Scheme was to promote industrialisation in backward areas of the country by development of Industrial Growth Centre but the objective remained unfulfilled for more than 10 years after the introduction of the Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure success of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) It is a fact that the objective of the Growth Centre Scheme is to create basic infrastructure in backward areas through Growth Centres to enable states to attract industries in these areas. Growth centres are infrastructure development

projects. This involves land acquisition which is a statutory quasi judicial time consuming process and land development, which includes development of plots, roads, water supply, drainage etc. These are long gestation. The Central Government acts as a facilitator and contributes Rs. 10 crore per Growth Centre (Rs. 15 crore in the case of Growth Centres in the North Eastern States) by way of equity. The projects are implemented by State Governments and their agencies who are also responsible to raise the balance funds for the project. Being long gestation projects wherein State Governments are the principal stake holders, time targets for their completion cannot be centrally dictated.

The Scheme is an ongoing Scheme carried over to the Ninth Plan after a careful Plan Review. 68 growth centres have been sanctioned and 27 have begun functioning as industrial plot allotments have commenced at these centres. Other growth centres are also at various stages of development. An investment of Rs. 7891 crore and creation of 25115 employment opportunities at the Growth Centres are indicators that the Scheme has begun to yield results.

Off-loading of Equity in Consumer and Non-core Industries

4312. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to ask the financial institutions to consider off-loading their equity in consumer and other non-core industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to ask financial institutions to change their pattern of equity holdings in favour of infrastructure sector; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the equity holdings of financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Actual Performance of PSUs

4313. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:
DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:

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

(a) the number and details of Public Sector Undertakings who have signed Memorandum of Understandings during 1999-2000 alongwith their features;

(b) whether Memorandum of Understanding system of performance evaluation of Public Sector Undertakings is adequate to assess the actual performance;

(c) if so, the manner by which the Government propose to explain the mismatch between actual performance and outstanding MOU Ratings;

(d) whether a single yardstick will able to assess performance of different PSUs in various sectors varying from Petroleum, Engineering to Airlines, with varying performance parameters; and

(e) the manner by which the Government propose to justify a CPSU which had three accidents in a year being rated outstanding solely because the rating system is showed in favour of financial performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) 108 PSUs signed the MOUs with their respective Administrative Ministries for the year 1999-2000. The MOU documents include the common features such as mission statement, objectives, matrix of performance criteria indicating commitments of PSEs, assistance sought from the Government, delegation of powers, the information flow and the past performance during the last 5 years.

(b) to (e) In order to assess the actual performance of the PSUs, the parameters are selected in such a way that it represents the most important activities of the management. The weightage to various performance parameters is assigned according to the importance of activities. The performance of the PSUs is evaluated with reference to pre-determined targets. Accordingly, the PSUs are categorised as Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair and Poor depending upon their actual achievements. Further, the MOU system provides a common method of performance evaluation of PSUs operating under different sectors. This is done through an approach where the suitable parameters are selected after a great deal of discussion and are quantified. Under the present system only the financial parameters are common to all the PSUs, rest of the parameters are PSU-specific and are included in the MOU documents keeping in view the nature of operations of the PSUs. 60% weight was assigned to the

financial parameters mainly with the objective of making the managements of the PSUs conscious of the profitability, increasing competitive environment and their financial viability. Recently, a decision has been taken to rationalise the weightage system under the MOU by making it more relevant to the PSUs operating under different conditions. The existing situation provides that a PSU can be rated as Excellent so long as it is able to achieve the required levels of performance though it may have passed through a difficult situation like accidents, etc.

Nationalised Banks

4314. DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

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

(b) the State-wise and bank-wise amount of deposits in these banks during the last three years;

(c) the amount of loan sanctioned by these banks during the said period bank-wise and State-wise;

(d) whether these banks have achieved the target fixed for the said period;

(e) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the bank-wise amount invested by these banks for developmental activities in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) State-wise and Bank-wise offices, deposits and credit of public setor banks for the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

(d) and (e) All public sector banks except UCO Bank, have achieved the stipulated target of 40 per cent for lending under priority sector as on the last Friday of March 2000. Reserve Bank of India have not fixed State-wise target for banks' lending under priority sector.

(f) State-wise and bank group-wise investment of banks as at March 1999 (as latest available) is given in the Statement III enclosed.

Statement-I

State-wise Offices, Deposits and Credit of Public Sector Banks
During the Last Three Years

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	State	March 1998			March 1999			March 2000		
		Office	Deposits	Credit	Office	Deposits	Credit	Office	Deposits	Credit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3545	25608	19274	3591	30585	21893	3624	36565	24202
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	49	399	43	49	464	51	49	514	63
3.	Assam	830	5346	1751	835	6205	1986	825	7441	2413
4.	Bihar	3087	22956	6230	3108	27399	6853	3120	32600	7343
5.	Goa	265	4159	1014	274	4931	1155	277	5640	1351
6.	Gujarat	3061	33064	15111	3106	38696	17578	3128	44033	20466
7.	Haryana	1104	11219	4846	1142	13064	5589	1164	15349	6515
8.	Himachal Pradesh	636	4054	881	641	4864	1079	644	5692	1312
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	253	2318	482	257	2690	582	259	3299	685
10.	Karnataka	2984	24293	16712	3032	27893	18742	3071	33436	21340
11.	Kerala	1812	18103	7773	1826	22030	8703	1844	26152	10495
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2852	19808	10372	2892	23860	11665	2910	27122	13500
13.	Maharashtra	4835	78888	60225	4894	92719	70708	4903	102540	89428
14.	Manipur	56	273	161	57	392	163	57	440	161
15.	Meghalaya	127	917	133	127	1027	165	127	1268	191
16.	Mizoram	26	179	37	26	260	49	26	276	62
17.	Nagaland	62	510	97	62	694	113	61	715	115
18.	NCT of Delhi	1155	48265	28273	1192	58124	44336	1216	68994	54591
19.	Orissa	1340	7809	3448	1362	8973	3728	1370	11009	4255
20.	Punjab	2179	26176	10301	2215	31005	12193	2236	36512	14354
21.	Rajasthan	1951	13551	6568	1988	16499	7490	2006	19030	9019
22.	Sikkim	42	280	58	42	342	69	46	511	70
23.	Tamil Nadu	3438	29332	26245	3485	33936	28990	3507	39841	33061
24.	Tripura	91	647	189	92	790	211	92	948	224

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
25.	Uttar Pradesh	5537	50752	14439	5629	60948	16540	5696	70905	19594
26.	West Bengal	3378	35707	16338	3398	42072	18347	3418	48703	21625
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	31	237	36	31	280	46	31	334	56
28.	Chandigarh	141	4139	2658	149	4275	3966	152	5257	3014
29.	Dadra & N. H	7	100	21	9	123	28	9	150	34
30.	Daman & Diu	13	245	51	14	287	51	14	363	53
31.	Lakshadweep	9	32	3	9	53	4	9	61	5
32.	Pondicherry	62	842	306	64	999	339	66	1191	389
All India		44958	470210	254076	45598	556482	303411	45957	646891	359985

Statement-II

*Bank-wise Offices, Deposits and Credit of Public Sector Banks
During the Last Three Years*

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	March 1998			March 1999			March 2000		
		Offices	Deposits	Credit	Offices	Deposits	Credit	Offices	Deposits	Credit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	SB of India	8905	107043	70202	8929	123609	86221	8964	145469	103363
2.	SB of B&J	773	6405	3943	786	7681	4239	792	8874	4831
3.	SB of Hyderabad	829	7719	4923	857	10136	5786	877	12133	6598
4.	SB of Indore	390	3142	1955	389	3786	2238	402	4819	2941
5.	SB of Mysore	562	4527	3018	569	4798	3140	584	6388	3958
6.	SB of Patiala	706	6914	4263	708	8715	5140	712	10054	6097
7.	SB of Saurashtra	382	3908	2456	399	4743	2941	402	5625	3395
8.	SB of Travancore	657	6935	4493	653	8314	4726	655	9935	5482
9.	Allahabad Bank	1849	12771	5944	1862	14879	7292	1870	16904	8858
10.	Andhra Bank	981	7607	3415	990	10157	4781	989	13983	5818
11.	Bank of Baroda	2448	32564	18414	2485	36556	19589	2520	42481	22775
12.	Bank of India	2472	30169	16539	2491	34419	19383	2494	37577	21610
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	1136	8593	4340	1164	10814	4678	1177	13176	5844
14.	Canara Bank	2291	34760	18105	2379	40277	20246	2404	45811	24113

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15.	Central Bank of India	3095	25171	11521	3098	29369	13895	3102	33852	17032
16.	Corporation Bank	544	8880	4226	612	12594	6361	629	14214	7847
17.	Dena Bank	1094	9522	5602	1107	11284	6927	1118	12633	7706
18.	Indian Bank	1488	13729	7352	1495	15841	8506	1493	17840	8763
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	1369	17550	7608	1395	21280	9385	1413	23190	10635
20.	Oriental Bank of Com.	798	12617	6293	894	16268	7939	913	21425	9716
21.	Punjab National Bank	3756	34660	16719	3815	40236	20140	3835	46801	23745
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	704	7224	3521	703	8673	4448	732	10053	5031
23.	Syndicate Bank	1624	13768	6195	1647	16876	8524	1705	19646	10056
24.	Union Bank of India	2135	22755	10615	2195	27657	11953	2220	30770	15863
25.	United Bank of India	1332	11509	4185	1332	13865	4775	1330	15829	5470
26.	Uco Bank	1808	11827	4768	1809	14086	5866	1788	15967	7342
27.	Vijaya Bank	840	7943	3462	835	9568	4294	837	11444	5196
	All PS Banks	44958	470210	254076	45598	556482	303411	45957	646891	359985

Statement-III

State-wise and Bank Group-wise Investments of Scheduled Commercial Banks as on March 1999

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	State Bank of India and Associates	Nationalised Banks	Other Indian Scheduled Commercial Banks	Foreign Banks	All Scheduled Commercial Banks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	174718	323329	25957	217	524221
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1889	1162	2	—	3053
3.	Assam	98687	73515	1387	—	173589
4.	Bihar	192571	248476	4988	63	446098
5.	Goa	3058	9301	770	—	13129
6.	Gujarat	87960	129170	13907	13594	244631
7.	Haryana	42139	87675	2441	45	132300
8.	Himachal Pradesh	22427	32124	726	—	55277

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	13197	27848	9092	—	50137
10.	Karnataka	86359	156791	31040	4348	278538
11.	Kerala	101507	157841	45130	909	305387
12.	Madhya Pradesh	189437	197044	5927	50	392458
13.	Maharashtra	145324	261263	48653	7709	462949
14.	Manipur	6277	5315	1	—	11543
15.	Meghalaya	9854	10906	586	—	21346
16.	Mizoram	2998	2248	—	—	5246
17.	Nagaland	11487	8850	587	—	20924
18.	NCT of Delhi					
19.	Orissa	108967	181469	5521	99	296056
20.	Punjab	41682	122361	4664	112	168819
21.	Rajasthan	136557	199081	19369	179	355186
22.	Sikkim	4433	2986	2	—	7421
23.	Tamil Nadu	118572	197282	39024	8778	363656
24.	Tripura	7845	7645	2	—	15492
25.	Uttar Pradesh	246768	554481	15266	430	816945
26.	West Bengal	124841	271307	6713	201	403062
	All India	1981295	3269470	282430	36734	5567463

**Amount Deposited in Public Sector
Banks in Bihar**

4315. MOHAMMAD SHAHABUDDIN :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether three-fourth of the amount deposited in Public Sector Banks in Bihar are diverted to other States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has been causing harm to the development of Bihar State;

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the amount of loan sanctioned and actually disbursed by these banks to farmers during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Credit deposit ratio of scheduled commercial banks in Bihar as on the last Friday of March, 2000 is 22.5 per cent. In addition to bank credit, commercial banks also deploy funds as investment in a State out of the deposits mobilized locally. The credit plus investment to deposit ratio of scheduled commercial banks in Bihar as on March 31, 1999 stood at 40.9 per cent.

(c) and (d) The credit flow in a State/Region depends upon various factors like availability of adequate infrastructural facilities, credit absorption capacity of the

region, development of medium and large industries, properly developed marketing facilities, conducive atmosphere for investment, entrepreneurial initiatives, law and order situation in the region, satisfactory recovery position of the bank dues etc. Banks have been taking steps for improving the flow of credit in Bihar and a special Task Force on industry related problems in the State and a sub-committee on the operational problems of stepping up credit flow were set up. Both the committees have submitted their report and the progress in implementation of the recommendations made by the above committees are being monitored in the State level Bankers' Committee meetings from time to time.

(e) The amount of loan disbursed to agriculture by public sector banks in Bihar under special agricultural credit plan were Rs. 286.62 crore in the year 1997-98, Rs. 308.03 crore in the year 1998-99 and Rs. 309.40 crore in the year 1999-2000.

Capital of Banks

4316. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Public Sector Banking institutions and the actual capital money of each institution;

(b) the number of private sector banks and the capital money of each bank;

(c) the number of banks operated by indigenous and multinational companies and the capital money of each Bank; and

(d) the methodology of functioning of these three types of banks in national interest and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) At present, there are 27 banks in the public sector. The paid-up capital of these banks as on 31.3.2000, bank-wise, is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) At present, there are 32 private sector banks in India. The paid-up capital of these banks as on 31.3.2000, bank-wise, is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(c) The names of the promoters/major shareholders of the 32 private sector banks in India, as on 31.3.2000, bank-wise, is given in the Statement-III enclosed. The list of 42 foreign banks having branch presence in India and their capital and reserves, bank-wise, as on 31.3.2000, is given in the Statement-IV enclosed.

(d) There is no basic difference in the methodology of functioning of the different categories of commercial banks in India and all of them are regulated/supervised by Reserve Bank of India under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Statement-I

Public Sector Banks – Capital Funds As on 31.03.2000

Name of the Bank	Paid up Capital
1	2
State Bank of India	526.30
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	50.00
State Bank of Hyderabad	17.25
State Bank of Indore	17.50
State Bank of Mysore	36.00
State Bank of Patiala	24.75
State Bank of Saurashtra	314.00
State Bank of Travancore	50.00
Total for State Bank Group	1035.80
Allahabad Bank	246.70
Andhra bank	347.95
Bank of Baroda	294.33
Bank of India	638.40
Bank of Maharashtra	330.52
Canara Bank	577.87
Central Bank of India	1805.45
Corporation Bank	119.99
Dena Bank	206.82
Indian Bank	2503.96
Indian Overseas Bank	333.60
Oriental Bank of Commerce	192.54
Punjab & Sind Bank	243.06
Punjab National Bank	212.24

1	2
Syndicate Bank	471.83
Uco Bank	2264.52
Union Bank of India	338.00
United Bank of India	1810.87
Vijaya Bank	259.24
Total for Nationalised Banks	13197.89
Total for PSBs	14233.69

Statement-II

*The Names of the Private Sector Banks and
Their Capital as on 31.3.2000*

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	Private Sector Banks	Capital
1	2	3
1.	Bank of Madura	11.77
2.	Bank of Rajasthan	62.76
3.	Benares State Bank	62.11
4.	Bharat Overseas Bank	15.75
5.	Catholic Syrian Bank	10.52
6.	City Union Bank	24.00
7.	Dhanalakshmi Bank	14.66
8.	Federal Bank	21.71
9.	Jammu & Kashmir Bank	48.01
10.	Karnataka Bank	13.50

1	2	3
11.	Karur Vysya Bank	6.00
12.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank	11.51
13.	Lord Krishna Bank	23.48
14.	Nainital Bank	2.50
15.	Nedungadi Bank	10.20
16.	Ratnakar Bank	6.93
17.	Sangli Bank	10.33
18.	South Indian Bank	35.53
19.	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	0.28
20.	United Western Bank	29.89
21.	Vysya Bank	19.76
22.	UTI Bank	131.90
23.	SBI Com. & International	100.00
24.	Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad	0.81
25.	Indus Ind Bank	159.01
26.	ICICI Bank	196.82
27.	Global Trust Bank	121.36
28.	HDFC Bank	243.28
29.	Centurion Bank	152.47
30.	Bank of Punjab	105.00
31.	Development Credit Bank	16.61
32.	IDBI Bank	140.00
	Total	1808.46

Statement-III

*The Promoters/major shareholders of Private Sector Banks owning 5% or more of
the shares of the bank as on 31 March 2000 are as under*

S. No.	Name of the Bank	Name of the promoters/major shareholders	% of holding by the promoters/major shareholders
1	2	3	4
1.	Bank of Madura Ltd.	1. Kotak Mahindra finance Ltd.	8.75

1	2	3	4
2.	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1. NSDL & CDSL (Depository)	25.88
		2. Shri P.K. Tayal	25.81
3.	Benares State Bank Ltd.	1. P. Rajarathinam	22.54
		2. Deve Sugar Ltd.	11.72
		3. N. Jayalakshmi	9.66
		4. Prabha Rajarathinam	4.03
		5. Suashish Finance Ltd.	16.10
		6. Bennet Coleman & Co. Ltd.	8.05
		7. Union Bank of India	5.86
4.	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	1. Indian Overseas Bank	30.00
		2. Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	16.00
		3. Vysya Bank Ltd.	14.66
		4. Federal Bank Ltd.	10.67
		5. Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	10.00
		6. South Indian Bank Ltd.	10.00
		7. Karanataka bank Ltd.	8.67
5.	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	Nil	Nil
6.	City Union Bank Ltd.	1. Integrated Advisory Services Ltd.	7.50
7.	Development Credit Bank Ltd.	1. The Agakhan Fund for Economic Development	13.55
		2. Platinum Jubilee Investments Ltd.	10.54
8.	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	Nil	Nil
9.	Federal Bank Ltd.	1. ICICI Ltd.	21.35
10.	Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad Ltd.	1. SICOM Ltd.	16.68
		2. Shri P.A. Ganu	6.00
11.	Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.	1. Chief Secretary J & K Govt.	31.59
		2. Secretary Finance J & K Govt.	21.55
12.	Karanataka Bank Ltd.	Nil	Nil
13.	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	Nil	Nil
14.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4
15.	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	1. ICDS Ltd.	17.32
		2. A.K. Puri	10.63
		3. Manipal Investment	8.01
		4. Mohan Exports (I) Ltd.	12.71
16.	Nainital Bank Ltd.	1. Bank of Baroda	94.24
17.	Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	1. Shri Mantri & Associates	11.54
		2. Shri Banthia & Associates	8.41
18.	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	Nil	Nil
19.	Sangli Bank Ltd.	Nil	Nil
20.	SBI Com. Int. Bank Ltd.	1. State Bank of India	99.99
21.	South Indian Bank Ltd.	1. ICICI Ltd.	11.37
22.	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.	Nil	Nil
23.	United Western Bank Ltd.	1. SICOM Ltd.	9.92
24.	Vysya Bank Ltd.	1. BBL Mauritius Investments	11.11
		2. BBL Mauritius Holdings	8.89
		3. UTI	7.36
25.	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	1. S. Darshanjit Singh	10.83
		2. Harprit Singh	10.56
26.	Centurion Bank Ltd.	1. Keppel Corporation Ltd.	17.71
		2. Asian Development Bank, Manila	10.22
		3. TCFC Finance Ltd.	23.12
		4. International Finance Corporation, Washington	8.36
		5. 20th Century Finance & Consultancy Services Ltd.	7.88
		6. D. Ahuja	10.15
27.	Global Trust Bank Ltd.	1. International Finance Corporation	11.52
		2. Asian Development Bank	8.24
		3. DBMGOF (Mauritius) Ltd.	5.02
		4. Ramesh Gelli	8.12

1	2	3	4
28.	HDFC Bank Ltd.	1. HDFC Investments	12.33
		2. HDFC Ltd.	11.32
		3. The India Private Equ.	8.78
		4. Indocean Finance H.	6.21
		5. HDFC Holdings Ltd.	5.47
29.	ICICI Bank Ltd.	1. ICICI Ltd.	62.24
		2. Bankers Trust Company	16.17
30.	IDBI Bank Ltd.	1. Industrial Development Bank of India	57.14
		2. Small Industries Development Bank of India	14.29
31.	Indusind Bank Ltd.	1. Indusind Enterprises & Finance Ltd.	31.25
		2. Indusind International Holding Ltd.	10.93
		3. Indus Ind Ltd.	9.68
32.	UTI Bank Ltd.	1. UTI	60.65
		2. LIC	5.69

Statement-IV

Capital and Reserves of foreign banks operating in India as on 31-2-2000

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Total Capital and Reserves (Rs. crores)	1	2	3
1	2	3	10.	Credit Agricole Indosuez	69.3
1.	Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank	33.04	11.	B N P Paribas	197.31
2.	ABN Amro Bank	576.02	12.	Barclays Bank	42.86
3.	American Express Bank	257.93	13.	Citibank	991.54
4.	ANZ Grindlays Bank (now Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank)	1132.33	14.	Credit Lyonnais	84.08
5.	Bank of America	686.71	15.	Deutsche Bank	543.26
6.	Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait	49.29	16.	Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	837.39
7.	Mashreq Bank	28.89	17.	Oman International Bank	97.82
8.	Bank of Nova Scotia	136.93	18.	Sakura Bank	128.01
9.	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi	129.66	19.	Sanwa Bank	73.18
			20.	Societe Generale	82.63
			21.	Sonali Bank	3.69
			22.	Standard Chartered Bank	717.02

1	2	3
23.	ING Bank	71.76
24.	The Chase Manhattan Bank	51.53
25.	State Bank of Mauritius	103.82
26.	Development Bank of Singapore	60.75
27.	Dresdner Bank	72.69
28.	Commerzbank	77.14
29.	Bank of Ceylon	49.9
30.	The Siam Commercial Bank	40.02
31.	Bank International Indonesia	61.58
32.	Arab Bangladesh Bank	40.28
33.	Cho Hung Bank	38.32
34.	Chinatrust Commercial Bank	35.54
35.	Fuji Bank	72.06
36.	Krung Thai Bank	37.43
37.	Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation	38.23
38.	Toronto Dominion Bank	46.74
39.	Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. of New York	120.43
40.	Bank Muscat	43.81
41.	KBC Bank n.v.	60.13
42.	Sumitomo Bank Limited	57.01

[English]

Insurance Summit

4317. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Insurance Summit was convened by the CII recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chairman of Insurance Regulatory Development Authority also participated in the meeting;

(d) if so, the suggestions/recommendations made by it in the summit; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. CII held its annual Insurance Summit in Delhi on 22nd and 23rd November, 2000.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Evasion of Excise Duty

4318. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased refer to reply given to USQ No. 929 dated 28.7.2000 regarding Central Excise evasion by Iron and Steel manufacturers and state :

(a) whether the information has collected by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) the information with respect to the Lok Sabha USQ No. 929 for 28-7-2000 is being collected and in this regard assurance for furnishing reply by January 27th, 2001 was given on 25-10-2000. Owing to decentralised and large number of units involved in manufacture of iron and steel located all over the country, information about cases of evasion etc. which have come to notice in last three years could not be collected quickly. The information is likely to be collected by the end of December 2000.

[English]

Advance Tax

4319. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that advance tax payment has turned out to be lucrative proposition for some assesseees given the current low rate of interest for term

deposits of banks compared to higher interest rate paid in respect of refund by Income-tax authorities; and

(b) the total interest out-go every year paid by income tax authorities on account of refunds for excess advance tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Where the refund is out of advance tax paid during the financial year immediately preceding the assessment year, statutory interest at the prescribed rate of 1% for every month or part of a month comprised in the period from the 1st day of April of the assessment year to the date on which the refund is granted, is paid to the assessee under section 244A of the Income-tax Act, 1961 subject to the condition that the amount of refund is not less than 10% of the tax determined under section 143(1) or on regular assessment. Interest at the rate of 1.5% for every month or part of a month is, however, charged from the date of default for deficit payment of advance tax. Thus, interest is paid on refund of excess advance tax at a rate less than what is levied under the Income Tax Act, 1961, in so far as deficit payment of advance tax is concerned.

(b) The interest under section 244A paid by the Income-tax authorities on refund of excess payment of taxes are Rs. 669.36 crores in financial year 1995-96; Rs. 622.13 crore in financial year 1996-97; Rs. 878.87 crore in financial year 1997-98 and Rs. 1727.12 crore in financial year 1998-99.

