

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, April 29, 2003/Vaishakha 9, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice stating that the Cantonment Boards all over the country have been dissolved. The elections for them are not being held and the officers therein, are, in connivance with the army officers exploiting the masses to the extent that even the water tax has been increased upto ten times.

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise this matter during zero Hour. I have disallowed your notice.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana

+

*543. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages connected by roads, length of the roads constructed under the PMGSY so far, State-wise;

(b) whether the objective of the PMGSY is to provide rural road connectivity to the unconnected habitations in two phases;

(c) if so, the time by which second phase of this Yojana is likely to commence;

(d) whether the Government purpose to review the road connectivity norm of 'habitations with a population of 500 persons' in case of tribal habitations and fix the same on the lower side in view of the fact that the tribal population is scattered;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government have recently revised the procedure for execution of works under the Yojana as reported in *Hindu* dated April 4, 2003;

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

(i) the guidelines issued to the State Government in this matter;

(j) whether the State Governments were consulted before revising the procedure etc.; and

(k) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL) :
(a) to (k) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (k) Information regarding the number of Habitations and length, State-wise in respect of PMGSY roadworks cleared upto 31st March, 2003 is given in the attached Annexure I to III.

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) aims to provide all-weather road connectivity to about 1.60 lakh Unconnected Habitations in the rural areas in such a way that Habitations with a population of 1000 persons and above are covered in three years (2000-2003) and all Unconnected Habitations with a population of 500 persons and above by the end of the Tenth Plan Period (2007). In respect of Hill States (North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal) and the Desert Areas (as identified in the Desert Development Programme) as well as the Tribal (Schedule V) areas, the objective would be to connect Habitations with a population of 250 persons and above.

Government have revised the Guidelines of the PMGSY in January, 2003. There is no change in the norms and basic procedures for execution of works under the PMGSY and the revision has been done primarily to provide further details for the smooth implementation of various aspects of the Programme. As per the revised Guidelines of the PMGSY, the works will be tendered in accordance with the Standard Bidding Document, which has been framed after detailed discussions with the State Governments and experts, to standardise the tendering process.

Annexure-I*Details of projects cleared under the PMGSY
2000-2001*

| # | State | Total length (in km) | Total No. of habitations to be benefited |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 3367.07 | 2737 |
| 2. | Assam | 194.47 | 918 |
| 3. | Bihar | 854.96 | 680 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 980.68 | 306 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 488.77 | 175 |
| 6. | Haryana | 380.82 | 5 |
| 7. | Jammu and Kashmir | 98.26 | 111 |
| 8. | Jharkhand | 891.8 | 520 |
| 9. | Karnataka | 1658.08 | 1870 |
| 10. | Kerala | 104.56 | 38 |
| 11. | Madhya Pradesh | 1980.75 | 200 |
| 12. | Maharashtra | 613.96 | 342 |
| 13. | Mizoram | 80.3 | 9 |
| 14. | Orissa | 1110.73 | 1556 |
| 15. | Punjab | 171.04 | 134 |
| 16. | Rajasthan | 1193.87 | 386 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 1457.85 | 972 |
| 18. | Uttaranchal | 300.95 | 162 |
| 19. | West Bengal | 823.89 | 1480 |
| 20. | Pondicherry | 48.55 | 59 |
| 21. | A and N Islands | 17.35 | 14 |
| Total | | 16818.71 | 12674 |

Note : In respect of remaining 9 States and Union Territory of Daman and Diu, a sum of Rs. 672.26 crore was provided for completion of incomplete road works initiated under the erstwhile Basic Minimum Services Programme.

Annexure-II*Details of projects cleared under the PMGSY
2001-2002 and 2002-2003**

| # | State | Total length (in km) | Total No. of habitations to be benefited |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 3475.24 | 1781 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 662.49 | 214 |
| 3. | Assam | 589.12 | 957 |
| 4. | Bihar | 1543.14 | 1227 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 1249.14 | 543 |
| 6. | Goa | 109.71 | 50 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 815.15 | 466 |
| 8. | Haryana | 700 | 391 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 934.1 | 449 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 233.98 | 131 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 1186.95 | 585 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 3221.88 | 2359 |
| 13. | Kerala | 295.37 | 192 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 3851.29 | 1331 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 1885.85 | 853 |
| 16. | Manipur | 696.31 | 130 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 275 | 96 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 300.21 | 31 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 321.5 | 39 |
| 20. | Orissa | 2080.28 | 1342 |
| 21. | Punjab | 523.28 | 299 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 2076.47 | 619 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 249.75 | 122 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 844.65 | 576 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------------|---|----------|-------|
| 25. Tripura | | 206.27 | 177 |
| 26. Uttar Pradesh | | 3127.57 | 2090 |
| 27. Uttaranchal | | 466.15 | 144 |
| 28. West Bengal | | 1118.47 | 1069 |
| 29. A and N Islands | | 36.4 | 13 |
| 30. D and N Haveli | | 83.89 | 36 |
| 31. Daman and Diu | | 91.71 | 143 |
| 32. Delhi | | 0 | 0 |
| 33. Lakshadweep | | 0 | 0 |
| 34. Pondicherry | | 43.93 | 11 |
| Total | | 33295.35 | 18466 |

*The road works for the two years were cleared together.

Annexure-III

*Details of projects cleared under the PMGSY
2003-2004*

| # | State | Total length (in km) | Total No. of habitations to be benefited |
|-------|----------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1. | Chhattisgarh | 2283.72 | 1039 |
| 2. | Haryana | 274.81 | 102 |
| 3. | Madhya Pradesh | 2814 | 836 |
| 4. | Mizoram | 277.98 | 19 |
| 5. | Rajasthan | 5490.70 | 1641 |
| Total | | 11141.21 | 3637 |

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has given only the details of the total number of projects that have been cleared on an all India basis. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has made a study of the total number of unconnected habitations that needs to be connected and whether there is a possibility of the States sending details of the total

number of roads that have to be completed? What is the time-frame within which the hon. Minister has to complete rural connectivity of the various categories, like for habitations of thousands people, for habitations of 500 people and SC/ST areas, that have been given here?

Sir, the last part of my question is that there are a number of areas inhabited by persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in my constituency. Is the Minister planning to extend the guidelines of connectivity for places inhabited by 250 or more persons to connect these areas?

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Sir, the total number of unconnected habitations out of the total of 8,25,647 is 3,30,445. Out of these unconnected habitations, the number of unconnected habitations that has a population of 1000(+) and above is 58,787. The number of unconnected habitations that has a population between 500 and 1000 is 80,590 and the number of unconnected habitations that has a population between 250 and 500 is about 21,440. the total comes to about 1,60,791.

Sir, this programme was started in December, 2000. In the beginning of the year 2000-01 the people were gearing up as to how it could be executed and what type of things are there. They were even confused at least for the first six months. After September, 2001 the programme has picked up and at present the physical and financial performance of this programme is as under.

The number of roads which were expected to be in the country was about 37,000 kilometres. The sanction that was taken till February 2003 was 24002 kilometres. The roads that have been completed till February 2003 were about 12761 kilometres. For the year 2000-01, the roads that were completed were to the extent of 84.95 per cent while for the years 2001-02, till February 2003, the performance is up to 71 per cent.

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : The second part of my question is this. I want to know from the hon. Minister the amount of allocation that had been made State-wise, the amount that had been released to each State, the actual amount that had already been spent with respective States, and whether there has been any diversion of funds meant for *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* by the respective State Governments. If there is anything like that, the

Minister may kindly provide the details as to how he plans to prevent misutilisation of the funds.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Sir, the total allocation under this programme is almost about Rs. 2500 crore each year. That has been already there. For 2000-01, it is about Rs. 2500 crore. For 2001-02, it is about Rs. 3500 crore, and for 2002-03, it is almost Rs. 2340 crore. Out of this, the amount released to all the States, namely, 28 States and 6 Union Territories, is Rs. 5009.35 crore.

I think the work that is going on in each State under this programme is quite satisfactory but the report on the grading and quality of the roads, which indicate that the inspections of roads to the tune of 4370 kilometres were carried out. In this grading, quality-wise, 'poor' were about 5.26 per cent; 'average' 25.30 per cent; 'good' about 62 per cent; and 'very good' only 6 per cent. If we go to the quality aspect of it, almost 30 per cent is in a bad category. As pointed out by the hon. Member, we are thinking of checking up the quality in each State by the technical bodies.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been demanding from the hon. Minister for the last one year that the tribal villages be connected by roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Adivasis live in a scattered manner. You have served as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and you are very well aware that adivasis don't live permanently at one place. They have small settlements. A total of 120 districts in the country have tribal population. Tribals live in forest areas and it is very difficult to develop pathways and roads in those forests due to the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act. It is due to this reason that the tribal villages have not been connected by roads till date. The tribal villages having a population of more than 500 or 1000 have been proposed to be connected by roads. You have rightly said that huge losses have been suffered due to the efforts being made to provide road connectivity to the villages having a population of 250 and more because these villages don't come in the bracket of villages having a minimum population of one thousand I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what efforts are being made by him to

remove the backlog of last three years i.e., 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 in regard to providing road connectivity to the villages having 50-100 houses situated on road sides? Besides the nexalites affected States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh etc. can be saved from the problem of landmines which is causing a lot of problem for the common citizens as well as policemen there by constructing tar roads therein. If the roads are developed in those areas then the road mines can not be laid there. Hence even the construction of roads is being opposed. Hence due to this reasons either the Union Government has failed to send the GR to the State Governments or the State Governments have refused to receive GR till now in regard to connecting the 81000 tribal villages, as told by you covering 120 districts in the country. I would like to know whether you will make efforts to remove the backlog of last three years at the earliest by intimating the State Governments in this regard.

Secondly a vigilance and monitoring Committee at district level has also been constituted under the chairmanship of MPs. The announcement in regard to appointing that MP as Chairman of the Committee was made in the House whose parliamentary constituency has greater number of legislative assembly constituencies than the others in case a district having two Members of Parliament. However I am very sad to say that though my area has four assembly constituencies, I have yet not been made the chairman of the Committee. The Member representing two legislative assembly constituencies has already been made chairman because he belongs to the ruling party and I have been denied the chance as I am in the opposition. This kind of injustice has been done against several MPs of the country. Will you try to reform it?

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Regarding the revised guidelines to cover the area under a population of 250 and less in the tribal areas, they have already been designed and sent to the State Governments to make programmes in future incorporating the idea of creating cluster base for all the tribal villages. All the villages and wadis which have less than 250 people can be included

within a radius of 500 metres. Therefore, what he is doubtful about will be taken care of.

Secondly, regarding the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees, I know that he has already pointed out this question. Not many Members, but a very few Members of Parliament, hardly four or five Members, have got such a complaint. We will look into them.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : My question was as to what steps will be taken by you to do away with the backlog of three years. The hon. Minister has not given any reply in this regard. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would give an order to allocate more funds to the State Governments to make up for the losses suffered by the tribal villages during the last three budget year.

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : We will look into it.

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : The details of the State-wise allocation is not seen in the reply. I must say one thing that I find no rationale in the allotment of funds and in clearance of projects to States like Kerala. I think Kerala is totally neglected as far as this project is concerned. In Kerala the total road length to be connected is 4252.90 kms. that is for 5415 habitations. But the total projects cleared so far during the period 2000, upto 31st March 2003 is 399.99 kms. of length for 230 habitations. That means the balance to be connected is 5185 habitations and 3853 kms. If this position continues, Kerala will never be able to achieve its reasonable requirement. In view of this, will the Minister look into the complaints of the States like Kerala and evolve a reasonable and practical norm to do justice to States like Kerala?

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : The hon. Member is worried about the allocation to the State of Kerala. I can give the total information about State-wise allocation in which Kerala has got about Rs. 20 crore. However, the performance of 2000-01 is not very well in the State of Kerala. In fact, we were expecting much better. We have already released amounts to the tune of Rs. 46.25 crore to Kerala.

We expect that whatever performance they will achieve in the next few years, we would certainly think over it.

He has also expressed some doubts about the problems of Kerala. I think it should not be there because allocation is made based on the total habitations unconnected in the State, compared with the total habitation unconnected in the county. We will take care of this, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given the list of the settlements benefitted from Construction of roads alongwith the road length in kilometres during the previous four years i.e. 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 but the list does not contain any information about as to how many kilometres of road length has been prepared by now out of the total sanctioned length and to what extent the progress in this regard has taken place. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much total progress has been made in regard to the construction of roads in Bihar vis à vis the sanctioned road lengths proposed to be constructed during the year 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004? Having seen the list given by the hon. Minister in regard to year 2003-2004, I feel that justice has not been done with Bihar. Not even a one kilometre road length has been sanctioned for Bihar. I would like to know the reason therefor? Whether the reason for it is the non receipt of the list from the State Government? If the list has not been submitted, then I would like to know will you provide justice to Bihar after considering the recommendations of the MP's of Bihar? The former Minister Shri Shanta Kumar had announced in this very House that the work in those States will be undertaken through other agencies where the work progress is not satisfactory. I would like to know as to what follow up action has been taken by your Ministry in compliance of the announcement made by the former Minister Shri Shanta Kumar? He had referred especially in regard to Bihar that he has considered on getting the work done through other agencies there. If it has already been pondered over, by when it will be implemented?

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, his first question is in regard to the inappropriate allocation of funds being made by the centre of various States. As for Bihar is concerned, we have allocated a lot of funds to Bihar. Rs. 149.90 crore were allocated to Bihar in the

year 2000-2001 and Rs. 302 crore were earmarked for this state in the year 1998.