[Translation]

Re-instatement of Super-301

4320. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether America has decided to reinstate Super 301 as a part of its International Trade Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its likely effect on the Indian Trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The United States announced the reinstatement of Super 301 on 26th January 1999.

It is stated to provide a mechanism for the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to annually review US

trade expansion priorities and to deal with what they regard as significant unfair trade practices in foreign markets.

(c) Such measures are part of internal administrative and other mechanisms of the United States.

[English]

Authority to Manage Pension

4321. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the committee headed by Shri S.A. Dave has recommended to set-up an authority to manage pension liabilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. This has been done as part of a project called OASIS (an acronym for Old Age Social Security in India) commissioned by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment under the Chairmanship of Shri S.A. Dave. The report recommends various measures, including the setting up of an Indian Pensions Authority, to help workers build enough savings for their old age. The recommendations are under active consideration of the Government.

Meeting of Joint Indo-Swiss Commission

4322. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have propose to enhance export of agricultural and marine products to Swiss markets;

(b) if so, the details of the Governments stand at the Joint Indo-Swiss Commission meeting held in Berne on November 7, 2000;

(c) whether Switzerland is not allowing marine products from India;

(d) if so, whether the joint meeting has arrived at a decision in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) It is the endeavour of the Government to enhance exports of potential items like agriculture and marine products to all its trading partners including Switzerland.

(b) Market access issues to Indian products in the agricultural and marine products sector including tariff related quotas and sanitary/phyto-sanitary standards were considered in the meeting of the Indo-Swiss Joint Commission.

(c) to (e) There is no ban by Switzerland on imports of marine products from India.

Cost of Sugar Production

4323. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research has found a way to help the country to overcome its problem of plenty in sugar production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the per quintal cost of sugar production comes to about Rs. 1,400 while the price reigning in the international market is around Rs. 1000;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The mandate of the Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow is as under :-

- To conduct basic and applied reserach on all aspects of production and protection techniques of sugarcane and sugar crops, particularly sugar beet for different agro-climatic zones of the country.
- To work on breeding of varieties for sub-tropical region in close collaboration with Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore.

- To develop close linkages with State Agricultural Universities/State Research Stations, other national and international organizations for exchange of information, material and research programmes.
- To organize post-graduate and other training programmes in production and protection technologies at regional, national and international levels.
- To provide consultancy and advisory services, to disseminate technologies to farmers, industries and other users, and to establish data-based management systems.

The following major technologies have been developed for increasing sugarcane production in the country:-

Technologies for maximizing sugarcane production i.e. Spaced Transplanting Technique (STP), diversification of sugarcane based production system including companion cropping with potato/wheat/mustard/coriander, skip furrow method of irrigation and trash mulching, fertilizer schedule for plant and ratoon crop, integrated nutrient supply system, management of wheat-cane system.

In crop protection techniques, the Institute has developed three-tier seed programme, integrated pest control for pyrilla, scale insects, shoot borer, top borer, stalk borer, black bug, plassey borer and integrated weed management.

The institute has also developed machineries for efficient planting of sugarcane and also for ratoon and disease management i.e. Tractor drawn Sugarcane Cutter Planters, Sugarcane Cutter Planter with seeding attachment, Multipurpose equipment, Stubble Shaver, MHAT Plant for controlling sett-borne diseases.

(c) and (d) The actual cost of production of sugar incurred by various sugar mills in different States is not maintained by this Department. The F.O.B. prices of sugar in the international market (London) during the month of November, 2000 were in the range of US \$ 225 PMT to US \$ 255 PMT with an average of US \$ 243.04 PMT.

(e) The following steps have been taken by the Government to improve the economic viability of the sugar mills :-

- (i) The ratio of levy to free sale sugar has been changed from 40:60 to 30:70 with effective from 1.1.2000.

- (ii) to restrict the flow of the imported sugar :-
- (a) duty on imported sugar has been raised to 60% with effect from 9.2.2000;
 - (b) the imported sugar had been brought under the release mechanism; and
 - (c) levy @ 30% on the stocks of imported sugar held by the importers has been imposed with effect from 17.2.2000.
- (iii) A policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market is being pursued through judicious releases of free-sale sugar quotas.

12.01 hrs.

[Translation]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2833/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the

Nepa Limited, Nepa Nagar, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Nepa Limited, Nepa Nagar, for the year 1999-2000; along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2834/2000]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (iii) Statement scrutinising documents of Auditors and CAG and replies furnished thereto by the management on the Annual Report for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2835/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the PEC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the PEC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2836/2000]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2837/2000]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2838/2000]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2839/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Kochi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Kochi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2840/2000]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2841/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.1070(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2000 containing order notifying the Pragati Paper Mills Limited, Ghaziabad, as a mill producing newsprint under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2842/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 673(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2000 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 477(E) dated the 25th July, 1991 under sub-section (2H) of section 29B of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2843/2000]

- (3) A copy of the Draft Notification (Hindi and English versions) making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 857(E) dated the 11th December, 1997 regarding the basis on which an industrial undertaking manufacturing the specified items shall be regarded as small scale industrial undertaking or an ancillary industrial undertaking for the purpose of the Industries (Development and Regulations) Act, 1951 under sub-section (3) of section 11B of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2844/2000]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A Copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2845/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:-
- (i) The Bank of Maharashtra (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published Notification No. AX-1/ST/OSR/4464/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2000.
 - (ii) The Bank of Maharashtra (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. AX-1/ST/OSR/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2000.
 - (iii) The Allahabad Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. H.O./Legal/0576 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2000.
 - (iv) The Corporation Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PAD:IR:OSR Amend:227:2000-2001 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2000.
 - (v) The Punjab and Sindh Bank Officers Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PSB/DAC/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 2000.
 - (vi) The Punjab and Sindh Bank Officers' Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PSB/OSR/STAFF/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 12th August, 2000.

- (vii) The Vijaya Bank Officers Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000, published in Notification No. PER/IRD/1535/00 in Gazette of India dated the 12th August, 2000.
- (viii) The Andhra Bank (Officers') service (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 666/3/A1/393 in Gazette of India dated the 17th August, 2000.
- (ix) The Oriental Bank of Commerce Officer Employees (Discipline and Appeal) Amendment) Regulation, 2000 published in Notification No. 3926 in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2000.
- (x) The Oriental Bank of Commerce (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations 2000 published in Notification No. 3927 in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2000.
- (xi) The Bank of India Officer Employees (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. IL:2000-01 in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2000.
- (xii) The Central Bank of India Officer Employees (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. CO:PRS:LEGAL:MISC-2869:SAK:2000-2001/281 in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2000.
- (xiii) The Punjab National Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulation, 2000 published in Notification No. PL:MR:POL:91 in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2000.
- (xiv) The Sydicate Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 2275/0089/PD:IRD(O) in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2000.
- (xv) The Syndicate Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 2276/0089/PD:IRD(O) in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2000.

- (xvi) The Corporation Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulation, 2000 published in Notification No. PAD:IR:OSR Amend:317:2000-2001 in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2000.
- (xvii) The Canara Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. IRS 124C 3256-NAK in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 2000.
- (xviii) The UCO Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. ODAR/1/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 2000.
- (xix) The Bank of Baroda (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. HO:OSR&IR:A/5/19/2066 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2000.
- (xx) The UCO Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. ODAR/2/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2000.
- (xxi) The United Bank of India Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No.2/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2000.
- (xxii) The Punjab and Sind Bank Office Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No.PSB/DAC/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2000.
- (xxiii) The Andhra Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulation, 2000 published in Notification No.666/3/IR/139 in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000.
- (xxiv) The Allahabad Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. HO/Legal/0926 in Gazette of India dated the 28th October, 2000.
- (xxv) The Bank of Baroda Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. HO:OSR & IR:27/107/4/2173 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2000.
- (xxvi) The Punjab National Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PNB/DAC/P-1/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 16th September, 2000.
- (xxvii) The Syndicate Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 2799/0089/PD:IRD(O)/Reg. 24A in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September, 2000.
- (xxviii) The Indian Bank General Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No.ADVT/III/IV/290/2000-Exty in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2000.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 2846/2000]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 50 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955:-
- (i) The State Bank of India Employees' Pension Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. CDO/PM/SPL/339 in Gazette of India dated the 16th September, 2000.
- (ii) The Imperial Bank of India Employees' Pension and Guarantee Fund (Amendment) Rules and Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. CDO/PM/SPL/340 in Gazette of India dated 12th August, 2000.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 2847/2000]
- (3) A copy of the Export-Import Bank of India (Employee's) Pension Regulations, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. EXIM/PENSION/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 20th September, 2000, under sub-section (3) of section 39 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 2848/2000]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:-

- (i) Securities and Exchange Board of India (Venture Capital Funds) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 831(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2000.
- (ii) Securities and Exchange Board of India (Foreign Venture Capital Investor) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 832(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2000.
- (iii) Securities and Exchange Board of India (Stock Brokers and Sub-Brokers) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 787(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 2000.
- (iv) Securities and Exchange Board of India (Foreign Institutional Investors) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 946(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2849/2000]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 15 of the Government Savings Bank Act, 1873:-

- (i) The Post Office (Monthly Income Account) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 706(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2000.
- (ii) G.S.R. 707(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2000 seeking to amend application form 1 (SB III).
- (iii) G.S.R. 784(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 2000 seeking to rescind the Notification No. G.S.R. 707(E) dated the 5th September, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2850/2000]

(6) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 907(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th December, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 7/97-Cus., and Notification No. 897 Cus., dated the 24th January, 1997 under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2851/2000]

(7) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended on the 31st March, 2000 together with Auditor's Reports thereon:-

- (i) Vallar Gram Bank, Cuddalore.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2852/2000]

- (ii) Adhiyaman Grama Bank, Dharmapuri.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2853/2000]

- (iii) Etah Gramin Bank, Etah.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2854/2000]

- (iv) Siwan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Siwan.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2855/2000]

- (v) Nimar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Khargone.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2856/2000]

- (vi) Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bikaner.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2857/2000]

- (vii) Chettrasal Gramin Bank, Rath Road, Orai.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2858/2000]

- (viii) Giridih Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Giridih.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2859/2000]

- (ix) Dungarpur-Banswara Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Dungarpur.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2860/2000]

- (x) Chitradurga Gramin Bank, Chitradurga.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2861/2000]

(xi) Ellaquai Dehati Bank, Srinagar.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2862/2000]

(xii) Kallpatharu Grameena Bank, Tumkur.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2863/2000]

(xiii) Kamraaz Rural Bank, Sopore.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2864/2000]

(xiv) Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank, Mainpuri.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2865/2000]

(xv) Jaipur Nagaur Aanchalik Gramin Bank, Jaipur.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2866/2000]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development Economics, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development Economics, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development Economics, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2867/2000]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Applied Economics Research, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2868/2000]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for

Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2869/2000]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council for Research on International Economics Relations, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2870/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : Sir, on behalf of Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Standards of Weights and Measures (General) Amendment Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 892(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2000 under sub-section (3) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2871/2000]

12.3½ hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the following six Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on 21 November, 2000:-

1. The Multimodal Transportation of Goods (Amendment) Bill, 2000;
2. The Coal India (Regulation of Transfers and Validation) Bill, 2000;
3. The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2000;
4. The Passport (Entry into India) Amendment Bill, 2000;
5. The Forfeiture (Repeal) Bill, 2000; and
6. The Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Bill, 2000.

12.03¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

Sixteenth Report

[English]

SHRI MAHENDRA BAITHA (Bagaha) : Sir, I beg to present the Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Eighth Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) of Standing Committee on Communications (now Standing Committee on Information Technology) on "Doordarshan Production of Programmes-in-house and by Outside producers" relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 18th December, 2000 will consist of :

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

2. Discussion and Voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 2000-2001 (2nd Batch) and introduction, consideration and passing of related Appropriation Bill.
3. Statutory Resolution seeking approval of notification to amend the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act so as to increase export duty leviable on hides, skins and leathers, tanned and untanned all sorts, but not including manufactures of leathers falling under Heading No. 14 of the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 from "25 percent" to "60 percent".
4. Consideration and passing of the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2000.
5. Discussion and Voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways), 2000-2001 and introduction, consideration and passing of related Appropriation Bill.
6. Discussion on the Resolution seeking adoption of various Recommendations made by the Railway Convention Committee (1999) in their First Report on Rate of Dividend for 2000-2001 and other ancillary matters.
7. Discussion on Statutory Resolutions seeking disapproval of the following Ordinances and consideration and passing of the Bill seeking to replace these Ordinances:-
 - (a) The Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance, 2000.
 - (b) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000.
8. Discussion on the Resolution seeking approval to the rejection of the Award of the Board of Arbitration on upward revision of pay scales of Stenographers' Grade 'D' of Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service in CA reference number 11 of 1992.
9. Discussion on the Resolution seeking approval to the Award of the Board of Arbitration on Overtime Allowance a required under the JCM Scheme.

10. Discussion on the Resolution seeking approval to the rejection of Award of the Board of Arbitration relating to grant of special pay to Private Secretaries (merged grades 'A' & 'B') of Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service in CA Reference No. 2 of 1991.
11. Consideration and passing of the constitution (85th Amendment) Bill, 1999.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, what is this constitutional amendment. I do not know what is written in it but I came to know that it is Women's Reservation Bill and unless amendment is incorporated in the Women's Reservation Bill, we will continue to oppose it and if the Government want to pass the Bill in haste then we will try to forcibly oppose the passage of the Bill...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, from the statement of the hon'ble Minister on the Government Business for the next week, it seems that Women's Reservation Bill is going to be introduced in the form of Constitutional Amendment Bill. We oppose it. The matter has become complex. Unless provision of reservation for women belonging to backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are made in the Women's Reservation Bill, the Samajvadi Party will not allow the passage of the Bill in the House. My request is that the opinion that has been given by the Election Commission should be accepted and the power in regard to women reservation should not be vested with Election Commission rather it should be left to political parties to make their own provisions in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a big fraud. A clandestine method is being adopted for passing the Women Reservation Bill. We will oppose the Bill if it is introduced in the House in its present form and we will not only oppose it, we will not allow the passage of the Bill...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mulayam Singh ji, when the Bill is introduced, you may oppose it. Presently it has not been introduced. You are raising a protest on a bill that will be introduced in the House next week.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what type of Parliamentary Affairs Minister he is...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today I am cautioning you and giving a warning to the Government in this regarding. If the Government tried to forcibly pass the Bill in the House then we will make strong protests...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are at present opposing the next week's programmes. How can it be possible.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please sit down. I am taking up the next submission. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I beg to include the following items in the next week's agenda...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh ji, the item for inclusion of the hon'ble Members' submissions in the next week's agenda is going on. So please maintain silence.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am glad to know that next week the hon'ble Minister is going to move the Women's Reservation Bill. We have always emphasised that the Women's Reservation Bill must be passed by the House as soon possible. However, in spite of our persistent requests, the Government is delaying introducing the Bill in the House. It is a matter of regret...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am losing patience. In the beginning itself, you had told me to raise the issue in 'Zero Hour' but now I have not been given the opportunity...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Pappu ji it is not 'Zero Hour'. You will certainly be given opportunity after the Calling Attention Motion. Please sit down.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please also listen to him...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. I am on my legs.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : We want reservation for SC and ST Women also. We are supporting Women's Reservation Bill...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh ji, the submissions are being made for the next week's agenda. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please sit down. I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnaini) : Sir, I am on my legs!...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You should not be.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The Constitution Amendment Bill must not be taken up till a consensus is reached and our demands are met....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When I am on my legs, you cannot be. You have to resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What has now happened is that the Government has placed a list of items for the next week's business.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first you please listen to Shri Prabhunath Singhji. (Interruptions). You may take the floor after Shri Prabhunath Singh completes...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let me complete first.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That item is for the next week's agenda. The Member's are making submissions as to what items are to be taken next week. After that the Calling Attention is to be taken.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in every session they introduce this Bill without eliciting opinion thereon...(Interruptions) My submission is that first of all views of all should be ascertained...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is that why the Government want to create pandemonium in the House by introducing this controversial Bill time and again on which there is no unanimity in the House...(Interruptions) Why the Government do not want to have consensus on it?... (Interruptions) My submission is that consensus should first of all be arrived at on such issue...(Interruptions) Wrong tradition is being established in the House that frequently unnecessary uproar is created in the House...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is that Bill? Will you tell us about that Bill?

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : My submission is that there is no consensus on the Women's Reservation Bill, that is being introduced, in the House. So this Bill should not be moved in the House...(Interruptions) First of all consensus should be arrived at on the Bill...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You may strongly oppose the Bill when it is introduced. However, please do not say anything at present.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there will be unnecessary acrimony over it. So please withdraw it...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I submit inclusion of the following items in the next week's agenda:-

1. Pushkar is an important pilgrim and tourist centre in Ajmer district. The Government have approved the plan for connecting this pilgrim centre to Ajmer via rail but the work in this regard have not commenced. So there is need to start immediate work for connecting Pushkar with Ajmer.
2. As per the present situation and requirement, there is need to amend the Dargah Act, 1954 that was formulated for the administrative maintenance of famous Dargah Sharif of Ajmer...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, I have already called him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am standing for a long time...*(Interruptions)* My submission is the Chair has repeatedly stated that submissions are being made for inclusion of items in the next week's Agenda. In this connection I want to further mention that in the last Session also need for evolving of consensus on 50th Amendment Bill was emphasised upon...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : There will not be general consensus but there will unanimity...*(Interruptions)* Shri Prabhunath Singh ji is right...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Shri Mulayam Singh ji, please listen to me also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh ji, please listen his views also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Whether it is general consensus or unanimity, but it was decided in previous Session that since it is a constitutional amendment so the Women's Reservation Bill will not be passed by simple majority. Therefore, the entire House will be taken into confidence and the views of all the political parties will be sought...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know whether views have been ascertained. If not, then the Bill must not be introduced and first the views of the political parties should be sought in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The time has not come for consideration. The discussion will be taken up after the Bill is moved next week. You have started discussion on it right now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, order has been issued that by the third of January, 45 thousand industrial units of Delhi will be sealed in which 8-10 lakhs...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is not 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Those will be closed down by the third of January...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am informing about the next week's agenda, and you have started 'Zero Hour'.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Bill has already been introduced. It is now the property of the House. Whenever it comes up for consideration, the political parties will express their opinions. There is nothing wrong in considering that. So, the Government should move the Bill for consideration and discuss that Bill...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : it is not listed for today. It is only to come during the next week.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Government intends to bring that Bill only next week.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : But Sir, it is the demand that we should all try to pass that Bill...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Okay, whenever it comes up, you may support it but not now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHAYAY : It has to be passed. We are becoming hypocrites day by day.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have given the notice for adjournment motion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I reiterate that the chance will be given in 'Zero Hour'.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : I will take only one minute. This is an important Bill. The Government is trying to introduce it. I think that the Bill should come before the House and it should be possible for all of us to evolve a formula which will not only satisfy the majority in the House, but all the parties in the House. There should be a Bill to find a formula. If there is a will to find a formula, it will satisfy Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and others also, and we can do it. I feel that it should come before the House. If we are talking about social justice, we should give social justice to ladies first.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It will come up only during next week. But the discussion has started now. That is the problem.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri Kharabela Swain. You may please mention the items, which you want to be included in the next week's agenda.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : I will mention, Sir.

Sir, there should be a full-fledged discussion in the House about the impact of imported goods from China on Indian small scale industry. There is not only industries' point of view which is involved here, but also consumers' point of view.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have given notice to include only two items.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Yes, Sir. I want them to be included. So, there has to be discussions on:

1. The poor performance of Indian sports person in the International meets; and
2. Railway Safety.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Keeping in view the power crisis and the drought condition in Madhya Pradesh, there should be speedy construction of sub canals on the left bank of Rani Awanti Bai Sagar Project and the construction of the canal on the right bank of the Dam is extremely essential from the point of view of its protection.
2. Narmada is a sacred River and companies like Shaw Wallace are releasing effluents into the river. It should be stopped and embankment should be constructed to protect the village from soil erosion which are located on the banks of the rivers and should also be useful for the pilgrims who hold river Narmada as sacred.

SHRI TARA CHAND SAHU (Durg) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the discussion on the severe famine condition

in Chhattisgarh should be included in the next week's agenda.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Non-payment of salaries for 18 months in HSCL and three or four months in IDPL and other PSUs like Burn Standard and others.
2. Right to work and education for all.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I would like the following items to be included in the next week's business:

1. The economic situation is serious in the country. As per mid-term appraisal of Ninth Five Year Plan, the growth will not be more than five per cent. The value of rupee is falling down. The trade deficit is increasing. The growth in the industrial sector, in the agricultural sector will not be what has been targeted.
2. The unemployment in the country is increasing by leaps and bounds. The number of registered unemployed youths has crossed fifty millions. The Central Government has imposed ban on recruitment in the Central Government Departments. This ban should be lifted so that the unemployed youths get employment in Central Government Departments; urgent steps should be taken to reduce the unemployed.

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (Trichendur) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Need to set up a project to make sea water into potable water to solve the drinking water problem in Tiruchendur Constituency in Tamil Nadu.
2. Need to set up a power project using tidal waves in Kanyakumari district.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Preparation of national plan for electric connection in all villages in the country by 2002.
2. Preparation of action plan of setting up a High School in all *Gram panchayats* in the country.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at least now you please give me the chance to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Not now, the item is not over yet. Just look at the list as to which item is being taken up.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You yourself had informed that opportunity will be given to in 'Zero Hour'. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Look, you please do not talk like this. Do you want to test my endurance?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you follow what is going on in the House?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. At the time of approval of 'Jal Nal Pukhan' scheme, the Government of India have issued GR for ten percent financing for the completion of public works. The revoking of GR and exemption of Public works.
2. Aurangabad, Manmad, Chandwori, Vadaki-Bhoi, Varn Korive, Manvau, Banhe Rakshas Bhavan, Bak sad road to be included in the national Highways.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Regarding giving approval to the fertiliser units proposed by Krishak Bharti Cooperative Limited in place of the Gorakhpur unit of the Indian Fertiliser Corporation Limited which is closed for ten years.
2. Regarding giving special package for the

revival of sugarmills of Eastern Uttar Pradesh which are on the verge of closure and the clearance of dues of the sugarcane cultivators.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of adjournment motion... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : To raise any allegation, you have to give a notice. You have not given notice.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : It should not go on the records.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It will not go on the records.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pappu Yadav, I will take a serious note of your conduct. I have been watching you from the very beginning.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : For this, you will have to give notice. Have you sought permission from the speaker?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Not now, please raise in 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I told you that the hon'ble Speaker have given you permission to speak in 'Zero Hour'. I will permit you to speak in 'Zero Hour'. Presently we are taking up Calling Attention Motion. Please do not interrupt now.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I do not know what you are doing. How the House will function if you behave like this. How can we conduct the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is the only way to check such things, otherwise what can be done.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You may speak but nothing is being record. Will you not listen to me.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Raghuvansh Babu your Adjournment Motion has been disallowed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : If it is disallowed then I request you to reconsider it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That will be done by the hon'ble Speaker. You should know that you are the leader of a Party. Presently the Calling Attention Motion is to be taken up and the time of the House is being wasted like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I have told you that you will be given chance in 'Zero Hour'. Presently I will not give you the permission to speak.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Last time the hon'ble Speaker had given me time to speak after stopping discussion on the Calling Attention Motion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will be given chance to speak after the Calling Attention Motion.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Earlier too the hon'ble Speaker had given him chance to speak after stopping the discussion on the Calling Attention Motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time of the House is being wasted. Please do not interrupt like this. Presently the Calling Attention Motion is to be taken.