[English]

Out of this total, the State of Bihar has paid only Rs. 63.33 crore. The performance was not very good, that is, it was very very poor. Accordingly, my earlier Minister Shri Shanta Kumar had taken a lot of meetings with the State Government, including the Chief Minister. The outcome of those meetings was that they have assigned this job to some agency, particularly, RITES and Project Engineering cum Project Management Consultant. NPCC, as an executing agency was also appointed. I think they will certainly execute these things.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : How much expenditure has taken place. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, not even a kilometre long road has been sanctioned during 203 and 2004. I would like to know the reasons therefor?. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Expenditure incurred is Rs. 63.33 crore rupees.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA : Mr. Speaker Sir, PMGSY is a Centrally-sponsored scheme launched on 25 December 2000 to provide connectivity to all unconnected habitations, that is, 1.6 lakh with all weather roads. All unconnected habitations with a population of 500 were to be provided with connectivity by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan, that is, by 2007. There is a delay in getting the proposals approved and executed. The reason being that most of the roads there come under the Forest Development, and delay is due to non-clearance by the Environment and Forest Department in time.

Especially in Tamil Nadu, most of the roads are coming under tribal and hilly areas. Would the Minister take special interest to get clearance from the Ministry of Forests and Environment and achieve the target of this year?

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : The proposals are received by us after they are planned by the district and the State Government. But, as far as Tamil Nadu is

concerned, there is no doubt that there are certain difficulties. I think we will look into them.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, PMGSY is one of the best programmes launched after Independence by the Government of India. I am appreciating the Prime Minister of the country, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. But your plan of action is that you have decided to complete the roads in the villages with a population of above 1000 by 2003 and above 500 by 2007. Now the year is 2003. Would you be able to complete the roads in the villages with a population of above 1000 by this year?

Secondly, taking into account the meagre allocation of funds to this programme, it will not be possible to complete the roads even by 2007. Has the Minister got any information as to whether they are extending this programme? According to the commitment of the Government, villages having a population of above 500 and above 250 in the case of hilly, desert and other areas, the roads are to be completed by 2007. The funds would not be sufficient to achieve the target according to your vision. Will the Government increase the funds for completing all the roads according to the schedule?

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : The hon. Member has very rightly pointed out that, according to our previous programme, by 2003, we may not be able to complete the roads in the villages with a population of above 1000 persons. There are a lot of difficulties not from the side of the Central Government but from that of the State Governments and hence, they are not able to execute the work. In the case of Maharashtra – I do not want to go into the details – to solve the dispute between the nodal agencies or the executing agencies on whether the work should be taken up by the Department of Rural Development or the Public Works Department itself took almost eleven months. So, almost eleven months were spent in deciding which Department should take up this work. Therefore, there are many hurdles in the States. Due to such hurdles, we had a problem. But we with deal with them.

Secondly, regarding funds, there is no dearth of funds. We have already allocated the required funds for all the programmes which was mentioned upto 2007. An amount

of about Rs. 2500 crore is coming by way of CRF cess. We have already arranged additional finance to the tune of Rs. 4000 crore from external agencies particularly from the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank. Therefore, there should be no dearth of funds. But we will certainly revise the whole programme and complete it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, not a single road has been sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh during the year 2000-2001. I don't know the reasons therefor. The roads which had been sanctioned in the year 2002-2003 were constructed but I don't know the number thereof. During his visit to Jaiprakash Nagar last year on 11th October hon. Prime Minister had publicly announced that the village of Shri Jaiprakashji and all the small adjoining villages would be connected to roads but not even a meter long road has been constructed. Even the Government of Uttar Pradesh submitted a draft proposal with the centre and I had sent one copy of that draft to the Prime Minister's office but nothing has been done so far in this regard. I have even more important question to ask which is different from it. National Highway between Ghazipur to Hajipur is almost complete in Uttar Pradesh. An approach road in Uttar Pradesh has been constructed but no approach road has been constructed in Bihar due to which the bridge is lying unused for the last 6 months. Government of Bihar has not even bothered to provide one kilogram of sand to construct that approach road. I would like to know whether the Government are aware of it? National Highway is a different subject but my second question is as to why not even a single road has been approved for Uttar Pradesh during 2000-2001? Secondly why no work has taken place in regard to providing connectivity to every village of Jaiprakash Nagar as was publicly announced by hon. Prime Minister?

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I don't agree with the particular question raised by Chandrashekarji that no work has been done because we have with us. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : You see your Statement of 2000-2001.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a statement of too the year 2000-2001 for Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

In that Rs. 324 crore was sanctioned for Uttar Pradesh. I am providing you the details. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, you should address, the Chair.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : The data I have in the Statement. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am reading the whole Statement.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I request you to refer to the Statement that the Minister has laid on the Table of the House? If there is some additional Statement, that should be brought before the House. This is not the way to say that "I cannot accept it". There is no name of UP in 2000-2001. I do not ask questions without any purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am ready to make the statement because I have detail with me in the form of a statement.

[English]

I would lay it on the Table of the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please try to understand that the Statement which you have given, does not include the name of Uttar Pradesh. You can explain it to why it is not included.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it does not have the name of Uttar Pradesh in it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister should reply the question asked by hon. Chandrashekharji, Hon. Minister has not replied it. . . .

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am trying to elicit information from the Minister. Please sit down.

[Translation]

Hon. Minister Sir, could you tell about it? The statement of the year 2000-2001 does not have the name of Uttar Pradesh in it. Hon. Chandrashekharji wants to know as to why no allocation was made during that year? You reply this question to resolve the query.

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : That Statement does not relate to 2000-01.

[Translation]

The Statement of the year 2000-01 has not been given this year. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, I have seen the data of the year 2000-2001. You people resume your seats. Let me get the information from the hon. Minister.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : It has happened by mistake. The entire details has been given in the Statement.

[English]

I have the information.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Sir, I am on a Point of Order. No Statement can be made in this House without the authorisation of an officer not below the Joint Secretary level. If this has been made, and inadvertently a totally false Statement is being laid on the Table of the House, somebody should be hauled up for this. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry of say this. I am not accustomed to say a thing without any basis. The Minister immediately gets up and says that what Mr. Chandra Shekhar says, he does not

agree with it: it is not true. He is giving a wrong statement. He is accusing me that I have said something false in the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I have understood your point. He is not accusing you.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : This is not the level which is expected of him.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I am picking up what you say.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not mentioned in the Statement, I hold it to be true.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If you have no information now. You can send it to the hon. Member later on.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the countrymen have welcomed the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana and this scheme has kindled a ray of hope among the rural population that their villages would be connected to roads. Through you, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister towards some of the problems related to the issue. As far hilly States are concerned, most of the villages are yet to be connected to the roads as they are surrounded with forests. The biggest problem in the way of connecting the tribal areas or hill areas as has been pointed out by Shri Pugaliaji is the 1980 Wild Life Protection Act. He had asked the same question. Hon. Minister knows it and he would give the same reply that taking clearance for constructing roads in such areas is necessary and roads will surely be constructed once clearance under 1980 Act is granted. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government would make the granting of clearance time bound mandatory, only then the villages could be connected with roads. Else these villages would never be connected with roads in guise of the act of 1980.

Second problem is in regard to the connectivity of the villages having a population of 250. I welcome your relaxation in norms for the hilly and tribal areas but it is also true that it is difficult for the villages in those areas to fulfill this criteria of the population of even 250. Hence

I would like to know whether you will replace village with village group so that their number be reckoned with while forming criteria for connectivity.

My last question is that as for the question of contractorship is concerned, only 'A' class contractors are eligible to win contracts for road construction under the scheme. The people of rural areas remain bereft of employment opportunity in such a condition. Through you, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he would make a provision to include the class 'B' and class contractors also in taking contractorship for constructing these roads so that even villagers could get employment under the scheme.

[English]

SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL : As far as the tribal areas are concerned, I have already stated while replying to the earlier question that we will certainly see as to how that programme can be immediately taken up. Regarding the contractors.

[Translation]

There are the new revised guidelines that even the State Government also can engage small contractos such provisions has been made by us. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need your protection I would like to know as to whether the hon. Minister would make a provision making it mandatory that the time bound clearance under the 1980 Act be given.

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise the issue under any other rule. Several questions remain to be asked.

CBSE

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*544. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Board of Secondary Education had announced that students will get more options in the question papers in the Pre-Board and Board examinations;

(b) if so, whether the said decision has not been implemented so far;

(c) if so, the authority responsible therefor;

(d) whether the Government would ensure to provide more options in the question papers of all the subjects of Board examination of Xth and XIIth in the future to avoid disappointment amongst students; and

(e) if so, the action plan worked out therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) For the year 2002, the question papers for Mathematics for Class X and Economics and Biology for Class XII provided more number of options. A similar exercise was done for 2003 for Science paper for Class X and Physics and Mathematics papers for Class XII of the CBSE exams. CBSE will continue to design question papers based on the policy of reducing the total number of questions and providing more options therein.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister in his reply has agreed to give more options from the year 2002 in the question papers of Maths for class X, Economics and Biology for class XII and from the year 2003 in the question papers of Science for Class X and Maths in Class XII. I would like to know whether there is any action plan to give more options in all the subjects of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). If so, whether the action plan would be implemented in a prescribed time limit and if so, by what time?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, improvement of question papers and examination reforms are a continuing process. We do wish that examinations do not become a source of mental stress on the students and they take it comfortably. It has often been seen that an otherwise good student, under the stress of examination

is not able to do well. We are making efforts to create such an ambiance through question papers that a student is able to pour all his information in the examination and he is not unduly stressed. This experiment is still in initial stage and we are following it up. We will expand its scope if we get success in our experiment but it would happen only on the condition that we get the concurrence of experts as it is not done by CBSE unilaterally but only after consultations with schools, guardians and experts. About the reforms we have made, it may be seen that earlier there used to be 30 questions in Maths paper for class X and there was no option. The student had to answer all the questions. Now the number of questions has been reduced to 25 and there are options for five questions. We have done this for examination of the year 2002. The same thing has also been done in the case of subjects such as Biology, Economics, Science, Mathematics and Physics. We are trying to do this to provide some extra time to the students. We will take our next required step on the basis of the feedback we get. Our aim is to ensure that students appear in the examination with care, ease but without stress.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the outcome of the experiments conducted in particular subjects in the examination system in the year 2002-2003 and in previous years.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I have already said that only one year has passed since the introduction of new system in 2002. The results of exams of the year 2003 are yet to be declared. It is difficult to reach at any conclusion in such a short-time as any decision is taken only after consultations with experts and many other persons. It would not be correct to say that we have received all the feedback. As we receive feedback, we analyse it and it is a time-consuming process. It may take as much as three years and everything would depend on the opinions of students, examiners, teachers and also of experts. A final decision is taken only after keeping in mind the aspects of maintaining balance in the results of CBSE board and other boards. . . .(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : I would like to know whether such an examination system would be implemented where books are allowed in the examination hall.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to point out to the hon'ble Minister that still there are a few lacunae in our examination system which are causing increase in the cases of suicides among students. An Examination Reforms Committee was set up in 1990. What were its main recommendations and how many of those recommendations have been implemented?

Part 'b' of the question is that in the year 1980, it was decided that a Navodaya Vidyalaya would be opened in each district of the country with a view to provide adequate opportunities of higher education. There are a number of such districts where Navodaya Vidyalayas are yet to be built. Under Article 45, Government had decided to provide free education to all children below 14 years of age, even then 40 percent children, that is 1.5 crore children, do not get education. I would like to know as to what proposals hon'ble Minister have to enhance investment in education in the 10th Five Year Plan?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the two parts of his question are not related to the original question. The original question relates to changes made in the CBSE examination Question papers. If the hon. Member gives separate notices to seek the information about investment and other aspects, all will be replied.

The issue of students committing suicide as a result of getting less marks or failing in the examination is a very important one. Students suffer mentally if they score low marks. We are trying to simplify examination system. We are trying to change examination and education process with a view to ensure that children are not stressed due to exams and they maintain a healthy mentality. Recently the Government have given orders to stop examinations in class I and II of CBSE schools so that the students of class I and II do not come under pressure of annual or half yearly examinations. The need is to prepare them gradually for the examinations and testing them in such a way that they do not feel stress. Similarly we are trying to lessen the burden of school bags so that the children keep healthy and they do not have to carry heavy school bags. CBSE has also made a proposal that upto a certain class students would not have to carry their school bags

home. They may keep their bags at the school and get home without them. This is a way to lessen their burden.

Third point relates to pass and fail in the examination. The issue of works scored is very important. First is why students should fail at all? Do we want huge number of pass or fail students in our country. How to determine that a student scoring 33 percent marks has passed and one scoring 31 or 32 percent has failed. On this, we have made a proposal to CBSE to introduce grade system wherein there would be no mention of pass or fail. The proposal seeks to award grades to students upto nine level. He may score 'A' in one subject, 'B' in one subject and so on. The latter alphabets would denote lesser ability. And he would be given opportunity to improve his grades. Not one or two, but he would be given four chances to improve his grade. The aim is to remove the feeling among children that they have failed in the examination. We would like them to progress and show their talent. Another issue of concern is the competition in scoring marks. If someone scores 98 percent marks then those getting 96 or 97 percent feel that they are losing out on something.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in a way the parents are also pressuring their children to score high marks. It also causes difficulties and psychological problems. Therefore, we have made arrangement for counselling. In that, the students and their guardians are given counselling which subjects are suitable for them and how to appear in examinations. Thus we are making a number of experiments to improve the examination system so as to create easy and tension free atmosphere to study so that the children are freed from stress. All this is being done to remove the lacunae, as pointed out by the hon'ble Member, and to check the suicide among students.

Sir, the question of depression is also linked to suicides. Therefore, all this is being looked into in a comprehensive way.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. That is why I would like to know from all the hon'ble Minister if he has been able to get more allocation in the field of education from the Government or not?

MR. SPEAKER : Scindia ji, hon'ble Minister has given a detailed reply of your question. Now please sit down.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, original question is usually lost in detailed replies.

MR. SPEAKER : That is why detailed replies are given.

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA : Sir, the examination reform is long overdue and unfortunately we do it in bits and pieces. We need to raise the technical competence of paper setters and adopt scientific marking procedures. . . . (Interruptions) I would like to repeat that we need to raise the technical competence of the paper setters and adopt scientific marking procedures.

My question is: (a) is a regular in-service training programme held for teachers in paper setting, (b) will multiple choice questions be abolished? It is something like Amitabh Bachan's *Cronepati* programme. It is a hit and miss thing. Unfortunately, in the examination hall, you cannot phone a friend for correct answers. Negative marking is the most unscientific one.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : So far as negative marking is concerned, we do not have such a system in CBSE. It may be done in the State boards, since the subject falls in concurrent list. Different States have different paper setters and there are different examination systems. We can only make requests to State Governments, have dialogue with them, convince them but ultimately it depends on those States to adopt the examination system they think most suitable for them. Grade system has not become universal in our country. Similarly multiple choice questions are also not universal. Each board has its own examination system, but in our own system, we only want to make sure that there are no lacunae in it.

Sir, so far as the suggestion of the hon'ble Member regarding giving training to paper setters, I would like to tell her that this work is done by the CBSE on a continuous basis and if any State Government desires assistance from the NCERT in this regard, we are always ready for that. If we receive any proposal or project form any State Government, we would help them. The reform in paper setting and examination system is a continuing process. There is no lagging behind on it.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, the decision to offer more options in the question papers, I must say, is a welcome step. But at the same time, the hon. Minister referred to the problems arising out of the system of 'fail and pass' and competition of securing more marks. I would like to know from him whether it has also been considered that the total effect of the examination, when we are convinced that the assessment about the student's knowledge acquired over a period of one year, cannot be effectively assessed during the three-hour examination, is he considering to lower the contribution or the proportion of the marks secured in the examination to only 50% and devote the other 50% marks to a general evaluation carried out over the period of time, say one year, till the terminal examination based on the work done by the student in the class and on the basis of home work assigned?

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussions are being held on this suggestion. And in the current Project of CBSE, our effort is to introduce a system of periodical assessment, at certain periods, of students upto class V in place of current system of evaluating them at the end of the year. In this regard we would like to have discussion with various States regarding their examination system and whether they would like to start semester system. We are also considering a suggestion regarding the method of dividing marks. It could be done only after experts reach a conclusion, as we need to derive a formula applicable in the whole country.

After, class XII, there is question of getting admission in university. On this issue, we are obliged to have consultations with State Governments, universities, experts and various boards, but we are of the opinion that the examination and determination of ability of a student should not be a one time affair, but a continuous one. Wherever such a situation exists, we have given them opportunity to improve the system. CBSE has such an arrangement that a student of Class X is not required to clear the examination of the syllabus covered in Class IX. Many other boards have a system under which both class IX and X are covered at time to exams for class X. The

CBSE exams for class XI and XII are held separately. Our efforts are aimed at removing the burden and stress of examination on children and their ability is not determined only on the basis of one examination. We would like to have this procedure all over the country but we can take a decision only after amalgamating all opinions on the subject.

Recognition to Engineering Colleges

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*546. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria followed by the Government for granting recognition to the Engineering Colleges;

(b) whether the colleges in various States have been granted recognition in a uniform, manner and according to the aforesaid criteria only;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of the Engineering Colleges granted recognition by the Government during the year 2001, 2002 and the current year till date?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Statutory Body empowered by the AICTE Act 1987 to grant approval for starting new Technical Institutions (including Engineering Colleges) in consultation with the agencies concerned, invites application every year for starting new institutions. On examination of the applications for ensuring availability of infrastructure facilities as per the prescribed Norms and Standards, such as land, built-up area, computing facilities, library, faculty and fund and on the basis of the report of the Expert Committee and the

recommendations of the Regional Committee, AICTE grants approval to applicants who fulfil the laid-down requirements. The approval process involves consultation with the State Government and the University concerned. While the State Government identifies the need, the geographical distribution, etc., the University ensures fulfilment of conditions of affiliation. The Norms of AICTE apply uniformly throughout the country. During the academic years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 AICTE granted approval to 219 and 151 new Engineering Colleges respectively. The approval process for the academic year 2003-04 is in progress.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply the hon'ble Minister said that All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the statutory body empowered by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Act 1987 issues licenses for opening new Engineering colleges. I have come to know that during the last 2-3 years, officers of All India Council for Technical Education took bribe and issued licenses even to those engineering colleges which do not fulfill the prescribed norms. Has the hon'ble Minister got conducted any inquiry in this regard or have set up a monitoring agency or exercised any control to see whether they are issuing licenses under the rule or violating the rules. As a result of it, poor students and wards of farmers do not get admission in these engineering colleges because these students are not able to pay heavy capitation fees. I would like to know whether the hon'ble Minister will set up a uniform fee structure for all the colleges?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, to my knowledge, till now no hon'ble Member or any other agency has even made any complaint in regard to violation of norms for giving recognition to 50 and 50 colleges by accepting bribe or on any other consideration. If any such complaint is received, the Government will take stringent action in that regard because during last 2-3 years, the working of AICTE has been made very transparent. No incident of this sort has come to us where approval was given out of corruption. If such situation arises and complaint is received in regard to giving recognition to any college by accepting bribe, the Government will definitely take action in that regard. . . .(Interruptions) First listen to me, please.

The other submission that the hon'ble Member made is about fee structure. Earlier, AICTE norms were very clear in regard to fee structure. But most of the private colleges have set their own criterion for giving admission and taking fees now a days due to certain interpretation of recent Supreme Court ruling. A few days back, we held a meeting of Secretaries. On that basis, some norms have been fixed and a high level committee has been constituted for this purpose to form the fee structure after inquiry. As far as giving admission to poor students is concerned, open entrance test is conducted for this. Any one who qualifies that test will get admission. One cannot get admission in AICTE recognised colleges without qualifying the test.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has given an evasive reply to my question. Last time, the Estimates Committee had brought several complaints to the knowledge of the hon'ble Minister. As per my information, it was found from inquiry that at many places rules were violated. The hon'ble Minister has not replied as to how permission to those colleges against whom State Governments have raised objection, has been given. I would like to know the number of engineering colleges opened in a large State like Uttar Pradesh during the last three years?

Secondly, the hon'ble Minister made a mention of recent Supreme Court ruling in this regard in his reply, he said the decision would be taken after consultation. By when a decision would be taken in this regard? What amount of fees would be taken from poor student, or will each and every college charge fees arbitrarily or will the Government make a rule and decide the fee ceiling? By when the Government will take a decision. I know that the hon'ble Minister will not be able to say as to by when a decision would be taken, it is because this Government have no power to think. There will be no decision at all.

MR. SPEAKER : If you yourself give the reply, how will it work. You ask the question, and you yourself give the reply.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : Even then I would like to ask. There is no truth in it. The hon'ble Minister will not reply, and you will not give me another chance to speak, therefore I would like to say that till this Government is in

power, the fee structure will not become uniform. Today some colleges are charging one lakh rupees, and some are charging five lakh rupees, nobody is charging a lesser amount than this. No poor student is having that much money to take admission in these colleges. Hon'ble Minister, please listen to me. Will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to say as to by when the Government would formulate a uniform fee structure? Will the colleges be allowed to charge fees in an arbitrary manner? The hon'ble Minister should reply to this.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, I have said several times and the hon'ble Members should also know that no college is capable or authorised to charge fees of Rs. 5 lakh, or Rs. Ten lakh. If any college is charging Rs. 5 lakh as fees, which is a violation of AICTE norms, it should be brought to Government's knowledge. Inquiry would be conducted and necessary action would be taken in this regard by the Government. I told you. . . .(Interruptions) Please listen to me, I am telling you that the new ruling of the Supreme Court has empowered private institutions with several powers and its orders are being interpreted in different ways.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : You are not replying to my question. therefore, I am again asking as to how much fees a college would charge?

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down, let him give the reply.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : AICTE and Government's norms are very clear in regard to fee structure.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : How much is the money?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Every State Government themselves decide fees for engineering colleges established in their State, which vary from place to place. This has been recommended by Unnikrishan Committee conformity with Supreme Court's judgement in. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh ji, do not do so please, sit down.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : It is a straight question as to what would be the maximum fees to be charged by the

Government in first year of engineering colleges. What fees are being charged in engineering colleges of Uttar Pradesh. If it is not fixed then it means that the Government are accepting bribe from engineering colleges. This Government are doing a wrong thing.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I am giving a straight reply. The norms for fees are fixed, there are set norms in every State and on that basis fees are charged and would be charged.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Where the poor students will study. You may name a single school and a single district, where admission fee is less than Rs. 5 lakh, Rs. 50 thousands, Rs. 25 thousand is being charged. Tell us, in which college would the poor student study? . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI C.N. SINGH : The hon'ble Minister is not saying anything in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to consume the time of the House in this way, it is not going to serve any purpose. If I announce the next question, you will be in loss, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will the hon'ble Minister not reply? He will reply. It is not a proper way on your part Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. You will not get any reply if all of you rise together. I am ready to get you the reply but you are not required to keep on standing Please sit down, otherwise I am going to take up the next question. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you are not ready to listen to the reply, let me take up the next question. Please sit down. Hon'ble Minister is making reply. Shri C.N. Singh had asked the question and hon'ble Minister has replied to it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What else is it if not the reply? Will 10 members rise together?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have the right to speak as I have not allowed you to speak.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : You will not allow me also.

MR. SPEAKER : When I allow you then you can speak. Right now, you can not raise question. . . .

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Otherwise, I will go to the next question.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Your are harming yourself.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Even then, hon'ble Minister is ready to reply. You will not get reply if you remain standing like this and you will be the loser only.

(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I am replying.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, where will the poor students go? Tribal students are not getting admissions in higher schools, therefore, Government should keep a check on these schools. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. Hon'ble Minister is making reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C.N. SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is that how much amount is being charged at the time of admission in colleges. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister is replying to your question.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is more than enough.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, State Committees decide fee structure in the respective States. As per my information. . . .*(Interruptions)* I am telling. Please listen, do not get uneasy before listening the complete reply. Maximum sum of Rs. 65 thousand to 70 thousand is charged as fee for the paid seats, and for the free seats it is maximum upto to Rs. 10 thousand. The fee structure can differ upto this limit at difference places.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister is* speaking every thing. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I remove it from the records.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think they want a reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Incidents of Explosion in Mines under BCCL

*547. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the mines under the Bharat Coking Coal Limited wherein incidents of explosion took place during the last three years, till date;

(b) the number of workers who died/got injured in these explosions in mines, place-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted/being conducted into each of such incidents

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair

(e) the measures taken by the Government to check the incidents of explosion in the coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) :

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There are no such mines under Bharat Coking Coal Limited where explosion took place during the last three years, till date.

(b) Not applicable in view of reply given to part (a) above.

(c) and (d) Not applicable in view of reply given to part (b) of above.

(e) Measures are being taken by Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiary companies for prevention of explosions in their mines as under :

- (i) Compliance with the statutes relating to measures for prevention of explosions.
- (ii) Ventilation of mine workings – arrangements are made to ventilate mine workings that have not been sealed off or stowed to dilute the concentration of inflammable gas to safe limits as prescribed in Coal Mines Regulation (CMR), 1957
- (iii) Monitoring of mine environment for presence of inflammable gas :
 - In working areas – working areas are examined for presence of inflammable gas by front line supervisors suitably qualified as prescribed in CMR, 1957 in every shift with flame safety lamps, methanometers, hand held digital instruments etc.
 - Sealed off areas – regular sampling and analysis of environment behind sealed off areas is done as required by statutes.
 - Idle day inspections and pre-shift inspections are done by supervisors and officials to check for presence of inflammable gas.

- Environmental Telemonitoring System – CIL has identified 36 highly gassy and fiery mines for installation of computerised Environmental Telemonitoring System (ETMS) to give advance intimation of build up of conditions which may lead to explosions. Thirteen such system have already been installed and are operational. Two more such systems are under procurement action.

- (iv) Dust suppression and wetting of coal dust – coal dust present in the mine workings belowground are removed to surface and/or treated with incombustible dust or wetted to prevent formation of explosive coal dust cloud.
- (v) Flame proof and intrinsically safe electrical/electronic apparatus – only flame proof and intrinsically safe apparatus are used in gassy mines as required in the statutes.
- (vi) Checking personnel for contraband sources of flame etc.
- (vii) Using permitted explosives and detonators.
- (viii) Rigorous maintenance of flame safety lamps.
- (ix) Erecting stone dust barriers to arrest propagation of coal dust explosions.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply given by the hon'ble Minister to my question. It seems that the officers of Bharat cooking coal limited and coal India have misled the hon'ble Minister. In reply to my original question, it has been stated that no such incident has happened. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Pandey ji, paucity of time is there, therefore, please ask your question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : On 18.10.2002, an incident was happened with a person named Sumer Manjhi in area number 4 of Ranchi Express and a FIR has also been lodged in that connection. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you please continue your reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given to the question. . . .*(Interruptions)* I want to say that the House is being misled. At present. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Pandeyji, hon'ble Minister is replying to your question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has asked about explosive, that is explosion rather than the accident. I have replied that no such incident has occurred.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Is it not accident? Does explosion not mean accident? It is totally wrong as explosion is also an accident. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, FIR has already been lodged in this regard. On 18.10.2002, an employee named Sumer Manjhi was working in area number 4 when he met an accident. On 10th December, 1998 an incident took place in my area at Amjhor Project of Dori area under my constituency in which a person lost his life. What is the reaction of the hon'ble Minister in this regard?

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I again repeat that the incident of explosion and accident are different. Explosion occurs naturally. The question was asked whether or not any incident has taken place during the last three years-no such incident has occurred in the last three years.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary question is. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The question you had raised was the supplementary one.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before asking supplementary question, I would like to ask the hon'ble

Minister to update his information. Incident of explosions does not mean the explosion by dynamite. Incidents of explosion means automatic explosion which is occurred in gaseous mines because when coal turns into gas then such explosion takes place. Therefore, I would like to State that hon'ble Minister should do his homework properly. Hon'ble Minister has mentioned various reasons and measures in this regard but I would like to mention that there was rampant corruption in the coal companies during the regime of Congress. I congratulate the Government for taking several safety measures due to which the number of accidents have comedown to an extent.