*Not recorded.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Speaker, had taken up the 'Zero Hour' after stopping the Calling Attention Motion. You too can do this. It is a serious issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I did not say that the matter is not serious. The hon'ble Speaker has also informed and I have also said that the permission will be given after the Calling Attention Motion. You are a senior leader you should know that how will the House function if you behave like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can hold the House to ransom. The House will run as per the rules and regulations. Please keep in mind that if you behave like this, the House may not function.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : We, will not violate the rules but we will not remain silent...(Interruptions) Please listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have told you time and again. The hon'ble Speaker has told me.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Nagmani, you resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Nagmani, you resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What party do you belong to? The Leader of Rashtriya Janata Dal should control him.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Please tell me, when will you give me chance to speak?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have told you that the hon'ble Speaker has informed me to give you chance once the 'Zero Hour' starts

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : The Zero Hour will start after one P.M. then may I speak?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will be given chance when the 'Zero Hour starts, the Zero-Hour also starts at one P.M.?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are wasting valuable time of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilthaur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker the Zero Hour is for the other hon. Members. They are not allowing the House to function....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : A lot of time of the House have been wasted....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, who will protect Bihar?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Pappu Yadavji, I have to take your conduct in the House seriously. Are you not getting it? I have not spoken in English. I am speaking in Hindi.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Whether our rights will be protected or not? Our rights should be protected...*(Interruptions)*

12.30 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Nationwide Strike by Postal Employees

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Communications to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of nationwide strike by postal employees resulting in a lot of inconvenience to the people and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record now except the Minister's Statement. Shri Biswamuthiary, please resume your seat. I told you that this is not 'Zero

Hour'. The Calling Attention has started. Now the hon. Minister, please.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Pappu Yadavji, I have already said that you will get chance later on.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, three Postal Federations have submitted a notice on 06.11.2000 regarding going on indefinite strike from 05.12.2000 in respect of their demand letter, which includes two major points:-

- (i) Implementation of positive recommendations made by Justice Charanjeet Singh of Talwar Committee regarding Extra Departmental Agents, specially in regard of providing them status and pension.
- (ii) Demands for revising the pay scales and other financial benefits for the various groups of postal employees such as group 'D' employees, Postal/Sorting employees, Postman, Accountants etc.

The demands in this demand letter are identical to the demands raised by the Postal Federations in their notice for strike dated 2.5.2000. At that time the action had been taken according to the agreement signed between the department and Federations. The demand for providing status and pension to Extra Departmental Agents was looked into and was found that the recommendations of Talwar Committee were implemented in toto in December, 1998 and this was announced by the then Minister of Communications in the House. As far as the demand regarding the change in the Panel of Extra Departmental Agents by the Unions is concerned, satisfactory solution of this Panel is being carried out with the advice of Ministry of Law. Sufficient benefits were provided to the E.D. Agents in the package given by the Government in December, 1998. It includes the increase in their monthly allowance from 1.1.1996 to 28.2.1998 in the multiple of 3.25, time related continuity allowance to ensure annual increase in the allowance from 1.3.1998, 10 days leave in every six months, ex gratia payment was increased from Rs. 6000/- to Rs. 18,000/-. The permissible office allowance for E.D. Agents was increased to Rs. 50/- from Rs. 25/- and

*Not recorded.

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

to provide lump sum service termination allowance to Extra Departmental Agents as post employment benefits. In regard to the benefit package provided to E.D. Agents, it was estimated that Rs. 157.74 crore will be incurred for the payment of balance amount. The estimated additional annual cost of these benefits was Rs. 301.35 crore. Thus, the salary bill of E.D. Agents was increased by 69%. By providing so much benefits to E.D. Agents, the negative recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee report such as, reducing the size of extra departmental network, completely banning the recruitment on filling extra departmental posts, no increase in extra departmental foundation for ten years and reducing the highest age limit for extra departmental agents to 60 were not accepted.

The demands related to departmental cadres are of two types—first are those whose effect will be felt on postal department and second whose effect will be felt on the entire Government system because they are related to the recommendations of Centre's Fifth Pay Commission. Demand of additional HSG-I grade posts for postal and sorting assistants, special salary on passing the exam of Jr. Accounts Officer, to make sorters, Upper Division Clerk in accounts cadre and the demand for cadre review of the workshop employees are such matters which are related to the department and therefore, their effect is also limited. The action is being taken for its early solution. The demands for increasing pay scale of various departmental cadres and providing other financial benefits are related to Fifth Pay Commission. After receiving a written request from postal federations an enquiry for this was conducted by an inter departmental committee (IDC). After the inquiry of the report of inter-departmental enquiry committee it was found that three demands were related to the recommendations of Central Pay Commission which were either rejected by the Cabinet or for whom disapproval was registered at departmental anomaly committee/national JCM level. Therefore, no action is possible at present. The demand of the union is that the increase in the salaries of Postman should be made effective from 1.1.96. The demand of the Postmen was that their equality with CPO constables should be maintained. In reply to their demand they were provided higher pay scales. The increased pay scales of CPO constable was effective from 10.10.97. Since, the effective date of higher pay scales is sub judice, therefore any decision in this regard is not possible right now.

For the early disposal of pending demands of employees, a decision has been taken with the approval of Prime Minister that pending cases should be over to the group of Ministers which was constituted for considering the matters related to the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission. The group of Ministers have started discussions over this matter. In spite of the facts, the Postal Federations went for indefinite strike from 5.12.2000 without waiting for the results of these discussions.

Intensive discussions were taken place with the representatives of the employees, side on the recommendations of Central Pay Commission. The Government have undertaken sufficient revisions while implementing the recommendations. The agreement which was signed by the Government and employees side on 11.9.97 in this regard, includes the pay scales of S I to S-13 of group D and group C of Central Government along with employees of postal department. Despite getting sufficient financial profit due to implementation of the recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission by the Government, Postal employees and Federations keep on demanding for more and more revision on pay scales and other allowances. Since, a system is already exists there for the removal of anomalies therefore these demands can not be considered separately because its adverse effect will equally affect other departments as well. It is a well-considered thought of the Government that a final decision should be taken regarding implementation of the pay scales by the Government. Disposed matters should not be raised again. Whereas, the matter of anomalies caused due to changes occurred in same level or against the higher level can be sent to the Anomaly Committee constituted in this regard. The Postal employees have not used this forum till date.

As a result of implementation of the recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission the grades of departmental employees have been sufficiently revised in comparison to other departments. Along with group B Postal employee, Assistant Superintendent and Inspector, Stenographer grade II, Jr. Engineer, Accounts Officer, Deputy Manager and Driver group-I and Machine man were given higher pay scales. This way, favourable packages were announced for postal employees in general and in particular, its three important component, viz, postmen, group 'D' employees and group 'C' (operations) cadre at the time of implementation of the recommendations of the fifth pay commission. E.D. agents had also been given adequate benefits via orders issued in December, 1998.

During the last few days, the postal federations and the representatives of the unions attached to the Department had more than one meeting with the Members of Postal Service Board; Secretary, Department of Posts and also with myself in which detailed discussions over the logic of the opinion of the Government was discussed. I had three hour long meeting with them on 23 November, 2000. Thereafter, a written appeal was issued requesting them to leave the path of confrontation and withdraw the strike notice, so that a mutually acceptable solution could emerge keeping in view the available resources and other limitations. The Group of Ministers met on 2.12.2000 in which the demands of employees were discussed in detail. From then on, discussions are being held with the employees on a regular basis. I again called the representatives of the union on 4th December and had two hour long meeting. I repeated my appeal for ending the strike so that the difficulties to common man, arising from the strike are alleviated. Poor in the villages depend on money-order service and asked the union representatives to specially consider it. The Chief Labour Commissioner is making efforts to evolve compromise between the union representatives and officials of the Department as a part of his efforts to end the strike. The Chief Labour Commissioner also advised the three federations not to strike because their demands are pending with the Group of Ministers and efforts to reach at a compromise are continuing.

The Government employees including the Postal Employees have greatly benefitted from the decision of the Government on Fifth Pay Commission. These demands of the Postal Unions, which relate only to postal cadres and which have no bearing on rest of the Government employees, are already being considered positively and the Group of Ministers is also aware of it. Post Offices provide valuable service to the whole society. However people who are poor or belong to weaker sections or live in villages are worst affected as a result of postal strike. Therefore, I, through this august House, appeal the Postal Unions and employees to end their strike and come back to the negotiating table to find solution to their problems.

The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi had heard a Public Interest Litigation on 13.12.2000 on Postal strike. Keeping in view the difficulties being faced by the common man as a result of postal strike, the hon'ble High Court said that each person concerned with the issue should pay attention towards the difficulties of the common man. The

Hon'ble High Court had also ordered that Postal Service should be restored by 15.12.2000 and Government will be free to invoke all measures including Essential Services Maintenance Act to deal with the situation...*(Interruptions)* I said that the Government is examining the Court order and you are shouting shame, shame. These are not my words but the court's order...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

This is the court verdict...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete his speech.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The Chief Labour Commissioner has declared the strike by postal federations as illegal under the relevant provisions of Industrial Disputes Act and has requested them to withdraw their strike to restore normalcy. The Secretary (Post) met the union representatives on 13th and 14th December, 2000 and explained to them the order of the hon'ble High Court and again requested them to withdraw the strike and come back to work immediately. All postal circles have been given relevant instructions to explain the orders of the hon'ble High Court and its implication to the local union leaders and employees and request them to come back to work so that normalcy in postal services can be restored.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : The only thing to do is to end the strike, through mutual agreement.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Why do you shout? Your name will appear on television and radio. The Group of Ministers in its meeting of 14.12.2000 had considered the orders of the hon'ble High Court and has decided to take all necessary steps to restore the postal services.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you know that the Mover of the Calling Attention Motion will have ten minutes, and others will have five minutes. You can ask one clarificatory question. Shri Pappu Yadav is waiting.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I will not take more than ten minutes, Sir. Maybe, one or two minutes more.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Sir, the Government has declared a war against six lakh postal workers who went on strike since 5th December, 2000. Postal workers have not suddenly gone on strike. Sir, you would remember that in July, 1998, there were strike for eight days and the issue was raised on the floor of the House. The former Minister of Communications, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj made a statement on the floor of the House. She had also given an assurance to the effect that the pending issues of the postal workers, particularly of the extra-departmental staff, would be settled and Chiranjit Singh Talwar's Committee Report would be implemented. On the assurance of the Minister, all the Unions of the Postal Department withdrew their strike. Again, they waited for three long months. But that assurance was not implemented. Then, again they decided to go on strike in December. Again, an assurance was given and a Committee was set up vide O.M. No. 23106/98, dated 17.7.1998 and again 5.8.1998. That Committee also recommended it. That Committee was constituted and it has representatives from the Ministry as well as from the Unions.

There was an agreement signed by all the members of that Committee, but this agreement has not been implemented. The Minister, in his statement, has stated that the demands for status and pension of ED agents were examined, but it was found that the recommendation of Talwar Committee had been implemented in full and in final shape in 1998.

Sir, what was the main recommendation of Talwar Committee? The main recommendation of Talwar Committee was to give status to the Extra-Departmental postal employees, that is, the status of Rural Postal Employees, but this status has not been given to them. As regards pension also, the Government has not yet implemented the recommendation of Talwar Committee. The Minister has referred to the statement made in the other House by the then Minister of Communications, Shri Jag Mohan. There was an allowance called, Severance Allowance that was sanctioned, but nothing was done with regard to giving status to the Extra-Departmental postal employees and nothing was done to give pension to them as was recommended by Justice Talwar Committee.

Sir, it is not true that Justice Talwar Committee's recommendations have been implemented fully. When all the Federations decided to go on strike in the month of May, both the Senior Minister and the Junior Minister met

the representatives of the Unions and they also assured them that all the demands of the postal employees would be considered. They wanted four months' time and it was given to them. But during these four months, the Ministry did not find any time to implement the longstanding demands of the postal employees.

Sir, another agreement was also signed on 1.5.2000 assuring implementation of all agreed issues, preferably within four months and a Designated Officer was also appointed to deal with the issues of Extra-Departmental employees, like giving status and pension. So, the strike plan was dropped by the Unions when this assurance was given by both the Ministers. They waited all these months and as most of their pending demands pertaining to the Extra-Departmental employees as well as the demands of the Group 'C' and Group 'D' employees of the Department of Posts were not met, then in the month of November they decided to go on an indefinite strike.

When I was Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances, this Committee also recommended that all the pending issues of Postal employees—both extra-departmental and regular departmental employees—should be settled. Then, this Committee was assured by the Ministry that the issues relating to status and pension of extra-departmental employees would be looked into by the Talwar Committee and the recommendations of that Committee would be implemented. Even the recommendations of the Committee on Government Assurances have not been implemented by the Ministry of Communications. What they did was that they had referred this matter to the Group of Ministers. When was it referred? Since how long is this issue pending with the Group of Ministers? It is lying there for years together. There are the questions of anomalies and of giving higher grade to Group 'D' employees. We cannot compare Group 'D' staff of the Postal Department with the Group 'D' staff of other Departments.

At one point of time, the Minister had also agreed that their demands were justified. In spite of that, all these issues remained unsettled for years together. The Minister has referred to the judgment of the Delhi High Court. What he has stated in his statement is only one version of the judgment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, ask your clarification.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am coming to the question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have already taken 12 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I will conclude in two or three minutes. What Delhi High Court asked is also very relevant. We find it necessary to point that out: "We are surprised to find that the respondents have not sorted out the anomalies and grievances." He has not referred to that portion of the order of the Delhi High Court regarding the anomalies and grievances which had been presented by the employees: "No final decision appears to have been taken. The decision, if not already taken, shall be taken within one week from today."

He has not indicated in his statement when he is going to take a decision in regard to the pending demands of the employees. Has he asked the State Governments to invoke Essential Services Maintenance Act? When ESMA was being enacted in 1981, he opposed it tooth and nail. What was his contention?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you ask a question now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have gone through his speech. He said that this would be misused against the trade union movement. But today, after becoming a Minister, he has forgotten what he had stated when he was in the Opposition. Today, he is misusing this Act against the working class, that is, the Postal employees. He has declared their strike illegal.

The issues are pending since 1997 and not from the date when the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission were implemented. Even prior to that, a question was asked in 1995. An assurance was given during that year that their demands would be considered.

13.00 hrs.

What action the Government has taken to mitigate the grievances of postal employees? I would like to know from the hon. Minister to tell us about the status and about granting 50 per cent pension as per the recommendations of the Talwar Committee. This was also recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission. I would like to know what action he has taken to implement the recommendations of Talwar Committee with regard to the status as well as with regard to pension.

When a Committee was constituted at the instance of the Government...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please ask your question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There was an agreement between the representatives of the Government and the representatives of the Unions...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please put your question, Shri Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will implement the agreement which was arrived at within the representatives of the Government and the representatives of the Unions. As the hon. Minister has declared the strike illegal, I would like to know whether he is going to withdraw that order.

There is another version to this where the Delhi High Court has also asked the Government to concede the demands and to settle the grievances of postal employees, including extra-departmental staff. I would like to know what action the Government propose to take with regard to the implementation of the Delhi High Court's Order.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I will not take even a few seconds more than the time allotted to me. I will never exceed my time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are now under test, let me see.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : The Statement of the hon. Minister is full of contradictions. In the first instance, he has said that Justice Talwar Committee's recommendations were fully implemented in 1998. But again when they gave a strike notice on May 2, he said the Government wanted four months to resolve.

13.03 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Why the Government has not settled at that itself when all the issues have been settled? Why they again wanted time of four months when strike notice was given on 2nd May? This shows the callousness on the part of the Government. It has been more than four months and the Government has not taken any action on this. It is inaction on the part of the Government. What is wrong on the part of the postal employees to go on strike when the Government is not forthcoming to settle their issues?

Sir, they must have sympathy towards the employees. They reach every village to deliver letters. The Extra-departmental (ED) agents are being paid meagre salary.

[Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi]

The poor people do not have any fax machines or courier service or e-mail, etc. India is a poor country and these ED agents are poor people. Unless you resolve these, many of the pensioners, I am told, would not receive their money orders.

There will also be starvation death. I am telling you this today. You resolve it. Today is the final date that the Court has given. The courts are not necessary. The Government is supreme. The Government must have a will. You must exercise your will not by way of ESMA. ESMA is not a big thing. You can hang a sword on anybody's head. It is not that difficult. But the Government should not talk about ESMA and all these things. The Government is on a bigger pedestal. The poor postal employees are on a very, very sorrow ground. I know their working conditions. I attended several of their meetings. Most of them are very, very poor people. That is why, there was no age limit. You said that the Talwar Committee fixed all the conditions that have been suggested. They have suggested 60 years as the retirement age. Why have you not implemented? You should have implemented it. You should have given some more orders to the younger people. That itself says that you have not implemented Justice Talwar Committee's Report. This is my first point.

Secondly, you have not acted in time. When they have said on 2nd May that they are going on a strike, you asked four months' time to resolve all those things. The Government again failed. You have not resolved that within four months. Now, you are again threatening them with ESMA. What else could I say on this issue? You must have a big heart for the poor people. I am not talking on the basis of politics. I am talking on a realistic basis. You must be realistic. You must solve this. Otherwise, the very poor people will not get their money orders.

The last date of receipt of applications for examination in Sainik Schools, IITs and in many other schools is 31st December. Many people have applied. If they do not receive the applications, one academic year has gone. So, kindly advise the Defence Minister also to extend the last date for receipt of applications in all the Sainik Schools from 31st December to 31st January so that, at least, the boys do not suffer for your inaction. Kindly take this into consideration. Do your best. Today is the last date. The hon. Minister is very generous in many ways. I know you are very generous. You have given several concessions for

several people....(Interruptions) I am talking about that. You are generous. I say our hon. Minister is very generous. I know him personally for the past 10 years. He is very generous. His concern is for the Dalits. His concern is for the poor people. His concern is for the common people. Then, why are you not acting? Kindly act in time. Kindly resolve this by this evening. You call them and do justice to everybody. Thank you very much.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, we, in this august House, either listen to long lectures which are given to us either by court or by court orders or we are told about how bad the situation is. But what about the remedial measures that should be taken up also for a change in this country? Is the Government totally insensitive to all the major issues that ail our country? Whether it is drought, whether it is flood, whether it is the farmers' issue, the insensitivity of the Government to all these basic problems is something which is abysmal low and very, disappointing to say the least.

As far as the postal strike is concerned, both the hon. Members senior to me, have already spoken about how to bring about a solution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You ask questions first.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Yes, I would. I think I would like to say a few things before that. So, it is the duty of the Government to look after the basic needs of this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no need of a speech please.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : The ESMA could have been brought into focus if this strike was declared illegal from day one. The hon. Minister knows that the strike was illegal. Since 12 days, why did they not invoke the ESMA? After all, this Act was passed in Parliament. We expected that, at least, the postal strike could have been taken care of by bringing in ESMA.

The second most important thing is that many important people and as well as poor people who have made it the hard way, have lost their employment in India and abroad because of lack of postal services. Now, I feel that the Government must have a specific and workable plan to deal with this postal strike. Like they have a plan for telecommunications, they can also have a plan for the Postal Department.

They could lay down a positive and a specific work plan for the Postal Department and secondly, the Government must increase and introduce new technology in order to increase the productivity. I feel that this is more important because with six lakhs of workers on strike and three lakhs of people not getting employment, I would request the hon. Minister to take a sympathetic view about these people who have been out on the road and more so the common man who has also been suffering a lot for the last ten days.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : I call the attention of the hon. Minister to this serious issue. Six lakh postal workers are on a nation-wide strike, perhaps, for the last ten days. The entire postal communication system in the country has totally collapsed. Young men and students are getting frustrated and among the people of the whole country there is a controversy as to how the Government would solve the problem.

I think after joining the NDA the hon. Minister has forgotten his past. I do not want to remind him, but he mentioned earlier in this House and even outside that he was for the Dalits, that he was advocating the cause of the Dalits. So many people of the backward classes are working in the Postal Department. He is making a statement today because a Calling Attention Motion has been admitted by the hon. Speaker.

But I do not know what were the reasons which refrained him from making a statement before the House earlier when the House was in Session. What was going on and what were the problems being faced to end the stalemate?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to the point. Do not make a speech.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : I want to ask four questions. May I know from the hon. Minister, what are the reasons...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the industries are being closed.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why I ask you to come to the point.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : I am only asking questions....*(Interruptions)* Shri Khurana also put the questions....*(Interruptions)*

My first question is, what are the reasons which allowed the Government to declare the strike illegal neglecting Parliament, without seeking the approval of Parliament when it was in Session?

My second question is, whether the hon. Minister has concealed some relevant portion of the Delhi High Court order. The hon. Delhi High Court gave a direction to the Government to come forward and end the stalemate, to negotiate with the employees' union and settle their charter of demands forthwith within 48 hours. I do not know whether the hon. Minister had refrained from complying with the order of the Delhi High Court.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri G.M. Banatwalla.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : My third question is, whether the Government refrained from positively implementing the recommendations made by the Justice Talwar Committee regarding the pensions and other facilities of the extra-departmental employees of the Postal Department.

My fourth question is that this is not a new demand; almost all the demands have been made by six lakh workers who are on strike.

Your predecessor, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj and hon. Prime Minister, both of them, had assured the House that they would settle the issue and solve the problems; that they would give all the facilities, which have been demanded by the postal employees....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only Shri Banatwalla's speech would go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the reply of the hon. Minister is a master piece in evasion of issues. The issues that are there have not been touched at all. It is a master piece in evasion of issues. There is a reference, for example, to the observations of

*Not recorded.

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

the High Court; but there is no reference whatsoever to the strictures of the High Court with respect to the insensitiveness of the Government to the demands of the postal employees.

Sir, I have here with me the extracts of those observations, but time may not permit me to place them before you. This Ministry is an insensitive Ministry. We have an experience that even regarding our constituency matters, when we place a number of points and demands, we are told that everything is according to the norms and the things are rejected. We have such a Ministry here.

The strike that is there now has not come up suddenly. The Talwar Committee gave its recommendations in 1997. A strike was called in July, 1998. The hon. Prime Minister intervened then and assured this House that within one month, all the problems will be solved. Even the hon. Prime Minister's words were not carried out by this Ministry.

Again, on the 4th April, the hon. Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan thundered in favour of the postal employees. But, then, he slept again on his thunder. The notice of the strike was given in May, 2000....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Banatwalla please conclude. What is your question?

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I will come to the question. Please do not be restless. I know the time that is with me. So, please do not be restless.

Sir, we are considering the plight of the very poor people who are working hard. The Extra-Departmental employees, 50 per cent of the total strength of the staff, are getting hardly less than 50 per cent of the wage to which they are entitled, as compared to other employees.

Sir, on 1st May, there was an agreement between the Government and the postal employees. Then, the postal employees were assured that within four months the agreement would be fulfilled. What has happened to it? There is no reference whatsoever in the evasive reply. My question is: what were the agreed issues of May this year? You number them and tell us. Please do not evade what were those agreed issues; tell us how did you and how

far have you implemented those agreed issues? You have failed to implement those agreed issues. What are the reasons for the same?

Sir, here, in the evasive reply, nothing has been mentioned about the Talwar Committee's recommendations on status, pension, etc. It is a reply that stoops to the level of incorrect statements also.

I would like to tell the Government not to think in terms of repressive and suppressive measures. Please do not think in terms of repression and suppression. People appreciate the work of the Extra-Departmental Employees. They do difficult work in remote places.

Now, money orders are being denied.

The revenue stamps are not there. All sorts of difficulties are being faced by the people.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : In Calling Attention, there is tradition of asking questions and not of making speeches. Shri Ramdasji, why are you standing up, please sit down.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, we are being told that the Group of Ministers has decided to ensure that all necessary action is taken to restore the postal services. Do not be insensitive to the inconveniences of the people. *Ad hoc* measures are not going to restore the postal services in full. We have experimented that earlier. Those measures have failed. Resolving all the demands of the postal employees is the main crux. You see to it that the people are not inconvenienced in the matter of postal services.

Let us, therefore, know what were the agreed issues of May this year and how did you implement them. The fact is that they are not implemented. The Government goes back on issues and assurance...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, we are having this strike.