12.00 hrs.

Old equipments were purchased during the regime of Congress Government A machine meant to dig up 3½ meter deep was purchased for 5 meter thick layer of coal. I would like to know whether any efforts are being made by the Ministry of check such corrupt practices or it is being taken normally that such explosions often take place in gaseous mines. What is the reaction of the hon'ble Minister regarding the incident that had occurred recently in Jharia. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no need to tell the hon'ble Minister about it. Hon'ble Lady member has been the Minister of this Department, she is well aware of all the facts.

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, explosions are of three types – (i) from the source of origin (ii) explosion due to concentration of Methan (iii) through the method prescribed for the expansion of explosion. There are various reasons for the accidents. Hence the accidents are differnt. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the question is not being asked about the accident, then why hon'ble Minister is repeating it. He specifically reply to the question which has been asked to him.

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA : I have replied to that.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]***Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Programmes**

*545. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total allocation for implementation of Poverty Alleviation Programmes during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the share of each State released by the Union Government so far, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the share contributed by the State Governments during the said period so far, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) whether any review in regard to said schemes have been made; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof and action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) This Ministry has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Urban Poverty Alleviation scheme, named, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) with effect from 1.12.1997. Planning Commission has allocated a total amount of Rs. 541 crore for this scheme for the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(b) Statement-I, showing State-wise Central releases during the 9th Plan period (1997-2002) and in the 10th Plan for the year 2002-03, is enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Based on the reports received from the States, so far, Statement-II, showing State-wise releases of State-share during the 9th Plan period (1997-2002) and in the 10th Plan for the years 2002-03, is enclosed.

(d) and (e) For its effective implementation, the SJSRY, is closely monitored at the Central level through periodical review meetings/field visits and Quarterly Progress Reports. Concurrent evaluation/Study of SJSRY has also been carried out in six States, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Statement-I

State-wise Central share released during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 (9th Plan Period) and 2002-2003 (10th Plan Period) under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name of the State/ UTs | 9th Plan period | | | | | 10th Plan period |
|---------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | Released during 1997-98 | Released during 1998-99 | Released during 1999-00 | Released during 2000-01 | Released during 2001-02 | Released during 2002-03 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 839.66 | 1364.28 | 1398.08 | 1417.04 | 331.51 | 904.15 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 50.99 | 65.01 | 88.65 | — | — | 0.00 |
| 3. | Assam | 540.38 | 823.08 | 191.07 | 63.30 | — | 0.00 |
| 4. | Bihar | 506.09 | 779.22 | 408.63 | — | — | 0.00 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | — | — | — | 422.69 | 128.44 | 236.41 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 6. | Goa | 20.94 | 34.40 | 28.72 | — | — | 0.00 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 521.86 | 788.28 | 340.62 | 697.47 | 166.67 | 1717.07 |
| 8. | Haryana | 86.87 | 134.78 | 182.23 | 125.14 | 50.40 | 238.39 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 50.54 | 74.94 | 70.91 | 56.72 | 23.98 | 63.84 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 63.54 | 72.31 | 97.76 | 25.34 | 12.81 | 62.98 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | — | — | — | 202.10 | 66.64 | 0.00 |
| 12. | Kanataka | 736.46 | 1114.08 | 1340.11 | 168.00 | 395.16 | 668.68 |
| 13. | Kerala | 202.99 | 377.09 | 448.32 | 256.50 | 266.23 | 301.99 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 927.18 | 1511.77 | 1836.21 | 888.59 | 304.02 | 683.93 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 1402.22 | 2043.29 | 715.38 | — | — | 618.73 |
| 16. | Manipur | 122.95 | 191.12 | 44.24 | — | — | 0.00 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 73.24 | 118.45 | 27.30 | 19.00 | — | 0.00 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 69.63 | 125.64 | 146.30 | 126.77 | 70.52 | 105.15 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 53.33 | 84.18 | 82.34 | 76.25 | 37.00 | 68.78 |
| 20. | Orissa | 223.11 | 360.44 | 460.83 | 69.24 | 300.00 | 381.48 |
| 21. | Punjab | 68.33 | 135.22 | 160.99 | 41.29 | — | 67.38 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 329.91 | 620.52 | 330.23 | 376.08 | 32.64 | 402.53 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 20.51 | 30.98 | 30.02 | 32.49 | 28.86 | 31.20 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 919.50 | 1479.77 | 514.00 | 764.70 | 285.32 | 751.22 |
| 25. | Tripura | 93.98 | 157.74 | 82.52 | 162.00 | 84.99 | 114.31 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | — | — | — | 102.97 | 27.88 | 16.33 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 1181.03 | 1988.42 | 2344.02 | 1340.78 | 733.07 | 1671.76 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 518.64 | 822.00 | 285.52 | 826.54 | 293.86 | 501.66 |
| 29. | A and N Islands | 72.66 | 116.43 | 71.97 | — | — | 0.00 |
| 30. | Chandigarh | 48.42 | 80.98 | — | — | — | 269.09 |
| 31. | D and N Haveli | 12.50 | 37.67 | 54.06 | 145.00 | — | 23.91 |
| 32. | Daman and Diu | 50.05 | 63.92 | 47.66 | — | — | 0.00 |
| 33. | Delhi | 32.70 | 183.61 | 19.00 | 40.00 | — | 0.00 |
| 34. | Pondicherry | 22.66 | 67.39 | 29.60 | 67.00 | 191.00 | 191.00 |
| Total | | 9862.87 | 15847.00 | 11877.29 | 8513.00 | 3831.00 | 10091.77 |

Statement-II*State-wise and Year-wise Release of State share under SJSRY
(Including Opening Balance)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name of the States/ UTs | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-00 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | Total |
|---------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 279.89 | 454.77 | 466.03 | 472.34 | 110.50 | N.R. | 1783.53 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 51.15 | 58.00 | 58.00 | N.R. | 0.40 | N.R. | 167.55 |
| 3. | Assam | 100.00 | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | 100.00 |
| 4. | Bihar | 0.00 | 505.00 | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | 505.85 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 140.89 | 0.00 | 122.16 | 140.89 | 42.81 | 0.00 | 446.75 |
| 6. | Goa | 0.00 | 11.47 | 8.45 | 8.62 | N.R. | N.R. | 28.54 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 662.70 | 273.44 | 250.00 | 12.00 | 10.03 | 93.72 | 1301.89 |
| 8. | Haryana | 28.95 | 44.93 | 60.74 | 41.72 | 26.05 | 19.76 | 222.15 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 16.85 | 74.66 | 23.64 | 18.91 | 7.99 | N.R. | 142.05 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 0.00 | 52.00 | 205.10 | 169.00 | 155.00 | 104.00 | 685.10 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. |
| 12. | Kanataka | 245.48 | 371.34 | 446.69 | 56.00 | 131.73 | 155.95 | 1407.19 |
| 13. | Kerala | 67.66 | 125.70 | 149.44 | 129.82 | 88.74 | 150.00 | 711.36 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 309.06 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1108.29 | 396.28 | 227.97 | 2041.60 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 467.40 | 681.09 | 238.46 | N.R. | N.R. | 206.24 | 1593.19 |
| 16. | Manipur | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 24.41 | 39.48 | 9.10 | 41.19 | N.R. | N.R. | 114.18 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 34.53 | 105.94 | 121.81 | 88.80 | 97.79 | 48.00 | 496.87 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 20.00 | 70.00 | 0.00 | 90.00 |
| 20. | Orissa | 166.00 | 160.00 | 140.49 | 98.51 | N.R. | N.R. | 405.00 |
| 21. | Punjab | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 121.50 | N.R. | N.R. | 121.50 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 109.57 | 200.00 | 80.71 | 66.63 | 126.36 | N.R. | 583.27 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 12.89 | N.R. | 10.01 | 10.83 | 9.62 | 5.41 | 48.76 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 306.50 | 495.33 | 171.33 | 254.91 | 95.12 | N.R. | 1323.19 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---------------------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| 25. Tripura | | 1.33 | 39.79 | 42.55 | 34.00 | 54.00 | 22.07 | 193.74 |
| 26. Uttaranchal | | N.A. | N.A. | 38.77 | 34.32 | 9.29 | N.R. | 82.38 |
| 27. Uttar Pradesh | | 0.00 | 1104.00 | 257.60 | 866.98 | 348.05 | 159.35 | 2735.98 |
| 28. West Bengal | | 171.42 | 275.44 | 95.27 | 275.51 | 64.27 | 33.70 | 915.61 |
| 29. A and N Islands | | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| 30. Chandigarh | | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| 31. D and N Haveli | | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| 32. Daman and Diu | | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| 33. Delhi | | 0.00 | 23.61 | 37.03 | 38.31 | 37.78 | 100.00 | 236.73 |
| 34. Pondicherry | | 6.52 | 14.48 | 38.58 | 30.00 | 20.00 | N.R. | 109.58 |
| Total | | 3203.20 | 4950.47 | 3071.96 | 4139.08 | 1901.81 | 1326.71 | 18593.54 |

Monitoring/Vigilance Committee

*548. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI KAMAL NATH :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reconstituted the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State, District and Block levels in the country for effectively monitoring the developmental programmes as reported in the Hindu, dated April 03, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the reconstituting of such Committees will have any impact on the implementation of various rural development programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Government has reconstituted the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee at the State and District level. It has been decided to dispense with Committee at the Block level. Different Schemes were being monitored by different

Agencies in the past. However, the reconstituted Vigilance and Monitoring Committees will monitor all the Schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development such as the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), the Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), DRDA Administration, Watershed Development Programmes, Rural Water Supply Programme (including Sector Reform), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), etc.

The Chairman of the State level Committee would be the Minister, Rural Development Department of the concerned State and the Secretary-In-charge of Rural Development Programmes in the State would be the Member Secretary. Four M.Ps. (Lok Sabha) and one M.P. (Rajya Sabha) representing the State/U.T. to be nominated by the Union Ministry of Rural Development and five MLAs to be nominated by the State Government will be among the Members. There is also a provision for nominating representatives of the Ministry of Rural Development, Khadi and Village Industries Commission and NGOs.

The Chairman of the District level V and M Committee would be a Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) elected from the District and nominated by the Ministry of Rural Development. The District Collector/District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner will be the Member Secretary. All

MPs (Lok Sabha) of the District and one MP (Rajya Sabha) representing the State and exercising option to be associated with the District level Committee of that District (on first come basis) would be designated as Vice Chairman. All MLAs of the District, Chairperson of the Zilla Panchayat and all Chairpersons of Panchayat Samities will also be members. There is also provision for nominating representatives of NGOs, Social workers and SC/STs etc.

(c) and (d) In the reconstituted Committees, a crucial role has been assigned to the Members of Parliament and elected representatives of the people in State legislatures and Panchayati Raj Institutions in monitoring the implementation of these programmes and as such, it is hoped that the quality of implementation of these programmes would improve.

Policy on Children

*549. SHRI K. MALAISAMY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have felt the need for a comprehensive policy and mechanism for the protection, care, welfare, development and rehabilitation of the juveniles and children;

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

(c) the policy formulated to check the inadequacies that exist in the present system?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) The National Policy for Children, 1974 is a comprehensive document that elaborates the commitment of Government 'to provide adequate services for children, both before and after birth and through the period of growth to ensure their full Physical, mental and social development.'

Pursuant to this and to give effect to the objectives of the National Policy for Children, several National policies and programmes for children were put in place, such as, the National Health Policy (1983), National Policy

on Child Labour (1987), The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Reproductive and Child Health Programme, National Child Labour Programme and Integrated Programme for Juvenile justice, etc. In most States, the Anganwadi Centres have become a platform for convergent delivery of programmes and processes targeted towards young children.

The Constitution has been amended through the Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002, to make education a fundamental right for all children between the age of 6 and 14 years, and early childhood care and education for children below 6 years a Directive Principle.

The Sarve Shiksha Abhiyaan has been launched in the year 2000 to bring about complete enrolment and universal retention by the year 2010.

The Government is also formulating a National Charter for Children that will be a comprehensive document for the survival, protection, and development needs of children. The Government have decided to constitute a National Commission for Children to oversee the over all operations of the laws and programmes relating to welfare of children in the country.

[Translation]

Infrastructural Problems of Coal Mines

*550. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken/being taken by the Government to resolve the infrastructural problems of the coal mines and to ensure safety therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the coal mines located in various States in general lack safety; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to bring about improvement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) and (b) Safety in mining operations in the coal mines is accorded primary importance by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and infrastructural matters related to safety receive continuous attention at all levels in CIL.

The following broad infrastructural facilities have been provided for enhancement of safety in the coal mines of CIL :

1. **Staffing** : Appointing supervisory personnel at various levels having the qualifications prescribed by the Coal Mines Regulations (CMR), 1957. Assessment of the status of supervisory personnel is monitored by the apex level body of workmen's participation in safety like the Standing Committee on safety in coal mines Chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of Coal and the CIL Safety Board and corrective action taken from time to time.
2. **Safety equipment** : Coal India Ltd. has been providing modern safety equipment in its mines :
 - (i) Gas detection equipment including highly capital intensive Environmental Tele-Monitoring Systems (ETMS),.
 - (ii) Safety boring equipment including large diameter boring machine for evacuating workmen who may be trapped below-ground.
 - (iii) Personal protective equipment.
 - (iv) Dust sampling instruments.
 - (v) Equipment to monitor support performance and for monitoring roof strata behaviour.
 - (vi) Rescue equipment.
 - (vii) Flame proof apparatus, intrinsically safe equipment.
 - (viii) Audio-Visual-Alarm systems in HEMM, fire-fighting systems, etc.
3. **Internal Safety Organisation (ISO)** : A structured, multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organisation has been established at each subsidiary company, as well as at the apex CIL level, reporting to a Technical director of the company. The ISO monitors the safety status of mines, makes recommendations and monitors

the status of implementation of those recommendations.