This Government is so insensitive that there is no positive indication to the postal employees to pave the way for the withdrawal of the strike also. Such insensitive attitude should not be taken and let us know what positive indication the Government wants to give in order to meet this particular situation....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Hon'ble Minister is replying on a very important issue. Please sit down.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Only those hon. Members have the right to speak whose names are there in the calling attention motion. Other can not speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name is not there.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to the hon'ble member who has raised this important issue through the Calling Attention Motion and gave me the opportunity to place before the House the factual position in this regard. The Hon'ble Shri Chakarvartiji had asked that why I did not give the suo-motu statement when the parliaments's session is on. You are aware that the strike began from 5th and since then parliament was not functioning. The issue was raised when the normal functioning started and I remained present in the House for two days to express my views on the issue with the permission of the Hon. Speaker...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You were not replying. You could have risen to speak, but you did not respond...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down and listen to the reply of the Hon. Minister.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The Hon'ble Speaker announced that the calling attention motion has been accepted. That's why yesterday the hon'ble members also did not raise the issue because you were aware that the calling attention has been accepted. Therefore, I am surprised by your raising the issue again as I am one of those who never indulge in politics as far as the issues concerning the employees are concerned and will never do so even in future. Shri Basu Deb Acharia is a witness to all this...*(Interruptions)* at least it lightened the mood of the House and put a smile on the faces of the Members. Shri Basu Deb Acharia is a witness that when I was Labour Minister, to day I proudly claim that in the capacity of Labour Minister, I introduced a Bill in Rajya Sabha on workers participation in management and I always used to request my communist brothers to get it passed since the Government is ready.

At that time you were saying that let the ruckus be created on this issue. Thereafter the Bill would be passed. Why are you giving it without being demanded. Then

the Government bowed out...*(Interruptions)* I can surely state that Shri Mukherjee and Shri Chaturanan Mishraji...*(Interruptions)* I can tolerate anything but I can not swallow the allegation that I am anti labour. I can cite example of casual labourers of Railway Ministry. Regarding the issue of casual labourers in Railway Ministry, you used to argue with me and I used to call my officers to sort out the issue. In the present capacity also I try to cooperate with the workers as much as possible be it the issue of providing telephones to class-III or class-IV employees or the safai karamcharies of the ministry of communication. We are also worried as much as you are. I not only held discussion with the Union Leaders of Postal Department but also the Union Leaders of the other departments in this regard. I asked them to make them understand the logic. Everybody who read their charter of demands stated that their demands are not legitimate so why they are bent upon strike in the country. You have also mentioned their demands. I would like to thank you for mentioning their demands. These are the same demands which Shri Banatwallaji was mentioning and which were raised during the month of May also. You also dropped the name Shrimati Sushmaji. She gave statement in the Parliament on 16th and 17th July in the capacity of a Minister. The settlement was arrived at on 17.12.1998 which was called full and final settlement. I discussed this with my employees also. They stated that they did not say so but perhaps the Department had termed it full and final settlement. I have with me an appreciation letter from the employees of my Department. The letter is of the Union and is dated 18th Decemeber 1998.

[English]

"We appreciate the considerable progress in the resolution of demands on which the postal employees representing NFPE/FMPU and other recognised unions/associations have gone on strike during July 1998. Keeping in view the *suo motu* statements of the Minister of Communication in Parliament regarding the package of benefit for the extra-departmental agents and the finalisation of the reports of the Committee set up by the department regarding the upgradation of pay-scales for different cadres in the department, which has figured in the 10-point charter of demands for strike in July 1998, we the undersigned representing various postal staff unions hereby withdraw the notice dated 7.12.1989 of two days strike on 21st and 22nd December, 1998."

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Please read the last line also.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am reading.

[English]

"It is hoped that the administration will ensure speedy action for implementation of the outstanding issues....."

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What would they do if it has not materialised...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You have placed your views, now please listen to me. I stated that they have appreciated the Government...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are a very senior Member. Please take your seat...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Now come to their demands. I am going to read out the list of their demands. They have three types of demands. One of their demands is related to E.D.A. (Extra-Departmental Agents) and the EDA also has three demands. One of their demands related to Nomenclature. Our colleague Shri Murtiji was stating that there are some contradictions. Shri Banatwallaji also stated that an agreement was arrived at. There are some contradictions regarding nomenclature. It is right that after full and final settlement, we would not like any confrontation in this regard. In this backdrop the Law Ministry rejected it. The Law Ministry clearly stated that nomenclature will not be changed. Thereafter we discussed the issue and observed that 90% of E.D.A. belong to Dalit community and so far as their demands are concerned, we have always considered their legitimate demands. All the political parties have justified their demands not only in the past but at present and in future also their legitimate demands will be considered. But why these demands were not fulfilled during the regime of previous Governments?...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : If the demands were not met at that time, you may fulfill them now...(Interruptions) Since you are in office, we will ask only you and who else will be asked...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The Congress was also in power. The Government was also formed with you

support...(Interruptions) If you would have wished in 1998...(Interruptions) Therefore, I would like to state that though their demands are justified but the Government have limited resources and funds. They are having two kinds of demands. One is where funds are not required to fulfil it and other one is internal demand of my Department. Even if the funds are required, we are ready to fulfil them immediately. Shri Bhattacharya and Shri Pillay ji met me yesterday morning. They stated that they want to change in the nomenclature and suggested another one. I immediately telephoned the Law secretary and the Secretary of the Department Shri Soomji and directed them to change the nomenclature.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What is the new name?...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The name will be declared when the file is withdrawn...(Interruptions) Similarly they suggested to depute an officer. As per the agreement arrived at in consultation with the Law Ministry on 1.5.2000 the issue of nomenclature of Extra departmental Agents should be reviewed. We accepted that demand. They demanded nomination of an officer who will exclusively consider the matters related with the extra departmental agents. We did that. They also stated that the issue of pensions to E.D. Agents should be examined in consultation with the competent authority. Now it is clear that E.D. Agents are not only in our department but they are in other departments also like railways etc.

So far as the issue of their pension is concerned, we have already said that we will make some arrangement in this regard under Social Security Scheme. Nevertheless if we will implement it for some quarter irrespective of the reasons and the list is already there, we will be opening the Pandora's Box, and it will certainly have repercussions at other places. I had said it at the very outset that we are unable to consider those demands which might have repercussions outside my own Ministry. Those issues are being looked into by the group of Ministers whereas I am here to look into only the internal demands pertaining to my Ministry. We have already fully accepted two out of the three demands. The third demand which is concerning three lakh nine thousand employees has been accepted upto eighty per cent. Despite all this, they are continuing the strike and claim that they are oppressed. Who are those leading them?...(Interruptions). They will not bother if the service of some one is terminated. They will not be bothered at all.

Let me first complete. There are 3 lakh 9 thousand departmental employees of EDA. The first demand of those employees is that if a Postal Assistant has cleared the examination of Accountant, he should be given special pay scale. The Government conceded this demand. Their next demand was that the ten per cent of HSG-II employees should be upgraded to HSG-II. The Government accepted this demand too. Their yet another demand was that the sorters of Postal Account Cadre should be promoted to the post of LDC. This demand was also accepted by the Government. They further said that there should be a cadre review to increase the Salary of Motor-Mail Service Staff. At this, we told them the cadre-review was underway. They added that the salary of the Postman should be brought at par with the salary of constables and that the same should be implemented with effect from 1.1.1996. To this we said that the Fifth Pay Commission was constituted in 1996; earlier the pay scale of the constables and the postmen used to be similar. Now the pay scale of the Postman has been downgraded whereas the pay scale of the constable has been upgraded. This matter was referred to the Government. Our Government decided to bring them at par. The scale of the Postman was brought at par with the scale of the constable and it was effective from the same date of 1997. Now the association of the Postmen claim that this scale should be implemented from 1.1.1996. They have also filed a case in the Court. The matter is subjudice. If the court decides that the said pay scale should be implemented from 1.1.1996 then in that case the Government will do it. But if the Court decides otherwise, the Government will not do it. If the Government implements it at this stage, it will tantamount to contempt of the court. I believe that the House is a Supreme decision making body. This matter is pending in the court, so how can the Government take it up. Besides, there are also other issues relating to TOBP and BCR and Grade-D. They say that those who are working under Postal department have a separate nature of work and therefore they should be given a separate scale. They argue that the peon of the postal department should get higher salary than the peon working in the office of the Prime Minister as the nature of their work is different. We told them that if that is the situation, let all Trade Unions sit together and prepare a list of skilled and semi-skilled employees separately. But the problem is that there is no single leader in the Union. No body speaks due to disputes. Everybody thinks that the matter is genuine but we do also know that there are skilled staff and the staff who do administrative

work. Nobody is ready to bifurcate them. Similarly, there are five scales from Grade-I to Grade V. They argue that there should not be Grade-I and there should only be Grade-II to IV and VI. Their issue is concerning the demand of increasing the Salary of Stenographer as also increasing the salary in dispatch rider. Both these matters have been referred to JCM. Both the parties put forth their views and there was a disagreement. They also know and we also know that fulfilling their demands is not possible. Still, I said that the Government has not rejected it. They should accept whatever they are being given. G.O.M.—the group of ministers is considering their demands. On the contrary, they are creating a crisis throughout the country in pursuance of their demands which I think neither the House nor anybody else would appreciate.

If you ask me I can tell you as to why such agitation takes place every two years...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the Hon. Minister conclude his speech.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, so much time has already been taken on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Khuranaji, Let the Hon. Minister make his reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you not listening to the reply? You belong to the treasury benches, please allow the hon. Minister to make his reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, one hour and forty minutes have already been spent on this topic...*(Interruptions)* Industrial units are being closed down in Delhi. When will you allow a discussion on that topic...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you want that the hon. Minister should not make his reply?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : If they want to walk out, they can do it, otherwise he should listen to my speech. ...*(Interruptions)* He referred to Talwar Committee...*(Interruptions)* How much they were getting before the recommendations of the Talwar Committee. Before the implementation of the recommendations of the Talwar Committee, they were getting from Rs. 770 to Rs. 1142 and

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

now they are getting Rs. 1884 to Rs. 3637...(Interruptions)
You alleged that the Government did not do anything in regard to the report of the Talwar Committee. I would like to inform you...(Interruptions) You first listen to me. Raghuvansh Babu is sitting here. If the Report of the Talwar Committee is fully implemented, then in that case the Government will have to go for down-sizing...(Interruptions)
According to the Talwar Committee report, there is a ban on recruitment and opening of E.D. offices. The retirement age is 60 years. Those who are 3 years behind their retirement may be retired. But the Government has accepted only the Positive Points and has left the negative points.

You were referring to 'ESMA'. I did not suggest imposition of ESMA. This is the order of the Court. Khuranaji says that it is Government's stand. The Court order runs into one and a half pages which I shall read out if you so desire...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the hon. Delhi High Court had also directed the Government to resolve the issue...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, even today I say that I can talk to the hon. Members on this issue if they so desire. Any hon. member who comes to me to discuss it I am ready to discuss it with him. I can assure you this much. I do not want that the work in the country should come to a stand still. I do not want that the poor-whether they are government employees who are to get their dues-should suffer.

I must say that politics should not be allowed to come into play in it but there is open politics there and the poor people are facing inconvenience....(Interruptions) I feel insulted...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Zero Hour will start. But before that Shri Yashwant Sinha can introduce...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we are not satisfied with the reply given by the hon. Minister and we are walking out in protest.

13.46 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI (Salem) : Sir, on behalf of the ADMK, we are also walking out.

13.47 hrs.

At this stage, Shri T.M. Selvaganapathi and some other hon. Members left the House.

13.47 hrs.

NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I introduce the Bill.**

13.47½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE: NATIONAL BANK FOR
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 15.12.2000.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

13.48 hrs.

WATER (PRESERVATION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION)* CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Water (Preservation and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Water (Preservation and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977."

The motion was adopted

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I introduce the Bill.**

(Translation)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, how this notice has been issued... (Interruptions) Why you are not calling me, why my name has not been called.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Khurana Sahib, your name will be called. Now I have called Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav. Zero hour issues are going to be raised, thereafter I will call you.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Before calling honourable Pappu Yadav, give two-three minutes time to Khuranaji, Pappu Yadav is likely to speak for a longer time....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Chairman, Sir I would like to give you an information with a sense of sorrow. In this very house honourable Shanta Kumarji had given a statement on a question in regard to the farmers of Bihar. He had said that 19 purchase centres have been opened in Bihar and 30 purchase centres are going to be opened and the Union Government is ready to open as many purchase centres as would be sought by the Bihar Government. I don't know whether more purchase centres have been opened but what I know is that 19 purchase centres have

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 15.12.2000.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

been opened commissioner-wise. But the management of the Food Corporation of India and of other concerned departments have written to the Government of India that procurement of paddy in Punjab is taking place because the moisture content allowed for procurement of paddy in Punjab is 8 per cent whereas the same is 3 per cent in Bihar. Till it is allowed 8 per cent in Bihar, not a kilogram of paddy will be procured by F.C.I. or any other agency.

There are double standards in this country. Whereas there is enough electricity, high fertile land and tube-wells. So Punjab has got all the facilities. Bihar faces flood and drought throughout the year. Under the circumstances, the situation warrants that more quantum of standard paddy should be procured in Bihar. I would like to request that the Central Government should make arrangements to procure 8 per cent moisture content paddy....(Interruptions) It is a serious matter. Permission should be given to procure 8 per cent moisture content paddy. Bihar Government and Government of India are misleading the farmers of the country. It is a question of 8 crore people of Bihar. I have got the photographs and you please see these photographs that how the situation of firing arose there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : First you should show these photographs to the Chair.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : He is telling some thing wrong...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are in the panel of Chairmen, You sit down. Pappu Yadavji, You conclude your speech.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a day before yesterday, the farmer had staged an agitation. During the agitation several vehicles were set on fire. The legislators were lathi-charged there. The Police had to open a fire in the civil dress. I need your protection. On the one hand the farmers in Bihar are not given protection in the matter of foodgrains, on the other hand, they are fired at. Bihar Government have given a wrong statement that they have opened purchase centres. The Union Government have also given a wrong statement that they want to procure foodgrains. Arrangements should be made to procure 8 percent moisture content paddy. The Union Government should also make provisions to waive off loans of the farmers of Bihar. You should issue directives to the Bihar Government in regard to the incident of firing by Police. Let the minister reply here and tell us as to when the foodgrains from the farmers would be procured. Till the

[Shri Rajesh Ranjan Alias Pappu Yadav]

Minister submits his reply in this regard, I am not going to sit. When the Paddy of the farmers would be procured?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want from the Union Government?

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : When Paddy would be procured by F.C.I.? Let the whole matter be looked into. Conspiracy was hatched to murder. Lalu Yadav wanted to murder Pappu Yadav and others one-by-one by the Police. This matter should be probed. Shri Laxmi Narayan MLA was lathi charged...*(Interruptions)* I am not going to be calmed down...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Honourable members want to associate. Let them also speak.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Whatever Pappu Yadavji has said here, I support all that. Having associated myself with Shri Pappu Yadav I would like to submit that Bihar Government has been hatching a conspiracy to kill the people. A high level inquiry should be conducted into the matter. I demand that farmers of Bihar should be given all those facilities which have been given to the farmers of Punjab and Haryana...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Turn by turn I am giving the time to all of you. Shri Raghuvansh Babu, you sit down. You will also get the time. Now it is the turn of Shri Prabhunath Singhji.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Rajesh Ranjanji has raised the point and told us how double standards are applied to the farmers of Bihar. On the one hand one standard is being applied to farmers of Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and on the other hand another standard is being applied to the farmers of Bihar. Now the farmers of Bihar are on the verge of poverty. Here the Union Government has mentioned that they have opened 19 centres. I talked to the Commissioner in Bihar on telephone and I was told that the list of the centres to be opened has been lost. When the Commissioner says that the list has been lost, then where the centres have been opened and where produce of the farmers has been procured. Injustice is being done with the farmers of Bihar. Having supported the ideas of Shri Pappu Yadav I would like to submit that the Government should take it seriously and apprise this House of the fact that what are the locations where the Government are going to open purchase centres?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Union Government had assured that number of FCI centres would be increased from 19 to 33 and the paddy procured by PACS of the State Government would be purchased by FCI. But only four days ago FCI has given notice to the concerned banks and cooperative secretary that now they would not procure paddy from Bihar. If FCI agency fails to procure, then PACS will procure in the State. About 400 PACS have been activated in Bihar which have procured paddy and taking the same towards godowns of FCI but FCI is refusing to accept that. Under these specific circumstances. I through your good self, what to draw attention of the Honourable Minister and state that the above matter is a serious issue in itself. The State is passing through a period of crisis. Since the FCI is not procuring Paddy from PACS, the farmers were forced to open fire. People are staging protest in the state against this type of attitude of FCI. Government should pay attention to this matter.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the concerned minister is not present here but whatever sentiments honourable member has expressed here, I will convey the same to the Minister...*(Interruptions)*

13.58 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav came and stood on the floor near the table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pappu Yadavji, the Government have taken note of the information and it will be brought to the notice of the Minister concerned. Now please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through a notification eight to ten lakh workers working in the small scale industries in Delhi have been rendered jobless. The Delhi Government have issued a notification to close down these industries by 3rd January, 2001. I want to know as to what is the alternative to this? We all want that Delhi should be pollution free. This notification should be withdrawn as it has created panic amongst the factory owners in Delhi and the Master Plan of Delhi should be amended. This is my demand...*(Interruptions)*

14.00 hrs.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this matter relates to Delhi. On 18th November, 2000 the hon'ble Supreme Court passed orders to close down the factories spreading pollution in Delhi. But the Delhi Government have closed down those industries also which were not spreading pollution. Therefore, I request the Government to give ample time for shifting of the polluting industries and the factories which are non-polluting should not be forced to shift, they should be allowed to continue. The Master Plan of Delhi should be amended and about fifteen lakh workers and one lakh factory owners should be saved from ruining...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Whatever you are saying is not being included in the proceedings of the House. Your purpose would not be served by creating disorder in the House. Let the House be in order. Please do not interrupt the proceedings. You are an experienced member. There are certain rules to be observed in the House.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI : Sir, through you I demand from the Union Government that these people should not be uprooted from Delhi until alternative sites are provided to them and they should be given ample time to shift. This is my demand...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Government have taken note of the information and the points raised by you will be brought to the notice of the Minister concerned. Please take your seat now. The Government have taken note of the information. Please sit down. This is not Zero Hour. The Government can not be pressurised. The Government have taken note of it.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak on the issue relating to closure of about 45 thousand industrial units as a result of which these industries are facing a crisis in Delhi. I am of the view that time limit should be fixed for shifting of these industries...*(Interruptions)* I met the Union Minister in this connection a few days back and he had said that these industries should not be closed down until arrangement for alternative sites is made for these industries. If these industries are closed down all of a sudden then those people would be rendered jobless...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue of national interest for which

all the political parties...*(Interruptions)* Shri Goelji, he has called me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

14.02 hrs.

At this stage Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav went back to his seat.

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to raise a very important issue of national interest. I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can associate yourself with Shri Khuranaji on the same subject.

14.03 hrs.

At this stage Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav left the House.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have to say that the hon'ble Supreme Court has given several decisions in the public interest and many of these decisions were really very good. But now the question is that the decisions given by the Supreme Court either point to the incompetence of the Government or the Parliament or the Supreme Court is encroaching upon the rights of the Government or the Parliament. It becomes the responsibility of the Government to implement the decisions taken by the Supreme Court. Sometimes there are repercussions of such decisions. For example, lakhs of people would be rendered jobless in Delhi in the wake of implementation of the decision suddenly given by the Supreme Court to close down the polluting industries. We are not against closing down of the polluting industries. But a time limit should be fixed in this regard and ample time should be given to the factory owners for shifting and arrangements should be made for this purpose. Therefore, I submit that the Delhi Government should be held responsible for this because it could not do anything in this connection during the last two years. No arrangements have been made in this regard. The Delhi Government should be dismissed for its failures...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat) : Sir, My name has not been called to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only those members are being called whose names are there in the list. You will also get the time but all the hon'ble members can not be called to speak at one time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble members might calm down after they listen to me because I am going to vent their feelings. I want to raise this issue because our hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here.

About one and a half years ago our country and our brave soldiers fought the Kargil War in which more than 600 soldiers were killed and more than 1500 were wounded and the Government appointed the Subramaniam review committee which placed its report on the table of the House. Even after a lapse of one and half years the report on the Kargil conflict, which was an important issue for which our brave soldiers laid down their lives at an attitude of more than 17000 feet, has not been discussed in this House. Today the families of the Kargil martyrs are looking towards the Parliament and are beginning to wonder whether Parliament can not even discuss the report on Kargil conflict. I would like to request Shri Pramod Mahajanji that a discussion should be held on the report of the Kargil conflict review committee so that the country could come to know the reasons of the said conflict and the apprehension in the minds of the people could be allayed.

I would like to remind you that in 1962 China invaded NEFA and a strong voice was raised in the House as to who were the guilty men of 1962 war.

I want to know as to why are we not ready for a discussion in the House on the failure of the Indian Military Intelligence, RAW and other Government agencies. I hope that we shall be able to console those families who are waiting for a discussion on the report of the said review committee. A report has been published in a newspaper from Faridabad in which it has been stated that the family members of the martyrs, whose bodies, in coffins we had seen owing to the efforts of the T.V. journalists, are not being taken care of. Sir, through you I would like to urge upon the Government once again that there is consensus among the members of the House that there should be a discussion on the report of the Kargil review committee so that we could pay homage to the martyrs who had laid down their lives for the country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.40 P.M.

14.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty minutes past fourteen of the clock.

14.45 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at forty five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up Item No.15. Shrimati Maneka Gandhi. The time allotted is one hour.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to juveniles in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection, by providing for proper care, protection and treatment by catering to their development needs, and by adopting a child-friendly approach in the adjudication and disposition of matters in the best interest of children and for their ultimate rehabilitation through various institutions established under this enactment, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 enacted by Parliament to provide for care, protection, development and rehabilitation of neglected or juvenile delinquents has been in force since 2nd October, 1987. The Government felt that provisions of this Act were not addressing the issues of care and protection of neglected children adequately. The revision of the current Act has been pending for some time and a review of the Act and its implementation over the years revealed a number of deficiencies/shortcomings warranting extensive amendments in the Act. The Bill which is now before this august House for consideration is an attempt to make the judicial system more child-friendly and accessible to a juvenile or child or anyone on their behalf including the Police, voluntary organisations, social workers or parent and guardians throughout the country and provide for rehabilitation of the destitute child.

The present Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 is not in conformity with the International Conventions on the Rights of the Child ratified by India such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, 1995. These Conventions have prescribed a set of standards to be adhered to by all State parties in securing the best interests of the child. CRC being a subsequent development to the enactment of Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, it is essential that the Juvenile Justice Act is amended to bring it in conformity with CRC.

The Government consulted experts and knowledgeable persons in the field and based on the feedback, the present Bill was drafted for replacing the existing Juvenile Justice Act, 1986. As the review of the present Act by experts has revealed that large number of amendments would have to be made in the Act, it was decided to bring in a fresh Bill before this august House for replacing the present Juvenile Justice Act, 1986.

I would like to highlight the salient features of the proposed Bill which are as follows:

It would separate the Act into two parts – one for juveniles in conflict with law and the other for the juvenile or children in need of care and protection which will give the clarity and distinction in the treatment; the proposed Bill will make the justice system for juvenile/children more appreciative of the developmental needs in comparison to criminal justice systems as applicable to adults; it brings the juvenile law in conformity with the CRC; it prescribes a uniform age of eighteen years for both boys and girls as per Article 1 of CRC; it ensures speedy disposal of cases within a limited time period of four months; it spells out the role of the State as a facilitator rather than doer by involving voluntary organisations and local bodies in the implementation of this Act; it proposes creating several juvenile police units with a humane approach through sensitization and training; it would enable increased accessibility to juvenile or child by establishing Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees and Homes in each district or group of districts; and it contains effective provisions for various alternatives to rehabilitation and social reintegration such as adoption, foster care, sponsorship and aftercare of abandoned, destitute, neglected and delinquent juveniles or children as provided in Articles 18 to 21 of CRC.

I hope that with the enactment of the Bill, the children in need of care and protection will get a better deal. With

the creation of adequate infrastructure for the implementation of the Act with the involvement of informal systems especially the family, voluntary organisations and the community, our objective to treat the children in the best possible manner and to ensure that they get their rightful place in the society will be achieved.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to juveniles in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection, by providing for proper care, protection and treatment by catering to their development needs, and by adopting a child-friendly approach in the adjudication and disposition of matters in the best interest of children and for their ultimate rehabilitation through various institutions established under this enactment, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a true benchmark to judge a nation's progress is not its military strength, it is not the splendour of the cities but it is the state of the children, their health, their level of nutrition, the reach, and standard of education and the care and protection that the nation offers to its children, to the young growing bodies and minds.