4. **Workmen's participation in safety** : Establishment of workmen's participation in safety management through various fora, where workmen's representatives participate, from Safety Committees and Workmen's Inspectors at mine level, to bipartite/tripartite committees at 'area' level, to tripartite committees at subsidiary company level, to the Coal India Safety Board at the apex CIL Level.
5. **Rescue organisations** : Coal India Ltd. is maintaining a well equipped rescue organisation staffed by well trained rescue personnel to provide rescue cover in the event of emergency. Six rescue stations, fifteen rescue-Rooms-with-Refresher-Training Facilities (RRRT) and seventeen rescue rooms are being maintained as recommended by the Dubey Committee and the sub-committee formed under recommendations of the 14th meeting of the Standing Committee in coal mines.
 - (c) No, Sir. In fact there has been improvement in the safety statistics of different States.
 - (d) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (c) above.

[English]

Seminar on Corruption

*551. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a meeting of officials was held on February 20, 2003 to discuss issues relating to long-pending cases against public servants as also prosecution sanction in cases of corruption, being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether a three day seminar on finding effective ways to curb corruption was jointly organized by CBI, Asian Development Bank and Organisation of Economic

Cooperation and Development and was attended by the representatives of 14 countries including India;

- (d) if so, the outcome of the seminar; and
(e) steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting was convened to review the cases of CBI pending for sanction for prosecution.

(b) The meeting has decided to make monitoring of sanction for prosecution of the cases of CBI more effective by taking steps such as proper compilation of information and timely updation by CBI, utilization of computers for close follow-up rendering advice by CVC and Ministry of Law expeditiously, conducting joint meetings of CBI, concerned Ministry and CVC etc. and pursuing the processing of cases for sanction for prosecution by Chief Vigilance Officer (Nodal Officer) of the concerned Department for expeditious decision making.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Seminar was organized by Asian Development Bank and Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (ADB-OECD) Anti-Corruption initiative for Asia Pacific and Government of India. CBI Academy, Ghaizabad, hosted the Seminar. The Seminar was attended by the delegates of Asia/Oceania Region, including India.

(d) and (e) Training of the "Trainers" of participating countries was done in the Seminar with experience sharing, case studies related to prosecution in corruption offences in the respective countries.

[Translation]

Margo and Conventional Seeds

*552. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any serious efforts are being made to find effective substitutes for the chemical insecticides;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Research Department has

contemplated to substitute harmless insecticides like Margo seeds and other Conventional seeds for chemicals; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is promoting the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach with increased reliance on bio pesticides and bio control agents and judicious but limited use of agrochemicals.

(c) and (d) (i) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories namely, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad and National Botanical Reserach Institute (NBRI), Lucknow have developed processes for production of bio pesticides from neem seeds and custard apple.

(ii) Department of Bio Technology has supported several R and D projects for the development of bio degradable and environment friendly botanical pesticides.

[English]

Guidelines of IDSMT Scheme

*553. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the implementation and progress of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme has not been very satisfactory in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to revise the guidelines in regard thereto;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Governments have been consulted in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

(SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) No, Sir. Since inception of this Scheme, i.e. from 1979-80 upto 2002-03, a total of 1340 towns were covered under the Scheme and central assistance amounting to Rs. 60576.60 lakhs was released against which the expenditure reported was Rs. 75882.34 lakhs.

(b) to (f) Based on the feed back received from the State Governments and the periodic reviews held by the Ministry, Government is considering revision of the existing Guidelines of IDSMT Scheme. Some of the main features of the proposal under consideration include :

- (i) Coverage of infrastructural projects with higher cost outlays, keeping in view the increased infrastructural needs of the local bodies.
- (ii) Coverage of towns has been proposed to be widened to cover towns with population upto 10 lakhs from the existing ceiling of 5 lakhs population.
- (iii) In addition to other infrastructural components it is being proposed to include water supply and sanitation projects under the scheme on which a minimum of 40% of scheme money should be used.
- (iv) While the scheme is being enlarged to cover towns with population upto the lakhs, focus on smaller towns will be emphasized by making available about 50% of the total amount available each year under the scheme to towns with less than on lakh population.
- (v) In order to ensure speedier utilization of funds, release of central share is proposed to be further streamlined.
- (vi) Delegation of powers to State Level Sanctioning Committees in the States to make minor changes within the approved projects is being suggested.
- (vii) Special window for project preparation, training and capacity building is being proposed by providing 1.5% of the total project cost for the purpose.

Draft Guidelines were sent to the State Governments and Union Territories for comments. The salient features of

the proposed Guidelines were also discussed with the representatives of the States during a review meeting held on 14.5.2002.

[Translation]

Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas

*554. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :
YOGI ADITYA NATH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain State Governments have sent proposals for the opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas in their respective States during the last three years and till date;

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

(c) whether the Government have fixed any target to open Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are attached as Statement.

(c) and (d) There is no target for opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas under 10th Five Year Plan.

Statement

Details of the total number of Kendriya Vidyalayas already functioning and proposals received for opening New Schools

| S. No. | State | No. of schools already functioning | Proposal received for opening new schools |
|--------|----------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 41 | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-------------------|----|----|
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 11 | 3 |
| 3. | Assam | 48 | — |
| 4. | Bihar | 30 | — |
| 5. | Goa | 5 | — |
| 6. | Gujarat | 40 | — |
| 7. | Haryana | 27 | — |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 20 | 1 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 35 | 26 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 32 | 1 |
| 11. | Kerala | 26 | 2 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 71 | — |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 51 | — |
| 14. | Manipur | 5 | — |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 7 | — |
| 16. | Mizoram | 2 | — |
| 17. | Nagaland | 6 | — |
| 18. | Orissa | 29 | — |
| 19. | Punjab | 40 | — |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 53 | 5 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 2 | — |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 30 | — |
| 23. | Tripura | 5 | 13 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 93 | — |
| 25. | West Bengal | 49 | — |
| 26. | A and N (U.T.) | 3 | — |
| 27. | Chandigarh | 5 | — |
| 28. | Delhi | 40 | — |
| 29. | Pondicherry | 2 | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|--------------------|-----|----|
| 30. | D and N Haveli | 1 | — |
| 31. | Chhattisgarh | 22 | — |
| 32. | Uttaranchal | 36 | — |
| 33. | Jharkhand | 24 | 1 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep (UT) | 1 | — |
| 35. | Daman and Diu (UT) | 1 | — |
| 36. | Abroad | 2 | — |
| Total | | 895 | 52 |

**Job Opportunities for Dalits in
Public Sector**

*555. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decline in the job opportunities, particularly for Dalits in public sector in the wake of implementation of new economic policies since the year 1991 till date;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the job opportunities for the Dalits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) Employment in the public sector was 190.57 lakhs as on 31.3.1991 which increased to 191.38 lakhs as on 31.3.2001. Thus, employment opportunities, including for dalits, increased during the period between 1991 and 2001.

(c) There is a provision of reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in services under the State including public sector undertakings, statutory, semi-Government and autonomous bodies. Reservation has also been extended to voluntary agencies receiving grants-in-aid from the Government.

In the cases of disinvestments involving transfer of management control, appropriate provisions are made in

the share-purchase agreement and the shareholder agreement with the strategic partner. Typically, the agreements include a recital stating that the strategic partner recognizes that the Government in relation to its employment policies follows certain principles for the benefit of the Members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes and the strategic partner shall use its best efforts to cause the Company to provide adequate job opportunities for such persons.

[English]

Laws Concerning Women

*556. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that several laws concerning women are outdated and ineffective;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to review such laws and to make them more effective; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) Laws concerning women are not outdated and ineffective. Review of laws is a continuing process. The implementation of laws concerning women is reviewed periodically, in consultation with State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and the National Commission for Women. As a result of such review, the following Acts were amended during the last three years.

- (1) Indian Succession Act, 1925.
- (2) The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.
- (3) The Indian Divorce Act, 1869.

- (4) The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (section relevant to Maintenance).
- (5) The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994.
- (6) The Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
- (7) The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Act, 2001.

Jai Vigyan Swasthya Project in Rural Areas

*557. SHRI MANJAY LAL :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to launch Jai Vigyan Swasthya Project in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the districts selected for the purpose;

(c) whether the Union Government also propose to associate private sectors and Non-Governmental Organisations in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the NGOs and Private Organisations selected therefor;

(e) whether the Government are also providing loan/assistance to private sector for their projects in this regard;

(f) if so, the assistance provided by the Government under this project to different agencies during the last three years;

(g) the achievements made so far under this project; and

(h) the efforts made by the Government to make this project more successful?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (h) 21 National Jai Vigyan Science and Technology Missions

were initiated on 3rd January, 1999 by the Ministry of Science and Technology in collaboration with other Departments. These include the project "Jai Vigyan Swasthya Project for Rural Areas". This project which is being executed by a private company led by highly qualified medical professional aims at providing remote medical diagnostic care to rural population through a telemedicine networking system. The project is being implemented in and around Vijayawada, A.P. and aims at linking 100 General Practitioners (GPs) to 5 Regional Diagnostic Centres (RDCs) which are eventually linked to the Core Centre, which is a multi-disciplinary hospital at Tadepalli near Vijayawada. Project is intended to provide medical diagnostic care to patients in the identified remote areas in 5 districts in and around Vijayawada.

Technology Development Board, Department of Science and Technology has provided loan assistance of Rs. 460 lakhs out of the total project cost of Rs. 998 lakhs. The multi-speciality hospital, which is acting as the core centre, has already been set up by the entrepreneur and some linkages with RDCs and GPs have also been established. Detailed project completion report is awaited from the company.

This project is expected to be a forerunner to inspire entrepreneurs elsewhere in the country to take up similar projects.

[Translation]

National Institute of Open Schooling

*558. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Institute of Open Schooling is providing facility of 'Examination at conveniences (jab chaho tab pariksha do) system' to the students upto eighth standard;

(b) if so, whether the facility is proposed to be extended upto Tenth Class students for the 2003-04 session;

(c) whether an international seminar was conducted by the institute in March, 2003 with the cooperation of Indian Adult Education Association and Commonwealth of

Learning, Canada to consider various models of open education and to establish better coordination between the Government organisations, Panchayat Raj Institutions and the Organisations for open education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the information received from National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), NIOS is providing the facility of 'Examination on Demand' at five Centres in different States as a pilot programme and NIOS intends to extend it to entire secondary sector w.e.f. the session 2003-2004.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. With the objective of extending its programmes and activities to wider horizons of Community Education and Human Resource Development, NIOS conducted an International Seminar at New Delhi in March, 2003. About 250 educationists from various organisations, community workers, NGOs and Panchayati Raj workers participated in the conference. Various issues pertaining to general, life enrichment and vocational education from primary to pre-degree level were discussed. Sixty four papers on various themes were presented at the Seminar.

[English]

Survey Conducted by NCERT

*559. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Yash Pal Committee had recommended drastic reduction of curriculum load on the school children in 1990;

(b) if so, whether the NCERT has carried out any study on reducing the workload of school children as reported in *Hindustan Times* dated 2.4.2003;

(c) if so, the details with the findings of the study; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by the Government with respect to reducing the workload on children?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a)

Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The findings of the NCERT study "Curriculum load on children at pre-primary and primary stages" include, inadequate physical facilities in schools, long teaching hours, large variations in teachers – pupil ratio, long distance covered to reach the school, heavy school bag in all public schools, inadequate in-service training of teachers, emphasis by parents on home work.

(d) For reducing curriculum load, Government of India took certain steps which include :

- (i) Recommendations of Yash Pal Committee Report were sent by Government of India in 1994 to all the States/UTs for implementation.
- (ii) The recommendations of the Yash Pal Committee Report were kept in mind while preparing the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) – 2000 by NCERT. Accordingly, the Council has prepared subjectwise syllabi for all the classes upto Class-XII.
- (iii) CBSE has recently reiterated the need to reduce the load of school bags, no home work for Class-I and Class-II, Continuance and Comprehensive Evaluation rather than the terminal exams and teaching of subjects like painting, music, dance etc.

ERNET

*560. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UGC and AICTE have entered into an agreement with the Department of Information Technology to link various Universities and Engineering

Colleges under the Education and Research Network (ERNET) India;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme including the criterion for selection of participating institutions; and

(c) the details of the universities and colleges that have already joined the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ERNET India, an autonomous society under the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Government of India, for the purpose of providing internet connectivity to all the eligible Universities and Colleges in the country under the UGC-Infonet Scheme. The scheme aims at providing requisite infrastructure including computers and laying of cables for linking up to the network. UGC has requested all the universities recognized under Section 2(f) and 12-B of the UGC Act to submit their proposals for entering into a quadripartite agreement among the UGC, ERNET, Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) and the University. Under the scheme, 90% of the total cost of the infrastructure is borne by UGC whereas the remaining 10% is taken care of by the respective institution. However, the entire recurring expenditure on connectivity is borne by UGC for a period of 5 years. A total 77 Universities have entered into the quadripartite agreement so far.

The AICTE has also signed an MOU with ERNET India to provide internet connectivity to the AICTE approved technical institutions. Under this scheme, the AICTE provides an amount of Rs. 10.00 lakhs or actual expenditure, whichever is less, to the Government/Government-aided institutions for this purpose. For self-financing private institutions, the amount is limited to Rs. 5.00 lakhs or 50% of the actual expenditure, whichever is less. The connectivity is provided by ERNET. The number of institutions covered under the scheme during the year 2001-02 and 2002-03 was 14 and 34 respectively.

[Translation]

Handing Over of Illegal Migrants

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

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan and Bangladesh are refusing to take back the people who sneak into Jammu and Kashmir and other border areas with the help of the authorities in their countries in the event of their arrest as reported in the '*Rashtriya Sahara*' dated 24.2.2003;

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

(c) whether the Pakistan is also not willing to take back the Pakistani nationals who have completed their term in the Indian jails;

(d) if so, the policy followed by the Government in this regard;

(e) the agency which bears their expenditure till such cases are settled; and

(f) the remedial steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (d) The report referred to in "*Rashtriya Sahara*" of 24.2.2003 talks of the alleged refusal of Pakistan to take back its citizens on completion of their jail sentences for having illegally entered into India. Repatriation of Pakistani prisoners is an ongoing process. Consular access is provided periodically to the Pakistani prisoners in terms of the Protocol of Consular Access of 1982 to facilitate this process. After they are identified, temporary travel documents have to be provided by the Pakistani authorities, whereafter the prisoners are repatriated. A large number of Bangladeshi nationals who have illegally entered into the country are staying in various parts unauthorisedly. Such illegally staying Bangladeshi nationals, whenever detected, are deported back. However, Government of Bangladesh

maintain that there are no illegally staying Bangladeshi nationals in India.