The quality of succeeding generations would depend upon what we do for our children today. Children are our valuable assets. But, at the same time, they are also the most vulnerable sections of our society. Sadly enough, over 32 million children in India are today said to be engaged in labour.

Sir, they miss the joy of childhood to sweat and toil for a living. Restrictive provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 have failed to prove effective because of family poverty and lack of schools. What is alarming is that in many cases, children of tender age are forced to slog for over 12 hours in hazardous places like mines, factories, and garbage dumps. Such labour takes a heavy toll on child and destroys the natural urges of innocence and beauty in children. It leads to stunted development, both intellectual and physical; and leads to diseases which could prove fatal.

The environment of deprivation and economic compulsions at times forces a child to fall prey to unhealthy social influences and commission of an act which would tantamount to an offence under the law, would see him being branded as a criminal. It is not the company of

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

hardened criminals behind the prison bars but reformatory measures and humanistic approach towards such children in conflict with law which is the need of the hour today. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2000 seeks to provide for these measures. The effort is welcome, but, Sir, permit me to say that it fails to bring about desired improvements in the existing law which are necessary to deal with the appalling situation that prevails in the ground today.

As the hon. Minister said, this Bill does deal with two different categories of children. Firstly, juveniles in conflict with law, that is, those children who are said to have committed an offence; and secondly, children in need of care and protection, that is, those children who are abandoned or who are not taken care of or are exploited or abused. Sir, adequate provisions have not been made to deal with offences against the child. And that was the most important thing which we would expect to be incorporated in the Bill, when we have a new Bill, which is replacing the earlier law. It is only a few clauses dealing with such matters which we find tagged with the chapter which deals with the children in conflict with law. There should have been a separate detailed chapter dealing with the offences against the children. Sir, this betrays a comprehension of the gravity of the issues involved or in any case, a half-hearted approach to this problem.

Sir, we are painfully aware of the high incidence of child abuse. According to a survey, children below ten years of age account for 27 per cent of the rape victims in our country. What have we done for them? There are sordid forms of child abuse. But, our law at present, that is, the Indian Penal Code, does not recognise that.

According to law, if an act falls short of intercourse, that is, the legal requirement to prove rape, nothing would happen to the rapist excepting that he would be charged of outraging the modesty of the victim. Then, what a harrowing experience it is for the young child to have to narrate the entire lurid details of the incident before the Police or in the court to prove the charge against the rapist. It is not only frightening but it is also self-defeating.

This Bill ignores these important aspects of child abuse. I find an element of either complacency or ignorance while this Bill was being drafted, quite in contradiction to the hon. Minister's concern for these sensitive issues. Otherwise, how else would you explain clause 2(d)(vi) which qualifies child abuse with the adverb

"grossly" for the victim, to come under the category of the child in need of care and protection? This will only provide a leeway to the guilty to take shelter behind legal technicalities and evade action. The present Bill fails to lay down a satisfactory definition of the term 'abuse' and, therefore, fails to provide for commensurate penal action.

Sir, I would, very briefly, like to refer to *Encyclopaedia Britannica* which describes child abuse as follows:

"Child abuse, also called cruelty to children the wilful and unjustifiable infliction of pain and suffering on children. The term can denote the use of inordinate physical violence, unjustifiable verbal abuse, the failure to furnish proper shelter, nourishment, medical treatment, or emotional support; incest, other cases of sexual molestation or rape and the making of child pornography."

If the law does not provide or does not define child abuse on the lines that I have quoted from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, I think, our intentions to help the children in need of care and protection would not suffice, because ultimately when it comes to between the accused and the victim, it is the courts which interpret the law. The courts interpret it according to the strict letter of law and hardly do we find them interpreting it according to the spirit of law.

The incidence of child abuse, though high, is grossly under-reported, particularly when it relates to cases of incest and sexual abuse. It is overlooked even by the family of the victim child because of a perceived sense of shame it would attract if the incident were to come to light and in certain cases, we find that the poor parents of the victims are threatened and at times enticed with money and other considerations to drop out of the cases pending in courts finally leading to acquittal of the accused. For the child this trauma of the agonising assault refuses to heal and may, in many children, manifest in serious psychological problems later. This is what we have to really keep in mind and we ought provide for strict punishment for offenders against the children. This law misses out on that important provision.

Sir, in many cases like that of the helpless Ruchika, who was molested by none other than an Inspector-General of Police, the victims end up taking their own lives to escape the ignominy and harassment. Then, we all know that girls employed as domestic servants often fall victims to the lust of their employers. In such cases, coercion, intimidation and violence are used to obtain submission.

The exploitative environment and poverty are taken advantage of by the anti-social elements also to push young girls into prostitution. According to a UNICEF Survey, in India, children under the age of 18 years involved in prostitution number four to five lakhs. This figure is much more than any other country if my facts are not wrong. Concomitant to this is the danger of AIDS and other deadly diseases.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, the Bill brings, in its ambit, children who are involved in or are victims of armed conflict, commotion or natural calamities. Today, wars, civil strife and terrorism affect children the most. This is our sad experience. They are killed, disabled, orphaned and rendered homeless. The society owes much to them. Traumatized by the atrocities, their horrifying memories refuse to die.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, you can continue later.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I think, these are important matters.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. But you can continue later on. Now, it is three o'clock and we have to take up Private Members' Business. Now, Shri M.O.H. Farook.

15.01 hrs.

**MOTION RE: ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry) : Sir, I beg to move the following:

"That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 13.12.2000."

MR. SPEAKER : The questions is:

"That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 13.12.2000"

The motion was adopted

15.02 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS RESOLUTIONS

(i) Problems of Sugarcane Growers—Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up further discussion on the following resolution moved by Dr. Madan Prasad Jaiswal on the 1st December, 2000:-

"This House urges upon the Government to ensure payment of reasonable price to sugarcane growers by sugar mills within a week after supply of sugarcane and to take immediate steps for reopening the closed sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other major sugarcane producing States."

Now, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my speech on the resolution moved by Dr. M.P. Jaiswal in the House for consideration was incomplete. The resolution dwelt on the problem of the sugar cane growers of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other States and the closure of sugar mills which has further compounded the problems being faced by the sugarcane growers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, everybody is aware that after the division of Bihar the remaining part of Bihar has 19 sugar mills which are lying closed. Although, the sugar mills of private sector are running but the Government sugar mills are closed. Now the situation is that the only industry North Bihar has is, sugar industry when the country was producing 9 lakh tonnes of sugar the total sugar produced by Bihar was 3 lakh tones i.e. one third of total production of the country. Now the entire country produces 164 lakh tones of sugar, but Bihar is still producing 3 lakh tonnes of sugar. I discussed the issue with the Hon'ble Minister. Earlier, Bihar had second place in the country in the production of sugar now its rank has come down to fourth or fifth. Bihar is being neglected thoroughly. All the Members of the House were on their legs on the subject of farmers. The farmers of Bihar is not treated like the farmer of Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh but is being discriminated against. When the matter was raised in the House the hon'ble Minister was not present in the House Regarding the question of procurement of food grains such as paddy or maize but it is also a fact that sugarcane growers have also suffered. The sugarcane

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

growers suffered due to two reasons. Throughout the country Rs. 500 crore of farmer is outstanding against the sugar mills. The sugar mills are closed and the sugarcane produced by the farmers is not being procured. That is the reason why all the farmers are ruined. The Members like Shri Ram Nagina Mishraji, who hail from sugarcane producing areas, are aware of the conditions of farmers. We find that the Government is indifferent towards this matter. Not only indifferent but I would like to say that Government is anti-farmer. The Union Government have to see that if the State Government lags behind in helping farmers then it should come forward to help but it is not happening. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister and the Government to come forward to help farmers because the State Government is not capable of it. Bihar is facing the revenue deficit of Rs. 3000 crores. As a result of this it will be difficult to pay the salaries of State Government employees. Therefore, how the development will take place in such a situation. Then what remains is agriculture and if the development of agriculture does not taken place then how the development of Bihar will become a reality. Out of 19 sugar mills three were referred to BIFR and three were in private sector which were taken over by the Government. Afterwards, the matter of transferring them back cropped up. No measures were taken for the rest 13 sugar mills.

Sir, the question of sugarcane farmers was also debated in the Legislative Assembly. Now the State cabinet has decided that those sugar mills should be privatised through IFCI, through joint venture or by giving on lease. It means in any case the sugar mill should be reopened. The Government should convene the meeting of the Minister of Bihar Government, officers and IFCU so that the mills could be reopened any how. If the Government makes arrangements in this regard then it will be a great help for the country, Bihar and the sugarcane growers. People say that the sugar mills have grown old because they were set up in 1930-32. Their machinery has become obsolete. Regarding modernisation, expansion and the crushing capacity of sugarcane, experts say that as long as the mills don't have the crushing capacity of 5000 tonnes per day they will not be viable. When the performance of one such mill was evaluated it was found that cost of producing one kilogram sugar is Rs. 400. Thus, the costing and the economics of the Government says that it will be better to keep the sugar mills closed as lower losses will be incurred in paying the salaries to labourers instead of sunning them. Now, in this condition the Government of

India should come forward and render assistance. Here constitution can be amended but the Government always give stereotyped bureaucratic reply that nothing could be done as if it is the gospel truth. There is a provision of providing loan by STFC but we don't have another measure besides that. Therefore, whether it is at the level of the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Finance Minister, Planning Commission or through giving any special package these mills should be modernised and revived at any cost to provide relief to farmers. Three sugar mills under BIC are lying closed. The issue of clearing of dues of by the sugar mills, under the Department of textiles should also be settled.

The Government should convene meetings of all the concerned officers of the Department of Food and Public distribution and Consumer Affairs Ministry along with IFCI to solve this problem. 15 days back, when discussion took place in this regard, we thought that it would have catapulted the hon'ble Minister but now it appears that it hardly had a bearing on him. I hope that after the completion of discussion today he will act fast.

15.10 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Therefore, it should be done with in 10-15 days. There are many sugar mills in the constituency of hon'ble Jaiswal and it will be a great step if you invite the other hon. Member, who hail from sugar mill areas, for discussion. Now, the population of the State is only 8 crore out of the total population of 10 crore of Bihar and that is not a small part either. If you make Statewise efforts then we can take loan from STF. The Government can take the help of ICI, IFCI etc. and if needed can also pressurise the State Government and also take lead in reopening the sugar mills there by doing all this the Government will benefit the country, society and farmers.

Firstly I would like to say that closed sugar mills should be restarted at any cost and secondly the Government should enact same law for all the States of the country. When the people of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh raised a hue and cry then they got something when the people of Andhra Pradesh came out on the streets and raised the issue they were also given something. But the farmer of Bihar is compelled to burn paddy because the paddy is not being procured in Bihar. If they are discriminated against, then the farmer of Bihar will also be compelled to come out of the streets and if it happens so then its results will be disastrous... (Interruptions) Patna

has already been shaken now it is the turn of Delhi. Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Hukumdevji is our senior colleagues but kindly see his position in the Government. He is happy by becoming Minister of State under hon'ble Nitishji. The Minister of this Government are frequently reshuffled. Now, these people are in the Government and somehow saving their skin. I would like to submit that this Government is treating the poor, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and appressed classes like an enemy. Therefore, it is a grave matter, which cannot be tolerated.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that all farmers should be treated equally. Procurement is taking place in Punjab. Today, the farmers of Bihar has also produced 70-80 lakh tonnes of foodgrain and if it is not procured then you can imagine what will be the situation of farmers in Bihar?

Today, the sugarcane growers are also facing the similar situation. All the farmers are facing hard times whether it is sugarcane grower or potato, paddy or maize farmer. The Government should pull up the officers of both the concerned Department the farmers.

The condition of Bihar was bad even before division and it is not better even now. The process of the division of Bihar started after this Government came to power at the centre. At the time of announcement of Panchayat election the opposition leader of BJP making a lot of hue and cry. The opposition is saying what I had said earlier. The Government of India said that elections should be conducted the opposition also said that election should be conducted but under which law these elections should be conducted. There is no provision of reservations for village heads, women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Sometimes the opposition calls it contempt of court and sometimes it becomes anti-high court. The State government is following the diktats of the High Court and it is alleged the State government is against constitution. The panchayat elections could not be conducted there because this matter was pending with Supreme Court. It is being alleged that the Government of Bihar is responsible for it. By blocking the Rs. 500 crore of poor-State this Government is torturing the 10 crore population of Bihar. The people of Bihar sitting here are doing no good to Bihar. The Government of Bihar is not responsible for it. Even if we hold it responsible for sometime even then no injustice should be done towards the people of Bihar. There grant should not be cut because it is a crime against the people there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are also small sugar mills in your constituency. The farmers of the area are in trouble. They say that, they are not seeking jobs but only requesting the Government to restarts there sugar mills so that the sugarcane is consumed there for the benefit of the farmers. Concrete steps should be taken in this regard. A meeting of all concerned parties should be convened within 10 to 15 days in this regard and strict action taken. The Government should provide necessary assistance and revive the closed sugar mills in any case. Today, the sugarcane growers of Bihar are very much disturbed. An amount of Rs. 500 Crore due to be paid to the farmers, should be paid to them. 32 Sugar Mills have been closed in Uttar Pradesh and other Mills are also being closed. Please look into the reason behind such closure of mills. Recovery of sugar should be increased so that the sugar industry, sugarcane growers and the country could be benefited by this.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today's subject matter is very important and also very old. I remember that when you were Minister, we met you time and again in this connection. Thereafter, Raghuvansh Babu became the Minister of this Department. We told him the same story. This issue pertains to rural industries. Our rural farmer is very much connected with it. The Government hold full control of Sugar Mills, whether they are in the Private Sector, or co-operative Sector or Government Sector. The Government control all factors, when the farmer brings the produce to market, it is this Government which decide how the sugarcane is be sold. They decide the quantity of levy sugar to be given by the sugar mills, and quantity of sugar to be given in the open market and how will the system operate etc. This is a very old malady. Gauri Bazaar falls in my constituency. First, the mill in that area was closed, we are shouting since that time. We have been shouting in the Parliament time and again, but no solution has been found to this problem.

When an ailment continues for long, it takes the form of cancer. And then big operations are required to be carried to get rid of the same. I would like to make a mention of the Sugar Mills especially of eastern Uttar Pradesh in this regard. The same is the condition of sugar mills in Bihar. They are in a pitiable condition. So, we have given enough thought to this topic, some concrete action should be taken now. By saying merely as to where to get the funds is not going to serve any purpose. There are as many as 128 Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh. As per the

[Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi]

figures of 1996, an amount of Rs. 910 Crore was outstanding and is now Rs. 140 Crore. Many farmers are affected by this problem. Due to this, eastern Uttar Pradesh has become a pauper region. Those farmers have no other source to eke out a living.

Mr. Chairman Sir, there were a 29 sugar mills in Deoria and Kushinagar districts under my constituency which was the highest number in the country gradually all these mills have been closed. Today the sugar trade is becoming sick and the condition of sugar mills in Bihar is the same. In my constituency, there are sugar mills in Kathkuiaan, Padrauna, Sardar Nagar Gauri Bazaar, Deoria, Bhatni and Vetalpur. Out of them five sugar mills are in the private sector which are closed. If an assessment is made, then it will be found that the amount outstanding in my constituency is about Rs. 40 to 50 Crore. I am unable to understand as to how will my constituency be able to bear the evil effects of this outstanding amount of Rs. 50 Crore. This matter needs to be considered. An amount of Rs. 27 Crore's outstanding against Sardar Nagar Sugar Mill. This Sugar Mill is in the Private Sector. Sugar canes of the farmers have been given to the Sugar Mills at the instance of the Government, but three Sugar Mills out of these viz. Kathkuiaan, Padrauna and Gauri Bazaar were not being run by the State Government. They were being run by the Union Government. As such this is not a subject matter of state government, but the union government. They have now gone to the private sector and now under the consideration of the B.I.F.R. The Sugar Industry is not with the B.I.F.R. but with the Bureau of Financial Destruction. This sector is now under the consideration of the court, and no longer in the social sector. The public has no interest in it. It has been directed to first make payment to I.C.I.C.I. and I.D.B.I. and not to the farmers. This is the reason that we went to B.I.F.R. All these three sugar Mills have been taken over by M/s. Gangotri Enterprises. We talked to them, but instead of listening to us they said that this is a Court. I told them that the society is being affected by them and these sugar mills should be taken back from them. It is the question of system. Now the problem before us is that how to make payment of arrear dues to the sugarcane growers that is outstanding for last 4-5 years. In fact due to all this, firing took place in my area Padrauna. When firing took place, leaders of all parties, viz. Former Prime Minister Shri Devegowda, the opposition leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi etc. Immediately reached there and tried to make a political mileage out of it. We have been

struggling for this for the last five years and now all are asking the Government to make immediate payment of farmers' money. In fact this case is pretty old and has been given to us as a legacy. This did not happen during the tenure of our Government. But even then, it is the duty of our Government to check this Lapse. And there are two cases of this nature. First how to give Rs. 137 Crore to Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 40-45 Crore to my area, as it is an old outstanding amount due to be paid to them. This arrear is outstanding against the private mills, so how should it be paid to the farmers. Secondly there is a need for modernization and expansion of the mills among them which are running since a long time, say sixty years and are to be closed so that the modernized and expanded mills could be run in profit instead on loss. Sugarcane of farmers could be sent there and the payment could be made to farmers.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the hon. Minister is sitting here. Many a time this matter was discussed with him. Talks have also been held with the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in this regard. We had gone to the hon. Prime Minister also. But I feel that Hon. Minister will say the same thing that these mills belong to the private sector and are of the B.I.F.R., but no one thinks as to how the farmers' money could be paid to them. I have said time and again that the Government provide packages to the mills and invest money in one way or the other. The mills of my areas Sardar Nagar, Kathkuiaan and Padrauna belong to the private sector. The farmers affected by these mills should be paid money direct in the form of a package and they should be told that money would be taken from them even by selling the mills, even though they adopt some other method. Sugarcane growers have given their produce to the mills by the order of the Government. I agree that the mill owner is benefited by this but order was issued by the Government. So, the Government is involved in it and it should find some way out. I have not stood merely to criticise, but I am repeatedly making the suggestion that the entire amount should be paid to the farmers by the mill owners and they should be asked that they would make this payment, moreover it should be a time-bound method. And if they do not pay the amount within six months, the Government could recover its money by selling the mills. It's a difficult process and we all have to work on this. I think no one has this in mind, Raghuvansh Babu and several other hon. members are sitting here but no one has even thought that we should make a combined effort to pay farmers' money to them so that the injustice

being done to them for the last four five years is over. It is of no use to make a mention of the pitiable condition of farmers. We can only convince the hon. minister by describing their condition that is very urgent. So, I demand that the hon. Minister may kindly clarify the position with regard to payment of arrears by private mills which are outstanding since long and also indicate the procedure to be followed for the payment of this amount.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the second submission I would like to make is that an amount of Rs. 223 crore have been given for the modernization and expansion of 63 Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh, so I want to know whether expansion and modernization work of any of the mills in my district and constituency is being taken up. If it is so, then what amount would be spent for this purpose because perhaps not even Rs. One Crore, out of the amount released for the purpose, has reached my area, which has maximum number of mills. No modernization work is going on there. But we would be told that the Uttar Pradesh Government should send its proposals and the Union Government would help. But I want to know once more whether the Government would keep on waiting for the proposal when some areas are getting badly affected? Should the M.Ps not be called and asked as to which of the mills in their constituencies, are to be modernized. It should also be seen that those where the labourers and farmers are working hard should be modernized. Please make efforts to do this work within a time frame of 10 to 15 days, because a large number of persons are affected by this. People who are growing good paddy are not even getting a remunerating price for that. Payment of sugarcane is pending. So, the farmers in this way receive the blow from both the sides. Then why the farmer will be encouraged to boost the agricultural sector under such circumstances. I would repeatedly say that the farmer is being neglected. The hon. Minister may kindly tell us how to solve the problem.

*SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN (Gobichettipalayam) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I would like to thank you for providing me an opportunity to participate in this discussion on the Resolution that seeks to highlight the plight of the sugarcane growers who are not getting remunerative prices in time. I would also like to thank our dynamic leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the General Secretary of our party AIADMK who has provided me a golden opportunity choosing me a sugarcane growing farmer to represent the people of my

constituency in this House. I am a farmer who produces sugarcane every year to the tune of about thousand tonnes per annum. I am now a member in this House which has taken up today for discussion the plight of sugarcane growers. Both the Union Government and the State Governments are ignoring the plight of sugarcane producers and are hitting hard the sugarcane growers. Sugarcane farmers are punished hard for no fault of theirs.

Apart from not ensuring suitable remunerative prices Government have also kept pending in arrears the payments that are due to them. Even one year after the procurement by sugar mills the payments are not forthcoming and remain long due. What would be the plight of the farmer to go for the subsequent year's cultivation? They have no other go except to pledge and mortgage their properties and the jewellery of their wives and children. They are lying in the banks and farmers remain indebted and are a worried lot due to the debts and interest commitments. These Governments have allowed them to continue in the suffering of heavy indebtedness. When farmers' plight are like this they are not lagging behind and contribute their mite in increasing the agricultural production especially sugarcane. But the Government which continues to ignore them seeks to import sugar from foreign countries that gives a serious blow to the sugarcane growers of the country. I would like to point out that this is a very wrong policy adopted by the Government. This needs to be corrected. Import of sugar must be curtailed. It should be discouraged to encourage the sugarcane growers of the country.

Today we find our farmers pushed hard to run from pillar to post because they do not get adequate support from the Government. I would like to reiterate again that it was a very wrong policy that was adopted by this Government. The condition of the farmers goes from bad to worse. Their condition is becoming pitiable. They are thrown to the verge of becoming poverty stricken. These cash crop growers would soon become paupers. All over India the sugarcane growers are meeting with the same kind of problem of not getting remunerative prices that too in time. This affects the chain of cultivation and would affect greatly the agro economy of this country.

Whenever there is price rise, based on the rising price index, you are increasing the salary of the Government employees. But you continue to ignore the plight of the farmers who are also worst hit by the price rise. There have been several hikes in the price of oil products like petrol, diesel and kerosene. This has greatly affected directly or

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri K.K. Kaliappan]

indirectly the farmers and their families living in every nook and corner of our country. It is with a heavy heart I would like to point out that this Government has ignored the plight of sugarcane growers even after two years of assuming power. There in Tamil Nadu the Government led by Mr. Karunanidhi has not fulfilled the promises it has made during the elections. He had promised to give a higher price for sugarcane with 8.5 percent sugar content. But he has not fulfilled those promises and the ultimate sufferers are the sugarcane growers. Due to non enhancement of sugarcane prices and non payment on sugarcane procurement, the farmers' condition is becoming increasingly difficult.

Now there is no one to attend to the problems of the agriculturists in general and sugarcane growers in particular. The entire families of these sugarcane growers are working hard in the sugarcane fields. They ignore even the needs of their children and families. The children of farmers are working hard in the sugarcane fields like in the process of watering and irrigating the fields before they could go to their schools. Such hardships faced by the sugarcane growers are not taken note of and they are not amply rewarded for their contribution to the agricultural growth of this country.

The molasses a bye product that is available in the sugarcane industry is being used as an alternative fuel in the western countries. When you can use sugarcane for so many productive purposes, you are ignoring the plight of the farmers of the country and you resort to import sugar from foreign countries. I would like to point out that this is a shameful act. This would only render the plight of our farmers more pathetic.

When we can produce enough sugarcane attaining self-sufficiency, we are not encouraged but sugar is being imported from Pakistan. Quite against the recommendations of the Food Corporation of India, sugarcane was sought to be imported because of your new import policy. The policy of the Government led by Shri Vajpayee to import sugar from foreign countries has greatly affected our sugar industry. The Prime Minister must own up the responsibility for the pitiable condition of the farmers of our country. Majority of the people of this country are the toiling masses working in the fields and I would like to point out that good number of members in this august House are farmers and agriculturists. But I am pained to note that

most of them are not raising the issue of farmers in this House. There is no one to attend to the needs of the farmers.