(e) The expenditure on repatriation and immigration related activities is reimbursed to the State Governments by the Government of India.

(f) In order to expedite the verification of identity of the prisoners, the matter is taken up at the diplomatic level to speed this up.

[English]

Production of Molasses

*562. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have fixed any norms for the distribution of Molasses and the price of the same in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the rates currently being followed in various States in respect of Molasses;

(c) the details of total production of Molasses alongwith its export and import during the last three years;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to curb the illegal use of Molasses, its sale and distribution in the country;

(e) whether there is any Government agency to control and check illegal sale and distribution thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) Consequent upon the decontrol of molasses in June, 1993 the State Governments control the distribution and sale of molasses and enforce measures for curbing its illegal use under respective State Acts and rules.

The import of molasses during the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 was 74353 MT, 25881 MT and

31594 MT respectively. There was no export of molasses during 1999-2000 whereas export during the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 was 553902 MT and 221116 MT respectively.

**Pay Scale of Police Force in Andaman
and Nicobar**

5473. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Police constables working under the Andaman and Nicobar Police Force are drawing lower scale of pay as compared to their counter parts in Delhi Police Force;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to revise the scale of pay for the Police Constables of Andaman and Nicobar Police Force at par with the scale of pay being drawn by the Police Constables in Delhi Police Force;

(d) if not, the reasons the therefor; and

(e) the time by which the scale of Pay is likely to be revised and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The recruitment qualification for appointment to the post of Constable of Andaman and Nicobar Police Force is class eighth pass whereas the recruitment qualification for appointment to the post of Constable in Delhi Police is matric. Accordingly, the Constables of Andaman and Nicobar Police Force have been granted the replacement scale of pay of Rs. 2750-4400 applicable to non-matriculate Constables and the Constables of Delhi Police have been granted the replacement scale of pay of Rs. 3050-4590 applicable to matriculate Constables.

(c) to (e) A proposal to upgrade the scale of pay of Constables of Andaman and Nicobar Police Force to bring it at par with the scale of pay extended to their counterparts in Delhi Police is under active consideration of the Government.

**Use of Security Deposits in Kendriya
Bhandar**

5474. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kendriya Bhandar has collected crores of rupees as 'security' deposits from suppliers and are using the same amount for its day-to-day business activities without the prior consent of the registered suppliers with them; and

(b) if so, the amount of money collected during the last three years and the reasons for committing 'breach of trust'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) Non interest bearing refundable security deposit is taken by Kendriya Bhandar from the suppliers at the time of registration. These amounts are correctly reflected in the Balance Sheet as current liabilities. The question of 'breach of trust', therefore, does not arise. As per the audited annual accounts of Kendriya Bhandar, the amount under the head 'Security deposits Supplier and employees' during 1999-2002 were as under :

| Year | Amount (Rs. Lakhs) |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 1999-2000 | 180.667 |
| 2000-2001 | 205.225 |
| 2001-2002 | 295.359 |

Assam Gas Cracker Project

5475. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of the Assam Gas Cracker Sangram Samiti has lately called on him to clear all issues relating to setting up of the gas cracker project;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed in the meeting; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken for timely completion of the project indicating detailed cost and time frame thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Action has been initiated for the expeditious resolution of the issue of funds required for subsidy for the Assam Gas Cracker Project. The cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 3600 crore. On finalization of the Feedstock Supply Agreement(s) and acquisition of land, the project authorities expect the project to be commissioned in 44 months.

[Translation]

Administration Tribunals in Chhattisgarh

5476.SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of State Administration Tribunals and Benches in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) the number of cases pending with them;
- (c) whether the Union Government have already accorded its approval to wind up the Tribunal in Chhattisgarh;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of the action being taken to facilitate disposal of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (e) No State Administrative Tribunal is functioning in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Madhya Pradesh Administrative Tribunal which had been set up on 2nd August, 1998 was abolished through a Notification by the Central Government on 17th April, 2003 on the request of the Government of Madhya Pradesh and in compliance of orders of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. As regards pending cases in the State Administrative Tribunal, the information is not centrally monitored as these Tribunals are maintained by

the State Government and it is for State Government to take necessary steps to facilitate disposal of pending cases.

[English]

Financial Assistance to ECL

5477.SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have now stopped the financial assistance of Rs. 3265.17 crore to Eastern Coalfield Limited and on the contrary have imposed prohibition on the fixation of coal price by ECL;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether in accordance with the directive of the Union Government the ECL is bound to sell their produce at a lower price than the production cost;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether ECL Authority has kept idle the C Shaft new underground mines under Bansra colliery and the production at No. 12 pit of Koardih colliery is being kept pending; and
- (f) if so, the facts thereof and reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, no prohibition on the fixation of coal price of ECL has been imposed as after de-regulation, coal prices are being fixed by Coal India Limited (CIL).

(b) In the initial years the Government was providing support by way of non-plan loan to meet the cash losses of ECL since from the beginning ECL was incurring significant accounting as well as cash losses. From 1982-83 a retention price mechanism was introduced under the Colliery Control Order, 1945. Under this mechanism, the retention price for coal was notified for each subsidiary. The excess/deficit of the coal price actually realised and the notified retention price was required to be contributed/claimed by each subsidiary from the Coal Price Regulation Account (CPRA), maintained by CIL. For the losing companies like ECL, the retention prices were significantly higher than the coal price realised and therefore the company was in a position to claim the difference from

CPRA. Although, the financial flows under the retention price mechanism enabled ECL to meet its cash deficit in full, the scheme prevented the profit making subsidiaries to retain the resources generated by them for meeting the investment requirement of the ongoing coal projects within their command area. Further, the profits of profit making companies were significantly depressed due to operation of the retention price mechanism. Thus, Retention Price Mechanism had to be discontinued from 1996-97.

(c) and (d) After de-regulation, price for both coking and non-coking coal produced by all subsidiary companies of CIL, including ECL, is being fixed by CIL. While fixing the price of different grades of coal, CIL takes the following into account.

- The market force like demand and its availability including the availability of imported coal.
- Necessity to provide for increase in input cost of coal production.

The increase is, however, kept limited to different RBI indices relating to increase in the price of store items, power etc.

(e) and (f) 'C' shaft of Bansra colliery has been sunk and made operational from November, 2002. Coal production from this shaft has since commenced. In the case of 11 and 12 pit unit of Kuardih colliery operations were suspended due to inundation caused by heavy rains in September, 1999 and also in December, 2000.

[Translation]

Setting Up of Monitoring Cell

5478. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any monitoring cell has been set up to receive information about the illegal construction in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the telephone numbers on which the information in this regard can be given;

(c) the number of advertisements issued by the Government to make the people aware in this regard and the steps taken by the Government to give it wide publicity;

(d) the number of cases filed with this monitoring cell in Delhi, during the last three years; and

(e) the officers authorised to review the functioning of this cell?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (e) As reported by various agencies such as DDA, NDMC and Delhi Cantonment Board, Monitoring Cells have been set up by them to receive information about the illegal constructions. The details are as under :

DDA : DDA has set up a Control Room at D-Block, Ground Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi to receive complaints about unauthorised constructions/encroachments on its land. The Control Room works from 6 AM to 10 PM on all days. Complaints are received on the telephone numbers of Control Room given below :

24690431/Extn. Nos. 2330, 2473 and 2181.

The complaints so received are forwarded to the concerned officers of taking immediate action. The DDA has not issued any advertisement in this regard.

14 complaints have been received on telephone/in writing since inception of the Control Room in November, 2002.

NDMC : NDMC has installed Integrated Voice Response System (IVRS) to receive complaints including those relating to illegal construction. In addition, there is a Control Room to receive complaints pertaining to various civic services including those related to illegal constructions. The information can be given to :

(i) Central Control Room

Ph: 23348300, 23348031
5150135-60/2276

(ii) IVRS : 5252525252

(iii) Unauthorised Construction Cell; Under Chief Architect, Pha : 23742984

(iv) Website : www, ndmc. gov. in

The Complaint Cell is headed by director (PR). During the last three years, NDMC has released 4 advertisements in newspapers at various intervals.

During the last three years, NDMC has received 324 complaints of various nature in the Central Control Room. Director (PR) heads Complaints Cell who submits a report regarding disposal of complaints to the Secretary/Chairperson, NDMC

DELHI CANTONMENT BOARD : No formal Monitoring Cell has been set up to receive information about the illegal constructions in the Delhi Cnatonment Board. However, the Engineering Branch has been entrusted with the responsibility of detection/prevention of illegal constructions and proper vigil is exercised to curb unauthorised constructions.

MCD : The information is being collected.

[English]

**International Exhibition on Education
India – 2003**

5479. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether an internatioal exhibition-Education India-2003 was held in New Delhi in April, 2003;

(b) if so, the names of the countries which participated in this exhibitions; and

(c) the extent to which said exhibition was found to be of benefit to the student community and the academic fraternity in understanding the educational and technological advancement in other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. TAFCON Projects (India) Pvt. Ltd. with the official support of MHRD and Government of NCT Delhi organised an exhibition at New Delhi. The

following countries participated in the exhibition :- Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, United Kingdom and USA.

(c) The exhibition has worked as a unique platform for free exchange of ideas and interaction between Indian fraternity with their counterparts from overseas benefitting a large number of students as well as teachers who participated in the Exhibition.

Water and Sewage Disposal System

5480. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposals from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to improve the water and sewage disposal system in various cities and towns in the States during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of proposals approved/rejected/ pending during the said period for each of the State; and

(d) the funds allocated/released and utilized under the said schemes in these States during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (d) This Ministry is implementing Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 census. Details of the scheme approved by the Ministry during last three years and the schemes returned by the Ministry to the State Government in respect of State of Uttar Pradesh are given in the enclosed Statements-I and II. No scheme is pending in this Ministry for consideration under AUWSP. The details of funds allocated/released to Government of Uttar Pradesh and funds utilized during the last three years under AUWSP are as under :-

(Rupees in lakhs)

| Year | Funds Allocated | Funds Released | Expenditure Reported |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 2000-01 | 1491.92 * | 1680.19 * | 1259.25 |
| 2001-02 | 2068.88 | 2219.25 | 2070.73 |
| 2002-03 | 2655.81 | 2426.09 | 301.02 |

(upto June' 02)

* Includes the Share of Jharkhand State also.

This Ministry had received a letter from PMO in December 2001 along with a Project Profile for Improvement of Water Supply System in Lucknow costing Rs. 102.6 crores forwarded by the Mayor of Lucknow to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for approval of the same and financial assistance. Since Lucknow has a population of more than 20,000 as per 1991 census, it could not be considered under AUWSP. PMO was informed to advise State Government to execute the scheme out of State Plan funds and seek HUDCO loan, if necessary.

Details of the scheme approved by the Ministry during last three years and the schemes returned by the Ministry to the State Government in respect of State of Bihar are given in the enclosed Statements-III and IV. No scheme is pending in this Ministry for consideration under AUWSP. The details of funds allocated/released to Government of Bihar and funds utilized during last three years under AUWSP are as under :-

(Rupees in lakhs)

| Year | Funds Allocated | Funds Released | Expenditure Reported |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 2000-01 | 308.40 * | Nil # | 117.32 ** |
| 2001-02 | 261.96 | Nil # | 47.30 ** |
| 2002-03 | 336.27 | 419.05 | 33.24 |

(upto June' 02)

* Includes the share of Jharkhand State also.

No funds could be released to the State Government due to non-submission of utilisation certificates for the funds released upto 1999-2000.

** Bihar Government has reported expenditure made out of funds released prior to 2000-01.

The position of schemes for sewerage and sewage disposal is as under :-

This Ministry received Project Profile for Sewerage Plan for Balia City Costing Rs. 800 lakhs from Planning Commission vide their letter dated 11.2.03 seeking comments of this Ministry for consideration under Special Central Assistance. Comments of this Ministry were sent to Planning Commission vide our letter dated 11.3.03. At present, there is no Central/Centrally sponsored scheme under which Central assistance is provided by the Ministry for implementation of sewerage and sewage disposal schemes.

The position of projects seeking external assistance is as under :-

Government of Uttar Pradesh had sought assistance for water supply, sewerage and solid waste management in 15 towns, namely, Dehradun, Jhansi, Meerut, Nainital, Bareilly, Lucknow, Allahabad, Ghaziabad, Varanasi, Kanpur, Shahjanpur, Roorkee, Moradabad, Gorakhpur and Shaktinagar of Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 2530.81 crores for World Bank assistance. The proposal was recommended by this Ministry to Department of Economic Affairs for external assistance. However, Department of Economic Affairs desired that clearance of Planning Commission may be obtained. Planning Commission desired additional details which were called for from Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam and Government of Uttar Pradesh for further compliance.

Bihar Rajya Jal Parishad has forwarded a Pre-feasibility Report on augmentation of water supply, sewerage, drainage and solid waste management of Patna City at a revised estimated cost of Rs. 1492.20 crores for external assistance. The proposal has been recommended by the Ministry to Department of Economic Affairs for exploring the possibility of loan assistance from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation under FY2003 Package. Simultaneously, the State Government has been requested to convey their approval for the project along with financial phasing and commitment to provide adequate counterpart funds as well to comply with the technical observations of the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organization (CPHEE), technical wing of this Ministry.