It took a long time for this Government to appoint a suitable agriculture Minister. This great country with vast cultivable lands and majority number of people finding their occupation as agriculturists could not get a responsive Agricultural Minister. It is really a pitiable thing. Seventy percent of the people of this country are living on agriculture. They are contributing a lot to the agro economy of this country. But the conditions of the farmers remain pitiable.

During the five year golden rule of Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi in Tamil Nadu, there were enough of schemes to attend to the problems of the farmers. But now during the time when Shri Karunanidhi is in power in Tamil Nadu, sugarcane growers are not getting a better deal. Both the Union Government and the State Governments are ignoring farmers.

Farmers are facing several problems like power cut and subsidy cut. They could not get proper irrigation facilities. Farmers are working day in and day out in their fields draining ground water. They fend for themselves and their problems are not attended to. The snake ridden sugarcane fields are hard one to handle. The blades of sugarcane sheath will be causing injury to the sugarcane farmers, but still the sugarcane farmers are working there. I would appeal to the Hon'ble Members of this House to visit at least once the sugarcane fields to see the condition of sugarcane farmers.

Western countries are paying more to sugarcane growers. At a time when you should increase it to Rs. 1,500/-, even Rs. 1,000/- is not forthcoming. I would like to charge this Government for its wrong sugar import policy. I would also like to point out that the anti agriculturists' policy in the form of new industrial policy of our Industries' Minister Shri Murasoli Maran has greatly affected the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude

SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN : Both the Union Government and the State Governments are ignoring the needs of the farmers and the sugarcane growers. I appeal to the good senses of the members of this august House and though you the Government that you must come forward to ameliorate the poor conditions of the farmers of this country.

I thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity to speak on this resolution that seeks to redress the grievances of the sugarcane growers. With this, I conclude. Thank you.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the resolution moved by Hon'ble member Dr. M.P. Jaiswal which seeks to revive the sugar mills and to pay remunerative prices to the sugarcane growers. It is surprising that whenever we assemble in this August House we clamour so much for the rights of the farmers and every member of every party tries to prove that he is the only well wisher of the farmers. Today those very farmers are in the most pitiable state, in this country. The present policy is not responsible for this state alone. But we are facing the consequences of the policies which were framed in the post independence era. I also remember the days when in the year 1998 in this august House we had expressed our concern on the plight of the farmers of Andhra Pradesh and Kamataka, when 400 to 500 cotton growers of the country had committed suicide. That day the House had shown its concern and expressed its sentiments on the plight of those farmers for whom our former Prime Minister Late Lal Bahadur Shastri had given the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'. Though we hailed the farmers by way of slogans but we never tried to know their real plight. Today, as a result, whenever the session of the House commences, member of each group cries about the problems of farmers. In reality ever since independence serious efforts for resolving the problems of the farmers have never been made. Therefore, Dr. Jaiswal had to bring this resolution. I hail from that area of eastern U.P. where sugarcane is grown in large area and sugar mills are in maximum number. The district of Gorakhpur, Deoria, Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Basti, Sant Kabir Nagar etc. are indeed areas where sugarcane is grown extensively as was pointed out by hon'ble Member Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi, before me. More than fifty lakh quintals of sugar is supplied by sugarcane growers in each sugar mill.

The plight of those areas and the farmers reminds me of those days, when in 1998 in this very House we had expressed our concern on the plight of the farmers, today that situation has arisen. Who is responsible for this? That is why we are here to speak on that resolution one may say that it is a state subject for sugar mills are of Uttar Pradesh or it is a State Government's concern. But we must not forget that it is the Union Government which exercises

financial control over sugar which is the main produce of the sugarcane growers. Therefore, the Union Government cannot run away from its responsibility. In 1961, like the then Government had taken over all those sugar mills in U.P. in the wider interest of farmers and had appointed its representatives there this Government should also take a similar set in view of the miserable plight of these sugar mills of U.P. and the farmers so as to save the sugar industry. Today, there is a need to frame a policy in the larger interest of the farmers, not only in Uttar Pradesh or Bihar. But in all these parts of the country where this kind of injustice is being done to the farmers associated with sugar industry. Uttar Pradesh Government had recently announced the closure of 11 sugar mills of the State Sugar Corporation in eastern U.P. There are 125 sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh alone out of these 35 belong to the public sector, 58 belong to the private sector and 32 belong to the cooperative sector. Out of these, two mills are closed in U.P. during the year 1996-97, two mills were closed in 1997-98, ten in 1998-99 and six mills were closed in the year 1999-2000 by U.P. Government. These mills belonged to the U.P. State Corporation. The State of sugar mills of the private sector is such that the sugarcane growing farmers have not been paid their outstanding dues. The labourer, majdoor and workers employed in those sugar mills have not been given their wages for the last so many years. When the entire country was entering the 21st century and was busy celebrating the independence day on 15th August, the mazdoors of Saraiya Sugar Mill in Sardarnagar were compelled to commit suicide, since they had not been given their salaries for the last 22 months. An amount to the tune of Rs. 27 crore of the sugarcane growers is outstanding against that sugar mill. Similarly, Ganesh Sugar Mill of Maharajganj is lying closed for the last seven years. You will be surprised that in the last four years we approached the Textiles Ministry umpteen times and asked them to take a decision in regard to the workers of sugar mills and farmers and not to leave them in lurch. But the Government was not able to take any decision. As a result the workers have not been given their wages for the last so many months. That sugar mill is lying closed. When a sugar mill is closed, not only the workers working in that mill or the farmers of that area are affected, but the whole trade of that area is affected.

Ghugli Sugar Mill of my parliamentary constituency was unjustifiably closed. This mill was among the 11 mills which were wrongly declared sick units by B.I.F.R. Six out of 11 mills were closed and it was one of those and had

[Yogi Adityanath]

very good performance. It had the capacity of crushing 982 t.d.c. sugarcane. In 1998-99 6,80,000 quintal of sugarcane was crushed there. It's recovery was 8.50 per cent and it was closed. While sugar mills of less capacity and less recovery are still running in Uttar Pradesh. If sugar mills will be closed with such political vendetta we can well imagine as to what would be the situation in entire U.P.

Eastern U.P. is connected with Nepal border. Today that area is becoming the centre of anti-national activities of ISI. If the youth of that area is unemployed and is in search of a job he can become a puppet in the hands of the anti-national elements of ISI at any point of time. Therefore, I would request the Union Government to pay attention to the decisions taken and the strategy framed by the earlier governments to unjustifiably close down these sugar mills so that those youths may not become puppets of the ISI elements. I know that the Union Government and State Government had filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court while taking over these sugar mills of private sector. These were taken over so that these could be revived. Pipline Sugar Mill, Gorakhpur district was also among those. Land was also acquired from the farmers so as to revive these mills but renovation was not done. Lakhs of rupees were spent on the boundary walls. Gughli Sugar Mill also met the same fate. Even this mill has not been revived till date. It clearly indicates as to how the decisions are taken by the Government and policies are made. If they had sought opinions regarding the problems of the sugarcane farmers from the local representatives of that area then such wrong decisions would not have been taken.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will be surprised to know that after independence how the decision was taken to set up the only sugar mill in Nandganj, Ghazipur in 1979, where no sugarcane is grown. Cooperative Society set up one sugar mill in Dhuliapar, Gorakhpur district. Not a single farmer cultivates sugarcane crop yet a sugar mill was set up there. That sugar mill did not operate even for a month and was closed. I would like to make a suggestion here that the elected representatives should be roped in while taking a decision relating to their area.

The farmers are given loans from the banks and even if only one thousand rupee is outstanding against the farmer, he is humiliated, his tractor is confiscated and stationed in the Tehsil and also he is put behind the bars. However, strangely enough these are crores of rupee of

the farmers' outstandings against the sugar mills. In fact, a National Sugar Corporation should be set up. Through this corporation, an action plan should be formulated for revival of these sick sugar mills and readdressal of the grievances of the farmers engaged in the sugarcane farming. The dues of the farmers outstanding against the sugar mill should be speedily paid, with this we could provide jobs to the youths who are astrayed today and can contribute their bit in the noble cause of nation building. This would be in the larger national interests and help revive the sugar industry facing closure. The farmers engaged in the sugarcane farming would also be benefitted. It would not be exaggeration if we compare the sugarcane in the eastern Uttar Pradesh with the petrol of the gulf countries. In case the oil reserves are exhausted in the gulf region what would be the situation there. Similar is the position of the sugarcane in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

If the sugar mills are closed down in eastern Uttar Pradesh then that area would be left with only one industry there, so to say. After independence, only one industry – the fertilizer corporation has been set-up in Gorakhpur by the Government of India. The Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited has set-up only one plant and this plant has been lying closed for the last ten years and the relevant file containing the final scheme of the investment board alongwith its approval is pending in the ministry. The KRIBHCO wants to set up the plant but it is not able to obtain necessary approval from the ministry. The farmers do not get timely supply of fertilizers and seeds and in the absence of such basic inputs it is meaningless to talk of the upliftment of the farmers. The injustice being meted out to the eastern Uttar Pradesh should end and the uniform policy should be executed in the entire country. Regional imbalance leads to the kind of situation we witness in north eastern states. We must remain alert to stave off Uttar Pradesh especially eastern Uttar Pradesh from such a dire situation. The way the Union Government is looking after the interests of farmers and a new agricultural policy has been formulated. I believe that on these lines, National Sugar Corporation will be set up for the upliftment of farmers. With these words I thank you.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak. The resolution moved by Dr. M.P. Jaiswal expressing concern over the problems of cane growers and closure of sugar mills in U.P. and Bihar reflects the present condition of cane growers. By moving this resolution he has done a

commendable job. If he does not withdraw this resolution then it will be better but I know that Shri Shanta Kumarji will prevail upon him and he will withdraw this resolution later on.

There are a total of 493 sugar mills in India out of which 68 sugar mills are closed. Billions of rupees belonging to farmers are outstanding against sugar mills. All these sugar mills were in the private ownership before independence. These were nationalised later on. The way things are taking shape, most of the sugar mills are likely to go into private hands. Most important factor is the Government is responsible for all this. The Union Government is equipped with the Sugar Act. I have with me this newspaper "Nai Duniya, Indore", dated 2 November 1999. There is an article captioned. "Samasyaon Ke Ghere Mein Hai Ganne Ke Shakkar Karkhana Tak Ka Safar", it says that the Union Government fixes the minimum support price for sugarcane but the sugar mills have to pay to cane growers as per the minimum support price fixed by the State Government and there is difference in both the rates. Sometimes, the minimum support price for sugarcane announced by the State Government is 50 per cent higher than that of the price fixed by the Union Government. It is a surprising fact that the sugar producer should purchase the sugarcane at the rates prescribed by the State Government and sell their levy sugar at the rates fixed by the Union Government. It is very contradictory that despite all this the cane grower works all through the year for cultivation. He under-takes operations like hoeing and irrigation.

16.00 hrs.

When he reaches sugar mill he has to wait for 10 to 12 hours and sometimes even for 24 hours. Despite this he only gets payment slip. There is no guarantee of the payments against the slip. This way the cane growers suffer a lot. Just now Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi was making his speech. He said that incident of firing took place in Deoria in which two farmers were killed and 11 were injured. It is true that people from all political parties had gone there. Our party President Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had also gone there. I think it is not right to politicise everything. What you say and think about cane growers and what we say and think about their problems is not so important. What is important is whether the farmer has been benefitted by our deeds or not. Neither you nor we can survive for long merely on rhetorics. The main question is whether the classes which are facing problems have been benefitted in true sense or not irrespective of the fact

whether these benefits are extended by you or by us. Cane growers have been trying since long for payments but the payments has not been made. In such a situation, he transgresses his limits. His house and family get destroyed, money lenders are asking for their money, he has to marry off his daughter, when he fails to discharge these responsibilities. You can easily imagine the situation arising out of this. The same situation developed at Padrauna which led to the firing. The farmers do not get their dues and when they ask for it then they get bullets, is this the way you will solve the problems of farmers? How the Government will pay a positive role in it? This question is worth considering because the problem is not going to be solved by our speeches. This should be visible that they are being benefitted by our efforts.

As far as the question of closed mills is concerned, Yogiji has said it rightly that when sugar mills are closed the workers will be out of job. The President's address is a sort of statement of the Government's views. There has been a commitment on behalf of the Government that it would create one crore job opportunities in a year. Now everything is being privatised and job opportunities are being reduced, then how would you be able to create job opportunities. The Government are increasing unemployment in the country in an organised manner. When mills will be closed then workers will be out of job. If you put mills in private hands then unemployment will increase. The unemployment will increase by mechanization and introduction of new technology. When there is unemployment everywhere then Tripathiji would excuse me, the incident of firing will not remain confined to Padrauna, you will have to order firing in every street and every locality. When problems like helplessness, worry, poverty, starvation are not solved then what will happen. There is no place for violence in the country of Gandhiji, but what were those situations which led to violence—we should ponder over it.

Sir, I would like to make one more submission Two commissions were constituted namely the Bhargava Commission and the Mahajan Commission for resolving the problems of cane growers. It has become a ritual to constitute commissions on various issues but their recommendations are never implemented. What are the reports of the Bhargava Commission and the Mahajan Commission? Jaiswalji, you should go through it and ask the Government to implement their recommendations, Shri Shanta Kumarji is sitting here, he can get it implemented.

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

I would like to request further that bagasse which was used for paper making earlier is now being used for power generation through latest technology. Perhaps BHEL has started this work. It could also be used for making alcohol and medicines. We should consider all possibilities of making new products from sugarcane like medicines, electricity, alcohol etc. besides sugar with the help of the latest technology.

Sir, once we occupied top position in the world in sugar production now perhaps we are at number two. We have been overtaken by Brazil. There is shortage of improved seeds. Cuba and Mauritius have got better seeds than us. We should discuss all these points. No other country of the world have so much of taxes on the production of sugar as we have in our country.

Sir, once again I thank Jaiswalji for bringing this resolution on a contemporary issue. I would like to request Shri Shanta Kumarji that after this discussion if he becomes a bit considerate towards cane growers then it will be so nice of him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for this resolution is coming to an end. With the sense of the House this time could be extended for an hour. This is very important issue therefore the time may be extended for an hour.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Sir, the discussion on this subject should continue for two-three days...(Interruptions) Atleast, we should get a chance to say something about cane growers.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Sir, I do not have any elaborate experience on this issue. However, after observing the depressing situation, I got prompted to participate in today's discussion. Sir, a few minutes earlier, hon. Member, Shri Ramji Lal Suman has delivered a lurid details as far as agricultural scenario of India is concerned. I am very much in agreement with him.

At present, the entire agricultural sector has been suffering from severe depression. This syndrome has lashed out the length and breadth of our country stemming from cotton farmers to coconut farmers. In my State of West Bengal, the jute farmers are also suffering from the same financial constrain.

Sir, as far as sugarcane is concerned, it is a major commercial crop in India and for centuries Indian people have been persuading the cultivation of sugarcane. Sugarcane growers supply raw materials to our sugar industry.

What I would like to say is that a sustainable relationship between the producers of raw materials and the manufacturers is very much imperative because this relationship will determine the mode of our national income. Sugarcane growers consist of more than 45 million people. That means, 45 million farmers and their dependants are earning their livelihood from this sector. Five lakhs skilled and unskilled labours are employed in the sugar industry. Every year the total turn-over of sugar industry is as much as Rs. 20,000 crore. It contributes a lot to the exchequers of both Centre and States to the tune of Rs. 1800 crore.

But, I must admit that is not the sole responsibility of the Central Government to look after the sugarcane growers because as far as the arrear recovery is concerned, this has to be looked after by the State Governments also.

India always enjoys a locational advantage because the countries surrounding India, namely, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, which are very much nearer to us and furthermore Russia and Indonesia, are all importing huge quantities of sugar. In India the per capita consumption of sugar per year is 15 kgs. This year the sugar production has been to the tune of 180 lakh tonnes. If we include the carry over stock, then it is easily conceivable that India can be self-sufficient as far as her sugar requirement is concerned.

Sugar industry is the second agro-based industry in our country. India is the largest producer in the world after Brazil and it is the largest consumer in the world. But this Governments is very much generous enough to extend cooperation to the private sector. The free sale quota has been increased. The levy which was earlier imposed has been exempted now specially for those who are exporting sugar. But, on the other hand this Government appears to be stoically indifferent to the sordid plight of sugarcane growers.

It has been widely reported that sugarcane growers are being fired upon in Uttar Pradesh. In Gulbarga the sugarcane growers are setting their produce on fire because the price of sugarcane has decreased. India is already a signatory of GATT and WTO and under the

negotiation, as regards the agreement on agriculture, a distorted trade provision is very much evident. India cannot exploit the agreement on agriculture to their advantage which the developed countries can do. That is why, anti-dumping measures have not been effective in this country.

Sir, the import duty has been raised to 27.5 per cent now. Against WTO's bound rate 150 per cent. I would inform the hon. Minister that sugarcane would contribute a huge biomass which may eventually convert into generation of power. Now, 3000 megawatt of power is being generated from biomass. The other by-product is ethanol which can be easily exploited to the advantage of our nation. Therefore, if we are able to exploit modern technology, we may help the sugarcane growers. I would request this Government to ponder over the entire gamut of the agricultural scenario and take effective measures.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the viewpoint of the Hon. Laxminarayan Pandeya that Sugarcane is not grown in Bihar is not correct but it is unfortunate that the oldest sugar mill of this country the Madhaura sugar mill is located in my parliamentary constituency. When the Britishers came, they selected this place for the purpose. The history of sugar mills begins from this area. Afterwards cultivation of sugarcane spread over to the Champaran area and later on the cultivation of sugarcane spread over to Maharashtra via Uttar Pradesh and then, Gujarat and other parts of the country. But the irony is that the history of sugarcane begins from the area where we have been brought up. The cultivation of sugarcane gradually became famous in other parts of the country like Guajrat and Maharashtra. After all, then why this industry is in such a mess? Today, our country stands second in the production of sugar. Sugarcane cultivation and sugar play an important role in strengthening the economy of the country. It is linked with the country's economy but at the same time it does not effect the economy of the country. A small farmer who works in the fields and a van driver who transports sugarcane to mills, they have also got their own economy. We used to visit our villages in childhood and we would see that a small train would transport sugarcane to mills in long wagons. After a few years, we found that the said train was discontinued. After that the sugarcane used to be transported by trucks and that practice was also discontinued. Later it used to be transported by trollies. After that it was transported by bullock-carts. But with the

passage of time its production has declined. Now the situation has been deteriorating.

Now, who should be blamed for it, the system or the management, employees or sugarcane growers? After all, what has been the attitude behind sugarcane cultivation over the last fifty years in the country, it is beyond the understanding of politicians like me.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you might remember that three years back when you were a cabinet minister, I staged a dharna at your residence. That time you had taken a decision and such a decision was taken for the first time in the history of India. However, your Secretary and officers had been opposing it but you had ultimately taken that decision. At that point of time I had made a request to you that sugar mill of my area was being closed and pleaded to give a concession of one year. You had taken a decision about the Kanpur Sugar Mill and three other mills of Uttar Pradesh and one of Bihar and you had given concession for free levy sugar of the above mills for a year after studying the legal position in this regard. You had taken steps to revive the said sugar mill. Similarly, the other sugar mills the condition of which was not good were revived by giving concession for one year. It is unfortunate that the said mill under the textile mills of the Government of India was closed down due to mismanagement.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are about 500 sugar mills in the country as of now. We are talking about augmenting the production capacity of these mills. I want to know what will ultimately be the decision of the Government on this matter. You know when the economic condition of a farmer deteriorates and he needs money, then he sells paddy, wheat or sugarcane which he collects all through the year. Sugarcane is a cash crop. The area in which sugarcane is grown is generally considered to be a prosperous area. But what is happening in this country today and what is the policy and intention of the Government, it is difficult to understand. Every Government has neglected the sugarcane cultivation and I think that the approach of our Government is not clear since they are not clear about their stand towards the sugarcane growers.

Mr. Chariman, Sir, as has been said here that so many expert committees were constituted and 2-3 commissions were set up but where the final decision will come from? When the Government will pay its attention towards bailing out this industry and when will you decide that the farmers who are engaged in the production of sugarcane would

[Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy]

be taken care of and take measures to bail out this industry? There are certain State sugar mills of which are being considered to be revived. Three mills of Uttar Pradesh and four mills of Bihar have been referred to the BIFR and IFCI has been made their operating agency. You won't believe that the BIFR has asked to sell out all the four mills of Bihar either together or separately, they are ready to sell them. The IFCI took this stand on the basis of the BIFR advertisement. I contacted about 5 industrialists of the country personally and they told me that Bihar has been divided. This area is adjoining border of Uttar Pradesh. You please see for yourself. It's property is about worth four crore rupees. I told them that whatever amount of money would be needed for the revival of these sugar mills of the divided Bihar, we will manage it from various institutes and give the same to them because the Bihar Government has not got enough money for the purpose but even a single industrialist is not willing to come forward for the revival of these sugar mills. Now the question is that when we are talking about the revival, no industrialist is willing to come forward on which platform should we raise the problems of the farmers? By when their problems would be solved and what will be the role of the State Government and what will be its responsibility? When the capitalists of the country are not willing to invest in the private sector how could we tide over: the present situation? After all how this situation has arisen. Sir, we need to consider over all these issues. I think that this debate would be incomplete if it could not lead to any logical conclusion for tiding over the above situation. I put forward this matter through you before the House which relates to the problems of sugar mills, sugarcane growers and labourers.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The discussion is always held on the problems faced by the farmers whenever the Parliament is in session and in this session two similar discussions were held on various problems. But I want to say, through you particularly on the point which Shri Madan Prasad Jaiswal has raised about the sugarcane growers and the problems related to them, that the situation is peculiar in this country and the same situation is also there in the central government. What I mean to say that if there is any discussion related to the department of Petroleum, the Petroleum ministry itself takes the decision. But when it comes to the discussion about the farmers, the Agriculture Minister talks about

agricultural production. And when it comes to the sale of agricultural produce, Shanta Kuamrji has to decide and when it relates to the problem of electricity faced by the farmers, Suresh Prabhuji will decide and if the problem relates to the irrigation, Sethiji will take a decision. What I mean to say that the file pertaining to the problems faced by the farmers goes to several ministries before it is finally cleared meaning thereby that the action is delayed losing the very purpose. Therefore, I want to say that the problems faced by the farmers should be taken seriously. And when it is election time, we all go to them for seeking their votes. And we shed crocodile tears on their problems and assure them of solving their problems in case we are elected in the elections. And finally when we win the elections, we merely talk about their problems in this House which ultimately serves no purpose of theirs. No concrete decision is taken after the discussions. If at all any decision is taken that goes against the interests of the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Just we were discussing that new agriculture policy has been announced. Talks were being held to provide benefits to the farmers. We have gone through the agriculture policy and it appears from the contents of the said policy that floodgates have been opened to tie the farmers with the chains of slavery. Restrictions have been removed from the world trade. Lease system has been introduced. What is happening with the farmers today. We will have to understand the problems of sugarcane growers. The Government enacted laws, rules and regulation in the year 1996 that the sugar mills would have to pay dues of the farmers within 15 days failing which interest due thereon would have also to be paid to them. If my information is correct about Rs. 700 crore of the sugarcane growers is outstanding against the sugar mills in the country. The rules and the laws which are enacted by the Government, if not complied with, then whom the responsibility of making a review of the same lies with?