Statement-I

STATE : UTTAR PRADESH (As on 20.4.2003)

Projects Sanctioned

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name of Town | District | Population (1991 Census) | Sanctioned date Mon./Yr. | Project Cost |
|---------|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Sonkh | Mathura | 7121 | May, 2000 | 61.58 |
| 2. | Patiyali | Etah | 9366 | May, 2000 | 77.20 |
| 3. | Vijaygarh | Aligarh | 4759 | July, 2000 | 51.60 |
| 4. | Swar | Rampur | 19782 | July, 2000 | 174.41 |
| 5. | Shamsabad | Farukhabad | 19489 | September, 2000 | 142.86 |
| 6. | Achhalda | Auraiyya | 7144 | September, 2000 | 50.94 |
| 7. | Kerakak | Jaunpur | 9036 | September, 2000 | 34.19 |
| 8. | Ramkola | Kushinagar | 11740 | September, 2000 | 77.85 |
| 9. | Musafirkhana | Sultanpur | 5731 | September, 2000 | 52.76 |
| 10. | Barhalganj | Gorakhpur | 15799 | September, 2000 | 98.92 |
| 11. | Kachhwa | Mirzapur | 12977 | September, 2000 | 62.50 |
| 12. | Soharatgarh | Siddharthnagar | 7308 | October, 2000 | 69.85 |
| 13. | Saraimeer | Azamgarh | 10621 | October, 2000 | 73.50 |
| 14. | Maurawan | Unnao | 12101 | October, 2000 | 96.67 |
| 15. | Chaumuha | Mathura | 8935 | October, 2000 | 82.24 |
| 16. | Khanpur | Bulandshahr | 11420 | October, 2000 | 37.86 |
| 17. | Bhingra | Shrawasti | 16528 | October, 2000 | 31.46 |
| 18. | Auras | Unnao | 3724 | October, 2000 | 65.46 |
| 19. | Dibiyapur | Auraiya | 13687 | October, 2000 | 56.00 |
| 20. | Munderabazar | Gorakhpur | 9951 | October, 2000 | 96.60 |
| 21. | Sewarahi | Kushinagar | 17069 | October, 2000 | 97.52 |
| 22. | Captainganj | Kushinagar | 9525 | October, 2000 | 84.05 |
| 23. | Kauriyaganj | Aligarh | 8846 | October, 2000 | 79.43 |
| 24. | Sisauli | Muzaffarnagar | 10621 | October, 2000 | 59.88 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|---------------------------|---------------|-------|----------------|----------|
| 25. | Bhatparrani | Deoria | 9827 | October, 2000 | 59.26 |
| 26. | Bugrasi | Bulandshahr | 11093 | December, 2000 | 86.15 |
| 27. | Ekauna | Shrawasti | 10014 | December, 2000 | 67.90 |
| 28. | Kachhla | Budaun | 5842 | December, 2000 | 76.40 |
| 29. | Hata | Kushinagar | 9327 | December, 2000 | 96.03 |
| 30. | Gosaiganj | Faizabad | 11155 | December, 2000 | 83.15 |
| 31. | Doharighat | Mau | 8051 | December, 2000 | 48.59 |
| 32. | Sainthal | Bareilly | 11271 | December, 2000 | 36.81 |
| 33. | Mandawar | Bijnore | 15405 | December, 2000 | 93.24 |
| 34. | Khadda | Kushinagar | 10008 | December, 2000 | 97.03 |
| 35. | Saidpur | Budaun | 11753 | December, 2000 | 71.78 |
| 36. | Nawabganj | Gonda | 13756 | December, 2000 | 80.10 |
| 37. | Koeripur | Sultanpur | 6122 | December, 2000 | 56.74 |
| 38. | Mohammadabad- Gohana** | Mau | 15350 | December, 2000 | 97.50 ●● |
| 39. | Safipur | Unnao | 16955 | December, 2000 | 91.78 ●● |
| 40. | Hasayan | Hathras | 4513 | December, 2000 | 45.94 |
| 41. | Uchahar | Rae Bareilly | 6705 | December, 2000 | 125.10 |
| 42. | Shahpur | Muzaffarnagar | 13271 | January, 2001 | 86.40 |
| 43. | Rabupura | G.B. Nagar | 10710 | January, 2001 | 84.90 |
| 44. | Behat | Saharanpur | 14424 | January, 2001 | 92.90 |
| 45. | Ganjmoradabad | Unnao | 7808 | January, 2001 | 68.94 |
| 46. | Afjalgarh | Bijnore | 18649 | January, 2001 | 130.84 |
| 47. | Sultanpur | Saharanpur | 12642 | January, 2001 | 102.30 |
| 48. | Malihabad | Lucknow | 13477 | January, 2001 | 95.00 |
| 49. | Iglas | Aligarh | 7952 | January, 2001 | 162.37 |
| 50. | Pipiganj | Gorakhpur | 8337 | January, 2001 | 81.77 |
| 51. | Dariabad | Barabanki | 12628 | January, 2001 | 24.47 |
| 52. | Mursan | Hathras | 9673 | January, 2001 | 66.80 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|------------------|---------------|-------|----------------|--------|
| 53. | Aminagar Sarai | Baghpat | 8274 | January, 2001 | 48.22 |
| 54. | Phaphund | Auraiyya | 12200 | January, 2001 | 111.69 |
| 55. | Deorania | Bareilly | 12422 | January, 2001 | 172.91 |
| 56. | Babarpur Ajitmal | Auraiyya | 18350 | January, 2001 | 195.27 |
| 57. | Hyderabad | Unnao | 5798 | January, 2001 | 47.10 |
| 58. | Sindhauri | Sitapur | 13657 | January, 2001 | 38.13 |
| 59. | Rithora | Bareilly | 9734 | January, 2001 | 29.32 |
| 60. | Lalganj | Rae Bareilly | 15418 | January, 2001 | 67.94 |
| 61. | Parikhitgarh | Merrut | 13675 | January, 2001 | 94.66 |
| 62. | Ambehta | Sharanpur | 10295 | January, 2001 | 80.90 |
| 63. | Kharkhoda | Meerut | 10549 | October, 2001 | 66.13 |
| 64. | Phalawda | Meerut | 13995 | October, 2001 | 86.33 |
| 65. | Babugarh | Ghaziabad | 3514 | October, 2001 | 33.48 |
| 66. | Charthawal | Muzaffarnagar | 18577 | October, 2001 | 84.43 |
| 67. | Jalalabad | Muzaffarnagar | 19351 | October, 2001 | 87.40 |
| 68. | Siswa Bazar | Maharajganj | 16265 | November, 2001 | 78.15 |
| 69. | Anandnagar | Maharajganj | 7798 | November, 2001 | 82.41 |
| 70. | Nizamabad | Azamgarh | 8680 | November, 2001 | 49.68 |
| 71. | Atraulia | Azamgarh | 10036 | November, 2001 | 50.40 |
| 72. | Rampur Karkhana | Deoria | 7852 | November, 2001 | 58.14 |
| 73. | Tikaitnagar | Barabanki | 6872 | November, 2001 | 23.26 |
| 74. | Chitberagaon | Ballia | 16690 | November, 2001 | 70.35 |
| 75. | Bilhaur | Kanpur Nagar | 14995 | November, 2001 | 132.95 |
| 76. | Aggarwal Mandi | Baghpat | 10802 | November, 2001 | 51.93 |
| 77. | Mirganj | Bareilly | 9104 | November, 2001 | 96.03 |
| 78. | Phulpur | Allahabad | 16761 | December, 2001 | 109.40 |
| 79. | Sarsawa | Saharanpur | 11404 | December, 2001 | 48.76 |
| 80. | Kakori | Lucknow | 13016 | December, 2001 | 66.27 |
| 81. | Amethi | Lucknow | 9331 | December, 2001 | 79.40 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|------|---------------|----------------|-------|-----------------|--------|
| 82. | Gauri Bazar | Deoria | 5027 | December, 2001 | 64.60 |
| 83. | Chakia | Chandauli | 10587 | December, 2001 | 67.95 |
| 84. | Haidergarh | Barabanki | 9567 | December, 2001 | 47.92 |
| 85. | Kadipur | Sultanpur | 5285 | January, 2002 | 62.28 |
| 86. | Koraon | Allahabad | 7832 | January, 2002 | 377.39 |
| 87. | Pinhat | Agra | 11752 | January, 2002 | 119.18 |
| 88. | Dostpur | Sultanpur | 9909 | January, 2002 | 78.00 |
| 89. | Machlishahar | Jaunpur | 17643 | January, 2002 | 91.70 |
| 90. | Samsawad | Agra | 19172 | January, 2002 | 104.67 |
| 91. | Modhoganj | Hardoi | 8723 | January, 2002 | 47.60 |
| 92. | Babrala | Budaun | 9767 | January, 2002 | 110.80 |
| 93. | Sahawar | Etah | 16346 | January, 2002 | 67.38 |
| 94. | Mohanpur | Etah | 4598 | January, 2002 | 21.78 |
| 95. | Sakit | Etah | 5009 | January, 2002 | 66.69 |
| 96. | Lawar | Meerut | 14468 | January, 2002 | 86.37 |
| 97. | Pahasu | Bulandshar | 13398 | March, 2002 | 37.67 |
| 98. | Barusagar | Jhansi | 18783 | March, 2002 | 167.16 |
| 99. | Amarpur | Etah | 6438 | April, 2002 | 28.53 |
| 100. | Bhargen | Etah | 16125 | April, 2002 | 78.71 |
| 101. | Amethi | Sultanpur | 10661 | May, 2002 | 13.25 |
| 102. | Fatehabad | Agra | 13624 | July, 2002 | 70.78 |
| 103. | Churk Ghurma | Sonebhadra | 10290 | September, 2002 | 110.75 |
| 104. | Jarwal | Bahraich | 11746 | November, 2002 | 82.00 |
| 105. | Niwari | Ghaziabad | 8866 | November, 2002 | 60.44 |
| 106. | Maniyar | Ballia | 14589 | December, 2002 | 63.03 |
| 107. | Ghosia Bazar | Ravi Das Nagar | 13005 | December, 2002 | 72.05 |
| 108. | Bitthara Road | Ballia | 16966 | December, 2002 | 79.57 |
| 109. | Sahatwar | Ballia | 16956 | December, 2002 | 26.70 |
| 110. | Handiya | Allahabad | 13009 | December, 2002 | 135.59 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|------|------------------|---------------|-------|---------------|--------|
| 111. | Sadat | Ghazipur | 8279 | January, 2003 | 75.65 |
| 112. | Pachpewra | Balrampur | 12479 | January, 2003 | 64.80 |
| 113. | Barsana | Mathura | 7715 | January, 2003 | 71.42 |
| 114. | Nakur | Saharanpur | 15177 | January, 2003 | 105.46 |
| 115. | Khamaria | Ravidas Nagar | 19126 | January, 2003 | 112.50 |
| 116. | Maharajganj | Gorakhpur | 17436 | January, 2003 | 82.61 |
| 117. | Bilram | Etah | 9501 | January, 2003 | 58.78 |
| 118. | Awagarh | Etah | 7863 | January, 2003 | 68.50 |
| 119. | Dhanaura | J.P. Nagar | 16480 | January, 2003 | 133.22 |
| 120. | Sahaspur | Bijnore | 18194 | January, 2003 | 46.88 |
| 121. | Joya | J.P. Nagar | 6514 | January, 2003 | 124.82 |
| 122. | Madiahu | Jaunpur | 15489 | January, 2003 | 88.77 |
| 123. | Patti | Pratapgarh | 6750 | January, 2003 | 77.86 |
| 124. | Bahua | Fatehpur | 7179 | January, 2003 | 45.96 |
| 125. | Dasna | Ghaziabad | 16388 | January, 2003 | 69.85 |
| 126. | Kemari | Rampur | 17491 | January, 2003 | 161.00 |
| 127. | Kadaura | Jalaun | 10007 | January, 2003 | 108.90 |
| 128. | Dataganj | Budaun | 15403 | January, 2003 | 79.26 |
| 129. | Mahavan | Mathura | 6533 | January, 2003 | 71.56 |
| 130. | Kirawli | Mainpuri | 14177 | January, 2003 | 139.20 |
| 131. | Ikdil | Etawah | 8422 | January, 2003 | 110.14 |
| 132. | Kampill | Farukhabad | 6760 | January, 2003 | 86.61 |
| 133. | Katra Mediniganj | Pratapgarh | 5575 | January, 2003 | 79.60 |
| 134. | Jangipur | Ghazipur | 8242 | January, 2003 | 120.16 |
| 135. | Garautha | Jhansi | 6965 | January, 2003 | 31.00 |
| 136. | Jansath | Muzaffarnagar | 13862 | January, 2003 | 77.26 |
| 137. | Rampura | Jalaun | 8814 | January, 2003 | 80.70 |
| 138. | Baldeo | Mathura | 7707 | January, 2003 | 40.06 |
| 139. | Farah | Mathura | 5923 | January, 2003 | 70.35 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|------|---------------|--------------|-------|----------------|--------|
| 140. | Goverdhan | Mathura | 14878 | January, 2003 | 56.40 |
| 141. | Kodajahanabad | Fatehpur | 19170 | January, 2003 | 77.53 |
| 142. | Jaswant Nagar | Etawah | 19707 | January, 2003 | 103.20 |
| 143. | Kurara | Hamirpur | 8659 | January, 2003 | 75.75 |
| 144. | Antu | Pratapgarh | 6343 | January, 2003 | 75.20 |
| 145. | Sakhanu | Budaun | 6528 | January, 2003 | 61.39 |
| 146. | Rudayan | Budaun | 6898 | January, 2003 | 50.89 |
| 147. | Jaithra | Etah | 6900 | January, 2003 | 40.03 |
| 148. | Kusumara | Mainpuri | 7059 | January, 2003 | 42.49 |
| 149. | Kotara | Jalaun | 6932 | January, 2003 | 72.39 |
| 150. | Madhogarh | Jalaun | 8882 | January, 2003 | 53.96 |
| 151. | Umari | Jalaun | 7453 | January, 2003 | 57.42 |
| 152. | Besawan | Aligarh | 5010 | January, 2003 | 64.40 |
| 153. | Mundia | Budaun | 4830 | January, 2003 | 47.20 |
| 154. | Bewar | Mainpuri | 15994 | January, 2003 | 97.77 |
| 155. | Baberu | Banda | 11827 | January, 2003 | 62.47 |
| 156. | Jagner | Agra | 8722 | February, 2003 | 79.39 |
| 157. | Bah | Agra | 12642 | February, 2003 | 69.67 |
| 158. | Rura | Kanpur Dehat | 10801 | February, 2003 | 151.17 |
| 159. | Sikendara | Kanpur Dehat | 7850 | February, 2003 | 74.38 |
| 160. | Shivali | Kanpur Dehat | 6656 | February, 2003 | 62.77 |
| 161. | Amraudha | Kanpur Dehat | 7351 | February, 2003 | 52.50 |
| 162. | Mendu | Hathras | 10100 | February, 2003 | 70.35 |
| 163. | Sumerpur | Hamirpur | 18351 | February, 2003 | 134.92 |
| 164. | Jalalabad | Bijnore | 12468 | February, 2003 | 104.22 |
| 165. | Kamalganj | Farukhabad | 11105 | February, 2003 | 66.44 |
| 166. | Ujhari | J.P. Nagar | 14125 | February, 2003 | 38.69 |
| 167. | Kundarki | Moradabad | 18531 | February, 2003 | 134.47 |
| 168. | Gangapur | Varanasi | 5645 | February, 2003 | 74.71 |
| 169. | Sidhpura | Etah | 9093 | February, 2003 | 46.35 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|------|------------|----------------|---------|----------------|----------|
| 170. | Chatta | Mathura | 16355 | February, 2003 | 107.00 |
| 171. | Kisni | Mainpuri | 6177 | February, 2003 | 67.76 |
| 172. | Kursath | Unnao | 4958 | February, 2003 | 44.65 |
| 173. | Bighpur | Unnao | 5935 | February, 2003 | 50.68 |
| 174. | Gyanpur | Ravi Das Nagar | 8850 | February, 2003 | 52.78 |
| 175. | Milak | Rampur | 18966 | March, 2003 | 53.08 |
| 176. | Tikari | Baghpat | 12707 | March, 2003 | 27.63 |
| 177. | Alapur | Budaun | 16291 | March, 2003 | 110.98 |
| 178. | Wazir Ganj | Budaun | 13170 | March, 2003 | 120.24 |
| 179. | Mahona | Lucknow | 5690 | March, 2003 | 53.60 |
| 180. | Bhogaon | Mainpuri | 19832 | March, 2003 | 83.06 |
| 181. | Itaunja | Lucknow | 5099 | March, 2003 | 47.27 |
| 182. | Doghat | Baghpat | 12310 | March, 2003 | 26.03 |
| 183. | Shivrajpur | Kanpur | 7518 | March, 2003 | 45.87 |
| 184. | Ugu | Unnao | 6012 | March, 2003 | 65.95 |
| 185. | Aurangabad | Bulandshahr | 15298 | March, 2003 | 61.97 |
| 186. | Kishanpur | Fatehpur | 5444 | March, 2003 | 21.66 |
| 187. | Bahsuma | Meerut | 8942 | March, 2003 | 22.24 |
| | | Total | 2076069 | | 14551.46 |