16.29 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

Who will ensure its implementation? We all are insensitive towards the farmers, be it Government, Sugar Mill owners or private sugar mill owners. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he intends to take steps to ensure the implementation of the law? If so, I would like to know about the action under consideration of the Government to ensure payment of

farmers dues and whether this payment is going to be made with interest or only principal amount will be paid. By what time the payment is going to be made. If one wants to know the difficulties of sugarcane farmers, he has to observe this farmer at the time of cultivation or at the time of its sale. The farmers will have to go to the mill a number of times and their sugarcane is accepted by the mill only when they are issued a slip. They get slip through middlemen. Sometimes they give their sugarcane in the name of someone else and at the time of payment that person gets the money while the farmer does not even get the principal amount. At present, there are 28 sugar mills in Bihar, out of this 15 were in public sector. Public sector mills are closed. A total of 15 sugar mills are closed as has been said by the hon'ble Member Shri Rudy, out of these 19 mills, one was Marhaura sugar mill which has been closed since long years and the mill owes an arrear of Rs. 5 crores to the farmers. Once Shri Rudyji had staged demonstration there. I was a legislator then. Shri Rudyji had also asked me to come. Farmers had gheraoed the Mill while Manager of the Mill had called the police who were charging lathis on the farmers. I was also there at the behest of Shri Rudyji and the Manager also filed a case against me. Where farmers should have been paid money, they had to bear lathi blows and police cases were also filed against them. One can just imagine the agony of farmers. On the one hand they grow sugarcane and take them to public sector or private sugar mills through physical labour and on the other when they ask for payment they get blows from the police. All these difficulties should be seen from close quarters. On the one hand the price of goods, manufactured in the mills of big capitalists are fixed on higher side and they get maximum profits while on the other the produce of the farmers are priced very low and the fixing of price is done by the people who live in airconditioned rooms who are unaware of the problems faced by farmers. They belong to high class families and they have a high status. If the price of farmer's produce is to be fixed, the representatives of farmers should be involved in the process. In different states, farmers have to bear different expenses about which the officials are not aware and they tend to pose a threat to the very survival of farmers. Sometimes, the farmers have to face trouble as a result of wrong policies of the Government. For example, during the Kargil war, we were fighting Pakistan on the one hand while on the other we were importing sugar from there. On the one hand we were extending financial help to the enemy, and on the other

attacking the industries of our own country playing a cruel joke on the sugarcane growers. What were we doing in the Government? That is why I am saying that greater sensitivity should be shown to the problems of farmers. Only speeches and the reply of hon'ble Minister is not going to solve their problem.

Farmers of Bihar are in trouble these days. It has increased after the division of state. It is in the grip of droughts and flood round the year. Hon'ble Member Pappu Yadav had raised the issue of farmers during Zero Hour. Hon'ble Minister is present here and we still have not received permission to open purchase centres there.

Mr. Chariman, Sir, not a single purchase centre has started in Bihar, where farmers could sell their produce. What is happening in Bihar? If steps are not taken to safeguard the interests of farmers, then we all know that these is something in the soil of Bihar where just a spark spreads fire of revolution throughout the country. History has been a witness to it. In 1857, when the country was fighting its first war of independence against the British, Babu Kunwar Singh had raised his sword from Arah in Bihar. And when Mahatma Gandhi started his struggle against the British, he chose Champaran of Bihar as the launching centre of his agitation even though he was born in Gujarat. Later on, the struggle against Mrs. Indira Gandhi was started by Babu Jaiprakash Narayan from Bihar. It ensured the exit of Indira Gandhi Government. That is why I am warning the Central Government that if it does nothing for Bihar, If Bihari sugarcane growers are not paid their dues, the spark ignited in Bihar would destroy the state as well as the Central Government. The farmers of Bihar should not be played with and I request the hon'ble Minister to take this proposal and also the cause of farmers of Bihar seriously and ensure the payment of their dues by the sugar mills as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am raising the issue of price determination also because the farmers of Bihar are being given Rs. 770 for 10 quintals of sugarcane. And if nine quintals of sugarcane make one quintal of sugar, the cost of one quintal of sugar come to Rs. 770. While the same sugar is being sold at Rs. 1600 per quintal in the market. It is a cruel joke with the farmers. All the profits are going to mill owners. It is the farmers who put labour, who toil but it is the mill owners who are getting richer. This situation cannot be allowed to continue. Farmers bring their produce on bullock-carts and the dung of oxen and the leaves of sugarcane are sold by the mill owners. The mill

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

owner manager to pay price of sugar that the farmers give to them from the sale proceeds of dung and sugarcane leaves. The farmers are being paid a meagre sum of Rs. 693 to for their sugarcane while one quintal sugar is being sold at Rs. 1600 in the market. My request is that farmers should get at least Rs. 1000 per 10 quintals of sugarcane so that they could get some remuneration.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words, through you, I would request the hon'ble Minister to seriously consider and find a way out to run the Madhawara Sugar mill. Shri Rudyji was saying that no capitalist is available to run that mill. I request him to talk to the Government on the issue. Within a week I would find out a capitalist ready to run that mill so that interest of farmers are served. Just speeches won't do. He should talk to the Government. I would find out a capitalist within a week and inform him accordingly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know that the hon'ble Minister is an emotional person. A few days ago, I had written him a letter on the issue of corruption. I know that he called the officials and reprimanded them. He also warned them against corruption in that case. Therefore, I hope that the hon'ble Minister will understand the sentiments of the farmers and give due importance to it. I also trust that realising the agony of the farmers he would announce the payment of their dues and also ensure increase in the prices of sugarcane.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, similarly I also hope that Dr. Madan Prasad Jaiswal would not succumb to the pressure and withdraw the resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is already 4.00 p.m. If it continues, we would not be able to move our two very important resolutions in the House. Sir, both are very important resolutions. One is related to tribals while the other is related to forest conservation Act. I request that you will appreciate our sentiments and the resolutions at number three and four should be allowed to be introduced.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will be very brief as I know that two bills are to be introduced in the House after this and the hon'ble

Minister has to reply this discussion before introduction of those Bills. I hope that the mover of this resolution Dr. Madan Prasad Jaiswal will not withdraw his resolution and will demand concrete reply from the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have risen to support the resolution moved by Dr. Madan Prasad Jaiswal in the House. This is a very serious issue. This is not the question of garnering favour. I request the government to consider this issue seriously and payment should be made to the farmers of their outstanding dues of sugarcane so that they also get benefit.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the sugar Act was enacted in 1966 in which there was a provision that if the Mill owners do not make payment for sugarcane within fifteen days to the farmers, they will have to pay interest thereon but that provision is not being implemented as a result of which Rs. 707 crores belonging to the farmers is outstanding even today.

There are almost 483 or 493 mills to which separate areas have been allotted. Out of the above mentioned mills 68 are closed. I request that payment should be made to those mills within seven days. Rs. 1100 crores of the Sugar Development Fund are with government of India. The condition of the nationalised mills is miserable and the farmers are not getting any benefit. As my predecessor has said that the farmers face a lot of difficulties in sowing different types of crops. I can say one thing certainly that Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are both suffering on this account. When I visit Haridwar on the way I find that the farmers of Uttar Pradesh sown sugarcane everywhere. If payment of sugarcane is not made to the farmers they will certainly suffer a lot. The crops sown by the farmers by putting hard work is procured by the Government of the rate fixed by the Government. My predecessor has mentioned about commissions appointed by the Government and one of them was the Bhargava Commission. Besides another commission was also appointed. Therefore, it is necessary to implement the reports submitted by the said commissions. Therefore, I am of the view that it is the responsibility of the Government to properly run the nationalised sugar mills. The Government should certainly run these mills.

Thereafter the hon'ble members have expressed apprehension about the funds assured by the Union Government for their expansion and modernisation. The Union Government is not sincere about it and the amount to be spent on it is not being released. Therefore, the local

representatives as well as the members of the parliament and Legislative Assemblies should be taken into confidence and these mills should be modernised and expanded. I also submit that the amount of the farmers outstanding against the mills which were closed down by the Government should be paid to the farmers otherwise the farmers would be compelled to resort to agitations. The incidents of suicide by the farmers in different parts of the country are appearing in the newspapers due to not getting remunerative or fair prices their produces. If this is ensured I am sure that there will be no incidents of suicide by the farmers. Both the ministers are present here. Therefore, I request the Government to make efforts in this regard.

At the end I would like to say again that I support the resolution moved by Dr. Madan Prasad Jaiswal and I hope that the Government would certainly pay attention towards this. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to express my views on the problems of the farmers. My several learned colleagues have expressed their views on the problems of the farmers. I have not risen to make a speech here. Perhaps the hon'ble Minister has left the House....(Interruptions)

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah) : The Minister of state is here.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : All right, I raise three problems i.e. drought flood and sugarcane in the House everytime but invain. My colleagues have said a lot in this regard. I would not say about the entire country but I am closely associated with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar so I would definitely like to say something about these two states. All of us are aware that the climate in these two states is favourable for sugarcane due to which sugarcane is grown in these states in abundance as compared to other crops. As per the official report even today fifty per cent of the sugarcane produced is not going to the sugar mills. Only 30 to 35 per cent of the sugarcane is going to the sugar mills. Rest of the sugarcane goes for local crushers. If you go to the countryside you will find that small mills are operating in every village and sugarcane is being sold to them at the rate ranging from Rs. 40 to 50 per quintal whereas in our area the rate of sugarcane is Rs. 90 or 95 per quintal perhaps it would be Rs. 90 to 95 per quintal in Bihar also.

The farmers are giving their sugarcane at half rate to the crushers. But there is nobody to take care of all this.

If the enactors of the law themselves violate the law to whom should these poor farmers approach.

Just now Shri Prabhunath Singhji has said that there is a provision that the sugar mills ought to make payment for sugarcane within fifteen days and if payment for sugarcane is not made within fifteen days then fifteen per cent interest would have to be paid thereon. In a case pertaining to Bulandshahar in which the supreme court has said that in case the sugar mill is running in lose the price of sugarcane and the wages of the workers should be paid with fifteen per cent interest by selling the mill. This is the ruling of the supreme court. But what is going on now. The area under the Gorakhpur commissioner and West to Patna are facing hardship.

Just now my friend has said that the Kanpur Sugar Mill Limited was under the Government of India. The said mill suffered a loss of Rs. 80 crores and attention of the Government was drawn towards this time and again but nothing was done. The said mill was under the control of the Government of India and as such who should be held responsible for the loss to the mill. it will be not fair to mention the name of the secretary but I have said time and again that false report is being furnished. I do not know as to what happened thereafter. Therefore, I would like to say to the House and the minister despite our party being in power at the centre and in the state the situation has deteriorated. I have taken up this matter with the Government several times. There are 128 sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh out of which 35 are under the Uttar Pradesh Sugar Corporation. The Government took over the sugar mills in the private sector whose financial conditions was not good. We urge the Government take over this one also. Though the ministry of Textiles was ready for taking over but it was not taken over. I urge upon the hon'ble minister in the House that he should find out the facts in this regard. At that time Shri Vajpayeeji was the Prime Minister and he has also made efforts at his level. I have no hitch in saying that even his orders were not followed. The Kanpur Sugar Mill have for factories and an amount of Rs. 18 crores of the sugarcane farmers was outstanding against them and their total liability was Rs. 80 crores. We were compelled to launch on agitation for which I was lodge in jail. An agreement was signed with the State Government and the Union Government on the condition that 80 per cent of the sugarcane price should be given to Kathkuian and Padrauna Bank and price of sugarcane should be recovered. On this condition the said factory was

[Shri Ram Nagina Mishra]

restarted but that was not followed and the mill was declared sick. BIFR is talked about much. Can the hon'ble Minister give a single example of running of any factory referred to BIFR. Nothing has been done except making payment of T.A. and D.A. and closing down of factories. I do not know as to why the Government are referring most of the factories to BIFR. In this regard I am particularly referring to the case of the Kanpur Sugar Works. We were aware that the decision on this factory was long due. A good company offered to take over this sugar mill but the offer was rejected and it was given to a company which could not run the mill....(Interruptions) Rs. 18 crore are outstanding for the last four years. We are lodged in jails. If we take loan from the banks heavy interest is charged thereon, our land is attached and sold. We have heard that money is doubled with in five years in this way Rs. 18 crores would become Rs. 36 crores within five years. Who is responsible for this.

Just now my friend was saying that the farmers in compulsion have :-

"Bhubhuksham Kim na Karoti Papam
Kshudha Janani Niskaruna Bhavanti".

A hungry person can commit any crime of the world. When Vishwamitra, the Guru of the Lord Rama suffered from hunger, he was compelled to go the house of a Chandal and eat the meat of a dog there. Likewise the farmers of Padrauna were forced to stage the agitation.

As a result of the above, they had to face the bullets and a number of people were injured. Today nobody is going to hear them. After all where we would go, which court we will approach to? I would like to seriously submit to the Minister that I have also met our Government in this regard. I have not stood up just to deliver a lecture. Let the Minister verify it. I met the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister had announced in the meeting held at Gorakhpur that if we are able to form the Government in Delhi and in the State, then the mills will not be closed and the payment of sugarcane would not remain outstanding. Firing was made after I had met the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister told he also wanted the problem to be solved and that he would talk to the Chief Minister. I talked to the Chief Minister and the Finance Minister. They are also ready for it. As such everyone should agree to find a way out and settle the issue through negotiations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mishraji, Please be brief.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: I am speaking in brief. At least let me express my sorrow. Neither we are getting the payment nor mills are being run. Therefore I may be allowed to speak the correct thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have asked you to be brief. I have not disallowed you to speak.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: You please listen. I am not gossiping. I am saying such a point that will be recorded and you will understand my point. I only want to submit to the Minister that he should talk to the Prime Minister and whatever I am saying, if the Prime Minister says that it is quite wrong, then only one way would be left. It is not a general problem. There are fifteen sugar mills in our district and out of them, there are nine mills in my constituency. In all five sugar mills are lying closed in Gorakhpur Commissionery, four belong to the Private sector and one to public sector. Five of the ten mills are lying closed and what more is going to happen. As per the official report prepared by Uttar Pradesh Government out of the 35 sugar mills in the state, 29 mills are going to be closed. Nobody would be able to operate them. These mills are suffering loss of Rs. 1200 crore and even more. If these 29 mills are closed, then would be the fate of Uttar Pradesh. The main reasons behind this is that these are old mills having the capacity ranging from 800 to 1000 ton. Even the God can not help these mills, they are bound to suffer the loss. Now only those mills can operate which have the capacity of 2500 to 3000 ton. At present, for construction and setting up of a new mill, Rupees fifty crore are required whereas the factories of the Uttar Pradesh Sugar Corporation are running in loss of rupees 1200 crore. 24 mills can be set up with 1200 crores of rupees and if not more, at least 20. I would like to suggest if 2 mills are set up each year, then the farmers of Uttar Pradesh can be rescued. I would also like to know how much money of Uttar Pradesh is lying with you under Sugar Development fund. How much money out of the said fund has been given to Uttar Pradesh for revival of these sick sugar mills and how much money has been given to Bihar? Why this fund was set up. The fund was set up with the objective of reviving the sick mills by giving grants. Ten years back the Government used to give subsidy and tax exemption to the old sugar mills. Now tax has been imposed thereon.

As regards the price of sugar, it is a fact that the farmers produce sugar by the dint of their hard work. Who

consume that sugar? That sugar is given free of cost or on retail price to crorepatis and whether anybody gives even one K.G. sugar to the farmer who sells sugarcane? Nobody gives even a kilogram sugar to him. I would like to ask the minister that whether any rules will be framed under which at least five kilogram of sugar could be given at less rates or on retail price to the sugarcane growers who are producing sugar by the dint of their hard work. You have constituted a number of committees and those committees have also submitted their reports. There is one Bhargava Committee, I have to state that under our system, the farmers cannot exercise their discretion in the matter of supply of sugarcane...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mishra, I would not have stopped you, you are making good speech but the extended time limit is going to over. Thereafter, the Minister has also to reply.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: It is not necessary that he should reply just now. He can reply in the next session.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thereafter the member moving the resolution has also to speak. As such I would request you to be brief. This resolution is not going to be disposed of now. The Minister would not be able to complete his reply on this resolution and as such it would remain incomplete.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : The main issue of today's debate is that generally it is a problem in the entire country but the problem in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is more grave. What would be the fate of the sugarcane growers and sugar mills in these states. 17 sugar mills have been closed in Bihar. In our state 10 sugar mills have been closed and 29 are going to be closed. Thus about 40 sugar mills would be closed. As such the Minister should make such an arrangement under which these mills are not closed. We have got the records sent by you which says that 29 mills are running in loss and the Government would not be able to operate them. So you please let us know that whether these 29 mills of the corporation would operate in future and whether their capacity would be increased? For example, ten years back during the Congress regime a proposal to increase the capacity of three sugar mills located in Betalpur, Laxmiganj and Pipraich was passed. The proposal is still lying with you. Despite the fact that land was purchased in Bhatni and Lakhs of rupees were spent, the capacity has not been increased.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we receive letters from the Minister and the State Government which state that 95 per cent payment of sugarcane has been made. It is true that production of sugar has been increasing. Stock of sugar has increased to such an extent that our storage facilities are inadequate to accommodate the stock. It is true that sugar was imported but now our sugar production has increased to 20 lakh tons and we have no storage facility to accommodate it. There is no difference of opinion that production of sugar has increased. There is no difference of opinion that mills have been set up. But in Poorvanchal and in Gorakhpur Commissionery, where two crore people live, it is said that farmers have been paid 95 per cent amount of their sugarcane. Prime Minister went to Gorakhpur. Our Minister told him that 95 per cent payment has been made. When press reporters asked the local persons of that area that how much money is outstanding then they told that about 65 crore rupees are outstanding. Rupees 22 crore are outstanding against the mills in Sardar Nagar, Rupees 18 crore are outstanding against Kanpur Sugar Mill and Rupees ten crore outstanding against the sugar mill in Kaptanganj. Rupees five crore are outstanding against Government owned sugar mills. This is the position of one city only. There is an old saying that once a scholar thought of crossing the river and he measured the depth of water in that river and found that it was three feet. Thereafter he measured the height of his children. Some one was four and a half feet tall, some one four feet and some other three feet tall and having done all this he thought that they all can cross the river because their height was more than the depth of the water in the river. Thus he took his children with him and entered the river. When the children started sinking in the river, then he was surprised and said why it is so happening. So you give us the picture of entire State of Uttar Pradesh but while doing so you do not take into account Eastern Uttar Pradesh. So you should give the break-up, Location-wise.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit the last point. Earlier Kanpur Sugar mill was closed and now it is the turn of Gangotri mill. The case of Kanpur sugar mill was referred to BIFR and one month time was given. Till now even a single buyer has not turned up. The Sugar Mill in Padranuna is in a better position as compared to 29 sick sugar mills. This proposal is under consideration before our Prime Minister and Chief Minister. I want to say that 29 mills are sick and one more mill is likely to be added to that list. But sickness of this mill is not as serious as others.

[Shri Ram Nagina Mishra]

17.00 hrs.

There is no alternative except corporation. Only then sugar mill can be saved. I would request the honourable minister that whatever we are discussing here, he should discuss the same with the Chief Minister, Finance Minister and the Prime Minister. Prime Minister also belongs to Uttar Pradesh. If there is weight in my points, then he should talk to them and help in rescuing the Kanpur Sugar Mill. Some improvements would have to be made in the reports submitted on sugar policy. In this very House I had said that Sugar is produced by the sugarcane growers. If you given to benefit to the workers, poor people, than it is all right but why are you giving the benefit to the capitalists and crorepati? There has been 10 per cent decline in the 40 per cent levy sugar. It is also being said that ten-twelve per cent sugar is given to defence services for official use. Rest of the sugar can be given as free sale sugar. if you curse the mill owners, it is not going to help you. You are one of the ministers in the Government of India. the responsibility of all the sugar mills of the country lies with you. As such I request you to talk to the Prime Minister and come to the rescue of Kanpur Sugar Mill at least.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly support the resolution moved by Dr. M.P. Jaiswal regarding the problem of sugarcane growers. the states of U.P. and Bihar have been mentioned therein but there is a big sugar mill in Bundi district of Harauti region in Rajasthan which is run by the centre. This Mill was earning profits but it was handed over to the State Government and now a conspiracy is being hatched to handover the Keshavrai Patan Sugar Mill due to indifferent policy of the State Government. The Keshvrai Patan Mill has been functioning for the last forty years and it has a turnover of Rs. 10 crore and the Rajasthan Government want to close it down. The cleaning oiling and maintenance of machines should have been started by now but this has not been done. The work starts every year from September. Crushing of sugarcane starts from 25 December. 12 lakh quintal sugarcane was used to be crushed in this Keshavrai Patan Sugar Mill, Bundi. The farmers will face great problem in selling their sugarcane and they will suffer a major loss. 26.15 lakh quintal standing crop of sugarcane is there in the area of 5053 hectare in Bundi district as on date but if this sugar mill is shut down then what will

be the condition of farmers. They will be driven to commit suicide. The Rajasthan Government is continuing the Ganganagar Sugar Mill which is running in losses to the tune of Rs. 10 crore whereas the Keshavrai Patan Mill which has always been earning profit with a turnover of crores of rupees for the last forty years is being handed over to private party neglecting all these things. Therefore I urge upon the Union Government to pressurise the state government to start these sugar mills otherwise thousands of farmers will be starving and they will loose all the income. The Sugar Undertaking Act was passed by the Government of Rajasthan when loss was incurred in 1978 and they had requested the Union Government to take over and the Union Government had taken over and run this mill till 1985. Today 68 mills are closed in the country and Rs. 700 crore is outstanding. What will happen to the farmers of Rajasthan when a lone mill of Rajasthan is closed? When will happen to the farmers of Harauti region? I request you that sugarcane growers should be paid remunerative prices by the sugar mills. Sugar mills located in the sugarcane growing states should be revived and the only sugar mill in Keshavrai Patan area and the Ganganagar sugar mill—both located in Rajasthan should continue to operate. The farmers of Bundi have resorted to Chakka Jam four times but the Government have still not awakened.

Only Rs. 5 crore is required to start the mill which used to be provided earlier but now that amount is not being provided on the one pretext or the other. The Government is willing to provide funds for the Ganganagar Sugar Mill which is running in losses to the tune of Rs. 10 crore but it is not ready to pay Rs. 5 crore to this mill. This question is related to the problems of the farmers but no attention is being paid towards this. I want to request you that this mill could run with the help of farmers and employees and they need only Rs. 3.61 crore. Only Rs. 1 crore is required for operation. Therefore, I want to request through you that the Central Government should direct the State Government to make arrangements for revival of that mill.

I regret to say that so long the BJP Government was in power in Rajasthan, that mill continued to run but when the Congress Government took over in 1998 no money was given to that mill. A memo asking for Rs. 3.52 crore has been submitted to the Government in April 2000.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat is the last Speaker. After his speech, the hon. Minister has to

intervene, and then the mover has to reply. If the House agrees, we may extend the time by another twenty minutes....(Interruptions)

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : Sir, the time for this discussion was only up to four o'clock, but it continued till now...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Sir, there is my resolution also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : As long as earlier one is not discussed then how this could be taken up?

[English]

Then, we have to take up the Resolution of Dr. V. Saroja, and your Resolution is the next one.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is the House agreeing for a 20-minute extension?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, please conclude now.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The Directors of this mill have been changed. All these things are being happened due to mismanagement. I request the Government to revive this mill.

I conclude my speech with these words.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, your may now intervene. After your intervention, Shri Jaiswal will given his reply.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Sir, an important subject has been discussed in the House. I agree to it that the sugarcane growers are worried because of outstanding dues and the Government also share the concern of hon'ble members. The Government have made efforts in this direction.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the factual position is that, Rs. 11,914 crore was the outstanding in 1999-2000 out of which Rs. 11,648 crore have been paid. That means the

Rs. 266 crore is outstanding which is 2.24 per cent. In 1995 when the yield was similar then the percentage of the outstanding dues was 5.9. The total arrear is Rs. 400 crore in which Rs. 134 crore pertains to the previous years and Rs. 266 crore pertains to this year. Out of this Rs. 266 crore Rs. 256 pertains to seven states for the current year. Hon'ble members have expressed their concern that the arrears should be paid. I had full details with me regarding Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, but as per your instruction to be brief, I want to make two-three submission in brief.

First of all, there is an order according to which it is mandatory to clear the arrears within 14 days. If the payment is not made within the stipulated period then it should be paid with interest at the rate of 15 per cent. Now these powers vest with the State Governments, and they have to exercise these powers. If the State Government are not exercising these powers what the Union Government can do, we have given a thought to it. You should also come up with some suggestions, we will accept those suggestions. As far as the question of closed mills is concerned, a total of 69 mills are closed. out of which 37 mills are located in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. 19 mills in Uttar Pradesh and 18 mills in Bihar are lying closed, out of 69 mills, 39 have been referred to the BIFR.

Sir, when a mill is declared as sick then laid down procedure is initiated and it is referred to the BIFR. This is the legal position. Now if these mills have been referred to, these have been referred by the concerned state Governments and not by us. What is the status of these mills, it is also with me but I will not go into details. Arrear should be paid, there are no two opinions about that. What can be done in this regard and has the government taken action on this? Members have thanked the hon'ble Chairman who was in the chair, for exempting a sugar mill from supplying levy sugar for one year. Then I should also be thanked for taking steps for exempting not only a particular mill but the mills of this entire country from supplying levy sugar from 40 per cent to 30 per cent. This facility has been extended to the entire country. Then a issue was raised that the profit of this 10% reduction in levy should be given directly to the formers. It was a very important decision to reduce the levy by 10%. The second point was about import of sugar. Today sugar is not being imported. We have imposed 60% duty on import of sugar. An hon'ble member said that more duty can be imposed. Import of sugar has been stopped following increase in duty 60%. Duty will be enhanced if we find import increasing again.

[Shri Shanta Kumar]

I would like to assure the august House that sugar is not being imported. We will not allow its import. We have linked the mechanism of free sale with the payment of arrears to the sugarcane growers. Under this mechanism we have connected the additional free sale with the payment of arrears to the sugarcane growers. We even laid a condition that if a mill is given the right for additional free sale of sugar, the Deputy Commissioner will issue a certificate that payments on this account will be completely made to the farmers. In this manner amount of arrear was reduced from Rs. 700-800 crores to Rs. 400 crores. Besides, we also decided to export 10 lakh tonnes of sugar. I am happy that indirect incentives have been given to the mills in this regard. Consequently, now sugar is being exported. We would definitely be benefited by it. One point has been mentioned here that the expenditure of sugar mills should be reduced and their income increased. It will benefit us in two ways—the lower cost will enhance the growth in export of sugar and our ability to compete in international market will enhance the foreign exchange.

Increased income will benefit us in many ways. In view of this fact, Government is trying to promote the by-products also. Petroleum Ministry is working especially on the project of making petrol from Ethanol. We are also amending our laws to facilitate such use. Such steps have been taken by us.

Hon'ble Shri Yogiji said a heart rending thing that if a farmer fails to repay the loan, all his assets even the tractor is seized immediately. However, many other people who have to repay crores of rupees are not being questioned by any one in this regard. As per the order, payment to farmers should be made within 14 days otherwise interest at the rate of 15% should be given. Even then they do not make payments. We ponder over it seriously how to deal with it and applied our last jurisdiction that we had with us.

A very important decision was taken during the month of November that to recover the outstanding amounts from the mills, Government will use arrear of Land revenue as a last method. On 29th November, orders have been issued that arrears to farmers can be paid in the form of arrears of Land revenue if arrears are not paid to them in time. That much we were able to do and we did that.

Besides, I would like to make a mention that these more points. We have released Rs. 1007 crore to various

mills for modernization and other things under SIF rules. A mention was made that India is number two in respect of production of sugarcane. I would like to tell the House that India is not at number two. Our production of sugarcane is 182 lakh tonnes and Brazil's production is 173 lakh tonnes we have also increased duty on import not 27% but upto 60%. One more thing has been said which is not related to it. It is regarding rice production of Bihar. Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have called a meeting after talking to hon'ble Shri Nitish Kumar in this regard. We have invited officials of Bihar Government also to discuss the problems of procurement

In the end, I would like to state that I share the concern expressed here. That's why we have adopted the concept of arrears of Land revenue. Sugar mills either belong to State Government, the co-operatives or to the private sector. They have taken sugarcane from the farmers, therefore, they should pay their arrears dues to them. Government have done everything which it could have done for the payment of arrears. I accept the suggestion that the meeting of Sugarcane Ministers of all the States should be called to consider this issue seriously and see what more can be done in this regard. We will consult them. Their suggestions are also invited in this regard, we will definitely consider them. Therefore, they are requested to withdraw the resolution.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has given reply regarding the sugarcane growers. Regarding the Act for sugarcane growers, I had requested him to reduce the period from 15 days to 7 days, in regard to payment of arrears to farmers. The hon'ble Minister said that 2.4 per cent arrears are outstanding. I would like to say that arrears of farmers pending with the Sugar mills for the last 10 years have not been paid so far. He have Stated that 2.4% is outstanding. I would like to submit that during the Prime Minister-ship of hon'ble Shri Devegowda, Rs. 550 Crores were given to Uttar Pradesh from Sugar Development Fund. These funds were utilized for paying arrears to the farmers. Is the government going to make a provision under which the amount of Sugar Development Fund will be utilized to pay arrears to the farmers.

My second point is that approx. 25 crore of people are affected by the Sugar industry system and it has a large potentiality to produce three thousand MW of power.

In view of this, I would like to request that arrangements should be made to increase the capacity of the

Sugar mills by utilizing the funds from Sugar Development Fund. Arrangements should be made to provide them loan from I.F.C.I. 11% free sale sugar is released every month. Farmers are saying that though 11% free sale sugar is released by the sugar mills but payments are not being made to them. Arrears to farmers should be paid without delay in proportion to the production of Sugar. It can be enforced by law through banks.

A mention was made regarding B.I.C. also. Kanpur Sugar mills, Champaran Sugar mill and Chakia mill of my constituency, Chanpatia mill and Madhora mills have been closed. Rs. 216 crores were given to B.I.C. to run the textile mills. Can funds not given by the Union Government to run these Sugar mills? Can the funds not be allocated from Sugar Development Funds? The hon'ble Minister may please re-consider it. I belong to the ruling party. The hon'ble Minister has made a commitment....(Interruption)

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: We will definitely consider it on the priority basis when we receive the requests in this regard.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Why import is being increased ?...(Interruptions) The whole Stock is Spoiling here and now you are encouraging import...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Import has been stopped completely. If it is being done, it is only to meet the requirement of the W.T.O. agreement Signed during their Government...(Interruption). We are bearing the brunt of their mistakes.

17.22 hrs.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: It is a very serious matter. The hon'ble Minister has not made a clear-cut point. He may give a clear-cut reply to the question raised by Shri Jaiswal and many other members. What Steps are being taken by the Government for the payment of arrears to the farmers and regarding the Madhora Sugar mill? Panditji raised several issues of serious nature. He underwent imprisonment in the old age for this. Please clear those questions and give an assurances in this regard. Please spare time for us and talk to us. What will happen if a way out is not found?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : These mills either belong to State Government, or to Co-operative Society or these are in Private Sector. They bought Sugarcane from the farmers, then produced Sugar and Sold it. However, these mills are

not making payments to the farmers. I have already stated the Steps taken in this regard in case of the mills whose financial position is good. These mills can apply for grant under S.D.F. rules for modernisation and other. According to the rules, loan to such mills will be sanctioned on priority basis. Rupees one thousand crore have already been released. I am going to call a meeting of sugarcane Ministers of states. Several members are concerned this industry, therefore please fix an appointment with me and we will talk in this regard.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : After the assurance given by the Minister, I withdraw my resolution.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House that the resolution moved by Dr. Madan Prasad Jaiswal be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

(ii) Proper Utilisation of Funds for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 2 of the Private Members Business—Resolution by Dr. V. Saroja.

Before we take up the Resolution for discussion, we have to fix the time for this Resolution. Shall we allot one hour for this?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, Sir. You fix a minimum of two hours for this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, we fix two hours for this.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : I beg to move:

"This House expresses its grave concern over underutilisation of funds meant for economic, social and educational empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people and urges upon the Government to ensure allotment of adequate funds for around development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people in proportion to their population and monitor utilisation of funds under various welfare schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people by the States."

Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to move this very important Resolution. The Government

[Dr. V. Saroja]

has a special concern and commitment for the well being of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

According to the 1991 census, there are about 132.22 million Scheduled Castes representing 16.48 per cent of the total population. Eighty-one per cent of these Scheduled Caste people live in rural India. There is a decadal increase of Scheduled castes by about 2.2 to 2.3 per cent. The Scheduled Caste population is scattered throughout all the States of India. they are more concentrated in ten States—Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, they constitute more than 20 per cent to 22 per cent of the population of the State.

Coming to the population aspect of the Scheduled Tribes, there are about 67.76 million Scheduled Tribes in India. Percentage-wise, they represent about 8.8 per cent of the total population of this country. Out of this, 1.2 million are primitive tribes. The Scheduled Tribes have the highest concentration in the North-Eastern States—Mizoram representing 94.75 per cent; Nagaland 87.70 per cent; Meghalaya 85.53 per cent; Arunachal Pradesh 63.66 per cent; and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep represents 93.15 per cent. In Orissa, it is 22.21 per cent; Gujarat 4.98 per cent; Maharashtra 9.27 per cent; and Bihar 7.6 per cent.

While it is relevant that I speak about the population of this country, it is also relevant that I point out the Constitutional guarantees for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Article 14 provides for equality before law. The Poona Pact says that the reservation is in lieu of the separate electorate requested by hon. Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar. It is not a charity but it is a Constitutional right.

Fifty-three years after attaining Independence and fifty years after the formation of the Constitution of India, has the Government satisfied its Constitutional duties to which it is committed? With grave concern, I would like to point out that Article 275(1) provides for special financial assistance to be ensured to them. Under the Constitution of India it is said that financial assistance is to be given. During the Ninth Five-Year Plan, a Plan outlay of Rs. 3399.5 crore has been earmarked for Centrally sponsored Schemes including special Central allowance and Special Component Plan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Saroja, you can continue next time.

DR. V. SAROJA : All right, Sir.

17.30 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seventeenth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): On behalf of Shri Pramod Mahajan, I beg to present the Seventeenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

17.31 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Production of Pulses

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, we have just concluded a discussion on a very vital issue through a resolution and also we have started discussion on another important issue. In this half-an-hour discussion, I would like to raise the issue regarding production of pulses in the country and their import and export. This is a fact that our able agro-scientists and hardworking farmers have toiled hard to make the country self-reliant in the production of foodgrains. However, we have not been able to achieve self-sufficiency in the field of pulse and oilseeds. A lot many efforts have been made in this direction in the past yet we have not been able to achieve desired results. If we cast a look at the figures of the last 10 years in this regard then, we can well have an assessment about certain things. In view of the emerging trend of vegetarianism in the country and abroad, the demand for pulses has shot up in the market in the same proportion as the protein and other ingredients necessary for good health are present in the pulses and therefore, it is but natural to feel concerned about the production of pulses.

Sir, I was trying to drive the point home that the production of pulses in the country is not adequate and is short of its demand, therefore, its prices are going up constantly. There are two-three major reasons behind it. The inputs like fertilizers, seeds, agro-equipments etc. are getting costlier day by day, therefore, the cost of production has gone up and the farmers engaged in the cultivation of pulses are not getting even the cost price. Therefore, the farmers are shifting to other crops which promise higher profits. Through this question, I would like to know from the hon'ble minister two-three important things. There is a National Pulse Development Project in the country. This is a national project and cent-percent expenses are borne by the Union Government on this project in the Union Territories and in other States. Expenditure on this project is shared on the 75-25 ratio basis, i.e. Union Government bears 75 per cent expenditure and the balance 25 per cent expenditure is borne by the concerned state. However, I am told that normally the states are not able to bear their share of 25 per cent expenditure as a result of which 75 percents share to be provided by the Union Government is also not provided. Therefore, full benefits do not accrue from the project.

I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether he would introduce the same system in the states as has been done in the case of Union territories so as to ensure that the benefits of this project also accrue to the farmers and the production of the pulses is increased in the country.

I am to state that production of pulses under the National Pulses Development Project in the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 fell short of the target and the amount given as the share of the Union Government to various states has also declined in the same period. An amount of Rs. 5,18,900 was stated to be spent on this project. The share of the Union Government out of it was over rupee four lakhs. The allocation to the north eastern states has been increased further by another 12 per cent with a view to paying more attention to this region. I would again like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what measures are being adopted to contain the pests and diseases affecting the crops. Though agricultural scientists have made efforts in this direction yet I would like to quote from a report below:

"Still several difficulties are being faced in production of pulses in the country such as cultivation of these crops on rain fed, marginal and sub-marginal land, severe import of pests, warms and disease, climatic

fluctuations, hereditary success and deficiency, non-availability of irrigation facility, converting the area under pulse cultivation to more remunerative crops. Besides these limitations, the production of pulses depends upon monsoons. The production of pulses has fallen to 12.02 million tonnes in the year 1991-92 as compared to 14.26 million tonnes in the year 1990-91 and in the year 1995-96 it has further declined. Though it registered an increase in the year 1996-97 however it again fell to 12.97 million tonnes in the year 1997-98".

Therefore, it is matter of serious concern that we have not able to do much in this field in the last 10 years. I would like to ask you, as I had asked in the very outset, whether the hon'ble minister would make necessary arrangements for providing cent-percent assistance or grant and what steps the Government are going to take to remove the difficulties of the farmers. One more question that crops up in this context is that there are support prices for so many commodities however, there is no support price for pulses. There is no support price for masoor, peas etc. but support price is announced for gram. These pulses for which support price is not announced, the farmers do not feel inclined to cultivate these crops, therefore, I would like to know whether the hon'ble Minister is taking any measure to ensure that the support price is announced for them as well? The hon'ble Minister should respond to it.

As I just stated that many scientific experiments are being carried out in this field and one Sipani Agricultural Research Centre is located in my constituency also. This centre has carried out extensive research on 'Arhar' as a result of which the crop duration of arhar has been reduced from 5 months to 3 months and its production has also increased in terms of percentage.

I was stating that there should be replacement of seeds and if we are able to replace 12 per cent seeds then we shall be able to enhance our production. At present, there is only 3 per cent replacement of seeds in pulses. It should be at least 10 per cent, then only production could be enhanced. Therefore, I would like the hon'ble Minister to state as to what steps are being taken to increase this percentage so as to ensure higher production of pulses as per the demand in the country. At times, even today we have to depend on imports and for this reason pulses are being imported.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, pulses are being imported in the country today. Recently I inspected a pulse mill. There

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

in the mill, I saw that moong pulse was being crushed. The pulse seed was of big size. When I asked the mill owner, he told me that it was a hybrid moong. I asked as to where it came from. He replied that it was imported.

Sir, as I stated earlier that our agricultural scientists and farmers have toiled hard to make the country self reliant in the field of foodgrains. We can achieve the same success in the case of pulses also. The Government have included the pulse production enhancement programme in the National Technology mission. However the production of pulses has not increased to the desired level. What are the reasons therefor, I hope the hon'ble minister would reply to it.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I am aware that some efforts have been made in this direction but the success of the efforts could be evaluated only when our production is enhanced and imports fall. This is true that we have achieved self a reliance in the field of wheat and rice. Not only we are exporting these commodities we are also supplying wheat and rice to those countries which are facing some difficulties or natural catastrophe. This is a different thing. But what is being done to avoid imports and also what measure we are taking to become self-reliant in it, the Hon. Minister should inform the House about the efforts being made in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today people want to supplement protein and minerals, vitamins by eating pulses. Therefore, what is needed is to protect their health by providing them pulses so that the proteins etc. which is essential for their health is supplemented by pulses. This House should be informed about the steps taken by the Government and concrete steps proposed to be taken to increase the production of pulses in view of their increasing demand in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the Hon. Minister, through you, that by providing improved seeds, on the basis of some new experiments, demonstrations, sprinkler sets, tools and equipments, the production of pulses should be increased and the farmers should be given training for the purpose. With these words, I would like that the questions which I have raised should be replied to by the Hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have not given notice for that. Only four hon. Members have given prior notice. Therefore, only they will be allowed.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, with regard to the question of production of pulses and oilseeds, I have a few specific questions. My first question is this: Are we importing oilseeds? Are we importing edible oil also and if so, why? What are the reasons for that? My second question is this: Are the pulses produced in India sufficient? Are we importing pulses also? If so, why? Hon. Member, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya has already mentioned about the National Technology Mission in which the oilseeds production has been included. I also wanted to put this question but since it has already been asked, I would like to know from the Minister what is the achievement of the National Technology Mission as far as oilseeds are concerned.

My third and very important question is regarding import of vanaspati oil from Nepal. In the last three years the import of vanaspati oil from Nepal has increased by leaps and bounds. What is the reason for this? Due to import of vanaspati oil from Nepal at a very low price, a number of factories in Eastern India have started closing down. What is the reason? I would like to know how a poor country like Nepal is able to export vanaspati oil at low price to India and we are not able to compete with them price-wise.

My next question is about my own State, Orissa. While answering the question on 27th of last month the hon. Minister mentioned about production of pulses and crops in the unirrigated area in Orissa. Specifically in Western, South and the tribal districts of Orissa, there is a variety of pulse called Kandul. It is just like Arhar. It does not require much of water. It is generally grown by the Scheduled Tribe people for their own consumption. If the Government of India provide them some financial facilities, it can be developed as a commercial crop. I do not know if the hon. Minister and the Government of India knows about the production of Kandul. Will they come forward to provide some financial benefits or some other facilities so that it can be produced in a greater quantity?

Lastly, in the coastal Orissa, in the districts which I represent like Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Cuttack and Puri, there is a lot of scope of developing oil seeds like sunflower, mustard and groundnut. They are being produced, but in a lesser quantity. Hardly any technological

know-how is provided either by the Government of Orissa or by the Government of India. So, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister to kindly look into it. The coastal Orissa provides a fertile ground for the production of oilseeds and pulses like Moong and Urad.

I hope that he would look into the matter and make provisions so that technological know-how, financial and economic assistance are provided to farmers of that area to enable them to produce it in a greater quantity.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister, through you, that the population of the country has crossed one billion mark. The Green revolution was ushered in the country and the country became self-reliant in foodgrains after the Green revolution but the country is still not fully self-reliant in the production of pulses and oilseeds. Pulses are also a sort of cash crop. I would like to know from the Government as to what efforts have been made so far for conducting research to develop improved seeds for pulses with high protein content under the National Pulses Development Project?

Sir, now a trend has started that people are gradually switching over to vegetarian food from the non-vegetarian one. Pulses are important constituent of vegetarian food. If pulses have higher protein content people would like to consume it more. Therefore, I would like to know from the Government, through you that the National Pulses Development Project is already in place but what efforts have been made so far through this project for conducting research and development of improved seeds with high protein content and whether states or areas have been identified in the country producing more pulses? If so, what is the special scheme of the Government to provide incentives to the farmers of these areas? Will the Government provide special grant to them?

And the third thing, I would like to know is that we have seen that research has been conducted in other countries in regard to pulses. New seeds have been developed and they have increased their production two to three fold. Whereas we have got research laboratories etc. in the country, but despite that why the effects of researches have not been impressive in the production of pulses? What are the reasons for that and what are the reasons for the indifference of the Government, the hon. Minister throws some light on this matters, it would be better.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to give reply to the discussion raised and questions asked by Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya. We are the largest producer of pulses in the world. We are producing eleven varieties of pulses in our country. But the production of pulses is not sufficient in view of our population. We do agree that the area covered under the cultivation of pulses is very less. The pulses are grown in the rain-fed areas only. Our Government is striving for increasing its production. But we should understand one point that when there is deficient rain, it affects the production of pulses. There is much fluctuation in its production. Therefore sometime its production is less and sometime it is more. But this year the production has been definitely less and the drought is main reason behind that.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat was asking about the states which grow more pulses like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, U.P. and Maharashtra, I would like to inform that these states account for 68 per cent of total production of pulses. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat account for 15 per cent of the total production. Our Government is making every effort to boost the production of pulses through the National Pulses Development Project and we have tried to boost the production of pulses in 25 states, 2 Union Territories and 322 districts under the said project. The Government of India provides funds to the state governments in the ratio of 75:25 under various schemes to boost the production of pulses.

We have increased share-ratio this time to boost its production. As a question was asked here about the production of foundation seed. Earlier the development project scheme was launched in the Tenth Plan, under the scheme we used to give funds in the ratio of 75:25 which works out to Rs. 400 per quintal for production of foundation seed. But now the same has been increased to Rs. 500 i.e. an increase of Rs. 100 per quintal. There was a production of certified seeds village scheme and under this scheme the incentive was Rs. 200 per quintal and that has also been enhanced to Rs. 500 per quintal. Similarly the amount has been increased under every scheme such as for seed treatment, demonstration, protection, farmers' training, implementation of improved farming, distribution of sprinkler sets. The Scheme which was formulated during the Ninth Plan, we have made efforts to expand the area of pulse production under the

[Shri Shripad Yasso Naik]

said scheme. Our Government had constituted an expert committee and Hon. Pandeyji wanted to know about the report submitted by the said committee and the suggestions made therein....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : How much amount the Central Government has provided, first tell us about that?

SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : The Central Government has provided Rs. 36 crore for the entire country during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The amount of funds to be provided is decided by the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry and we can only make efforts to get the same. We can not go beyond this amount. The suggestions given by the Expert Committee are being implemented by us.

[English]

"Inclusion of pulses in the cropping system to improve soil health and increase the area coverage; supply of quality seeds through integrated programme of seed production from breeder to foundation and foundation to certified/quality seed in sufficient quantities; promotion of gypsum/pyrite as a source of sulphur which increases the productivity of pulses; large scale promotion of sprinkler system which is very successful in pulse crop; greater attention to extension and technology transfer through demonstration and training; and popularisation of NPV for control of pod borer in arhar and gram."

[Translation]

The suggestions given by the expert committee have been taken up for implementation.

[English]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Is it remunerative price or support price? I think you are not asking for that.

[Translation]

Have the Government also considered over the remunerative price or support price, will it be increased or not?

SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK: Yes, Sir, we are trying for that we are fixing support price for four pulses i.e. Gram, arhar, moong and urad as of now. And to include masoor

also, we have set up a committee to work out the cost price for the purpose and we have made a provision to include masoor also...*(Interruptions)* we will include them one by one. As we can't do it at a time. We will announce a special scheme for Bodoland...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, you should reply to those questions which are raised by the hon. Members. Please confine to the questions raised by the hon. Members.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK: The Expert Committee has also given suggestion for replacement of seed. It is three per cent now but the Government propose to enhance it to 10 per cent, we are considering that Hon. Member, Shri Swain has asked about the technology mission and its achievements. We have not yet received the achievements report of the said mission. The work has already started on it and we will place it before the House very soon.

Swainji also wanted to know about Vanaspati oil. I want to tell him that Vanaspati is not covered under the pulses. If he wants information about it, I can give him the same separately. Anyway, we are making efforts to boost the production of pulses.

[English]

For increasing productivity along with horizontal expansion through pure cropping or inter-cropping attempts are being made to break the yield barriers by intensification of the existing improved technology. The basic elements of this are seeds, pest control measures, irrigation, fertilizers and low cost production enhancing inputs :-

- (i) Besides the existing infrastructure for seeds in the public and the cooperative sector, NGOs and other reputed private seed growers will also be associated for the production of certified seeds. To make the pulses crops competitive along with the price support mechanism, productivity is essential and, therefore, for achieving the desired seed replacement rate,

new improved varieties will be distributed on a large scale and the public/cooperative seed production of agreed quantity by underwriting the sale of unlifted seed.

- (ii) In the cultivation of pulses which are being grown mostly in the rain-fed conditions, the existing facilities of subsidised distribution of sprinkler sets will be expanded. Under NPDP, the programme relating to sprinkler irrigation is being extended from year to year. This programme will have to be provided for a longer period, say 10 years or so.
- (iii) Extension support to farmers will be strengthened with the association of the NGO's farmers association along with the Government machinery.
- (iv) Integrated Pest Management Technology for pulses is still in a preliminary stage of its development and hence the use of eco-friendly plant protection chemicals would continue by the farmers. For encouraging the use of bio-control agents like NPV, their availability will be improved.

- (v) For increasing the productivity of pulses, ICAR has advocated the use of sulphur as pulses respond well to sulphur application. Materials like gypsum/pyrites have been identified as most suitable carriers of sulphur and as such its use will be popularised among the pulse growers through financial incentives.

[Translation]

The Government is making every effort to increase the production of pulses. And you will see the result shortly. The suggestions which all of you have given will be looked into and we will consider them.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 AM on 18th December, 2000.

18.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 18, 2000/
Agrahayana 27, 1922 (Saka)*

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