@@ – Revised cost.

Statement-II

STATE : UTTAR PRADESH

Details of the Schemes returned to Government of U.P.

| S. No. | Name of Town | District | Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakhs) | Reasons for returning |
|--------|-----------------|----------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Errich | Jhansi | 19.42 | Comments sent for modification. Reply awaited. |
| 2. | Katghar Lalganj | Azamgarh | 84.38 | -do- |
| 3. | Kirauli | Agra | 105.61 | Comments sent. Reply awaited. |
| 4. | Raya Phase-II | Mathura | 75.68 | Returned as the same was already approved under AUWSP. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|--------|---|
| 5. | Patla | Ghaziabad | 16.54 | Scheme not eligible as per norms of AUV/SP. |
| 6. | Dewa | Barabanki | 99.09 | -do- |
| 7. | Sirsa | Allahabad | 65.24 | -do- |
| 8. | Puwayan | Shahjanpur | 73.63 | -do- |
| 9. | Nanauta | Saharanpur | 47.91 | -do- |
| 10. | Samthar | Jhansi | 39.17 | -do- |
| 11. | Gokul | Mathura | 99.50 | -do- |
| 12. | Un | Muzaffarnagar | 27.89 | -do- |
| 13. | Fatehganj Purvi | Bareilly | 59.56 | -do- |
| 14. | Ajhua | Kaushambi | 69.50 | -do- |
| 15. | Sayyed Raja | Chandauli | 46.50 | -do- |
| 16. | Jhijhiana | Muzaffarnagar | 49.78 | -do- |
| 17. | Maswasi | Rampur | 8.45 | -do- |
| 18. | Anupshahr | Bulandshahr | 194.34 | -do- |
| 19. | Khetasarai | Jaunpur | 131.16 | -do- |
| 20. | Dankaur | Gautam Budhnagar | 39.97 | Schemes were received very late in this office and were returned to State Government for putting up for consideration in State Level Technical Screening Committee (SLTSC) in current financial year. |
| 21. | Bajana | Mathura | 58.51 | |
| 22. | Neuria Hassainpur | Pilibhit | 88.87 | |
| 23. | Bilsanda | -do- | 82.32 | |
| 24. | Maholi | Sitapur | 70.18 | |
| 25. | Bachrawan | Rae Bareilly | 83.00 | |
| 26. | Parsadipur | -do- | 84.04 | |
| 27. | Maharajganj | -do- | 99.43 | |

Statement-III

STATE : BIHAR

STATUS : 20.04.2003

Projects Sanctioned

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name of Town | District | Population (1991 Census) | Sanctioned date Mon./Yr. | Project Cost (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---------|--------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Nasariganj | Rohtas | 16688 | March, 2002 | 99.13 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|-------------|-------------|-------|----------------|--------|
| 2. | Nokha | Rohtas | 16601 | March, 2002 | 125.53 |
| 3. | Maharajganj | Siwan | 17115 | March, 2002 | 130.00 |
| 4. | Motipur | Muzaffarpur | 17637 | March, 2002 | 234.54 |
| 5. | Janipur | Patna | 6618 | February, 2003 | 70.69 |
| Total | | | 74659 | | 659.89 |

Statement-IV

STATE : BIHAR

Details of the Schemes returned to Bihar Government

| S. No. | Name of Town | District | Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakhs) | Reasons for returning |
|--------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Khusrupur | Patna | 174.30 | Examined and comments sent. Reply awaited. |
| 2. | Kanti | Muzaffarpur | 309.47 | Schemes were received very late in this office and were returned to State Government for putting up for consideration in State Level |
| 3. | Kahalgaon | Kahalgaon | 171.89 | Technical Screening Committee (SLTSC) in current financial year. |
| 4. | Chanpatia | Paschim Champ | 145.66 | |

Import of Coal by MSEB

5481. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have permitted the Maharashtra State Electricity Board to import 3,75,000 tonne coal for their thermal power station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the quality of coal which is being imported by the MSEB is available in the domestic market; and

(d) if so, the reasons for giving the permission for the import of coal?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) :

(a) and (b) Coal import is placed under Open General Licence (OGL) and therefore consumers are free to import coal and no prior permission is required to be obtained from Government to import coal.

(c) Due to geographical nature of coal deposits, the Indian coal is traditionally having high ash content whereas the imported coal has very less ash content. As such the quality of coal which is being imported is not available in the domestic market.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply given in parts (a) and (b) above.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance for Development of Cities and Towns

5482. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank or any other foreign financial institution have been providing financial assistance for the development of cities and towns in various States particularly in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance provided for the purpose during the last three years till date, scheme-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

False Complaints of Officials

5483. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether anyone who makes a false complaint of official is liable to be prosecuted under section 182 of IPC;

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

(c) whether Central Vigilance Commissioner has written to the Cabinet Secretary and Secretary (Personnel) for taking greater care before ordering the suspension of officials;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the honest officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) Section 182 of the Indian Penal Code provides for prosecution of anyone who gives false information to a public servant with intent to cause public servant to use his lawful power to the injury of another person.

(c) and (d) The Central Vigilance Commissioner in March, 2002 had suggested that the CVC may be consulted by the concerned authorities before placing a Government Servant under suspension on grounds of corruption. The CVC had stated that the Commission would give its advice within 3 working days indicating whether suspension with justified and if no reply was received within the three days it could be taken that the Commission

had no objection to the suspension. In cases where suspension has to be resorted immediately, the Commission had suggested that a reference be made to it within 24 hours of suspension and if the CVC did not agree, the suspended person should be reinstated.

(e) The following measures are available for protection of honest officials :-

(i) CVC has issued instruction that no action should be taken on any anonymous and pseudonymous complaints;

(ii) Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 197 of the Criminal Procedure Code require that the investigating agency has to seek prior sanction from the concerned Ministry/Department before initiation of prosecution against public servants; and

(iii) the disciplinary authorities consult the Central Vigilance Commission and Union Public Service Commission, before imposition of penalty in disciplinary proceedings.

Setting Up of Aluminium Plants

5484. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from State Governments for the setting up of Aluminium plants in the country during each of the last three years and till date;

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

(c) the number of proposals cleared/pending so for State-wise;

(d) the reasons for their pendency; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to clear the remaining proposals at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (e) The Aluminium Sector is exempted from the provision of compulsory licensing. The parties interested in setting up new Aluminium plants have simply to file an Industrial

Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). No clearance as such is required on the IEMs so filed. As per the information received from the DIPP, no IEM has been filed by any State Government for the setting up of Aluminium plants during the last three years. In the circumstances, the question of pendency of any proposal for setting up Aluminium plants by the State Governments does not arise.

**Computerisation of PSUs under
his Ministry**

5485. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) the name of Public Sector Undertakings (PSU)'s under his Ministry;
- (b) whether those PSU's have been computerised.
- (c) if not the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the details of the proposal received by the Government in this regard by each PSU and particularly from NALCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) There are four Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Mines namely; (i) National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), (ii) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), (iii) Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL), and (iv) Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML).

(b) NALCO, HCL and MECL have been computerised. BGML stands closed with effect from 1.3.2001 under section 25(O) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 subject to the decision of the High Court of Karnataka where the matter is sub-judice.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) As computerisation and use of Information Technology in an organisation is a continuous process for which within the delegated powers, the respective Boards of PSUs are competent to take decision. As such there is no proposal pending at level of Government.

National Panchayati Raj Awards

5486. SHRI V. VETRISLVAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have instituted National Panchayati Raj Awards for the best performance by District, Intermediate and Gram Panchayats as reported in the Hindu dated April, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the guidelines issued for giving them awards; and

(c) the selection procedure proposed to be adopted therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The guidelines are being finalized.

GDP on Research and Development

5487. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a target of spending 2% of GDP on Research and Development (R and D);

(b) if so, the actual percentage of expenditure to GDP spent on R and D during each year of last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve the target of 2% GDP during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA') : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the latest available official statistics, the R and D expenditure as percentage of Gross National Product (GNP) for the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 was 0.72%, 0.77% and 0.81% respectively and the estimated figure for the year 2000-01 is 0.93%.

(c) The "Science and Technology Policy 2003" announced by the Government envisages to raise the level

of investment on Science and Technology to at least 2% by the end of 10th Plan with enhanced participation in R and D investment by industry. The 10th Plan S and T outlay for scientific agencies has been increased from Rs. 12022.17 Crores in 9th Plan to Rs. 25243.00 Crores. The Government has been encouraging investment on R and D both in industry and institutions through several fiscal incentives and other support measures such as income tax relief on R and D expenditure, weighted tax deduction for sponsored research, Custom Duty Exemption on goods imported for use in Government funded R and D projects, five year tax holiday for commercial R and D companies and National Awards for outstanding R and D.

Recruitment in CISF

5488. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for recruitment in Central Industrial Security Forces;

(b) whether CISF has increased its strength by over 6% during the last two years;

(c) if so, the facts and the details thereof;

(d) whether adequate representation to the people of minority communities has not been given;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the efforts made to absorb handicapped people in CISF as per the stipulated 3% quota;

(g) the number of handicapped persons recruited in CISF during 2002-2003; and

(h) the number of "follower categories" recruited during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a). For recruitment of Constables/followers in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), vacancies are allotted to various States/UTs according to their all India population ratio. Recruitment is based on merit obtained in written examination, physical efficiency test, medical examination and interview. Direct

recruitment in respect of other categories of personnel is made through competitive examinations held on an all India basis.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

(d) and (e) To improve representation of minority communities in Central Police Forces, special efforts are made to ensure that eligible candidates from these communities are made aware of the employment opportunities in these Forces.

(f) CISF has been granted exemption from the purview of Sections 33 and 47 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation) Act 1995 and is not required to make recruitment of handicapped persons against combatised posts in the Force.

(g) Nil.

(h) Number of Followers recruited during last 2 years is as under :-

| | |
|--------|-----|
| 2001 - | 62 |
| 2002 - | 287 |

[Translation]

Computer Cadre Employees of Registrar General of India

5489. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Registrar General of India is not implementing the decisions of the Board of Arbitration and Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) given in favour of the computer cadre employees working in the office.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to pass a resolution in Parliament which may be altogether detrimental to the interest of the employees thereby nullifying the said decisions; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which these decisions are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (d) In accordance with the provisions in the scheme of Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration, the Committee of Secretaries considered the Award of the Board of Arbitration and recommended to reject the same in the interest of the national economy and social justice. The Government has accepted the recommendation of the Committee of Secretaries and has already accordingly tabled a statement in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 11.03.03 and 12.03.03 respectively. It shortly proposes to move a resolution in the Parliament to reject the said Award in the interest of the international economy and social justice.

[English]

Condensed Course of Education for Women

5490. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are implementing a scheme called "Condensed Course of Education for Women" with the objective of providing skills to needy women and also to those belonging to economically backward classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Voluntary Organisations that have received help under this scheme during 2002-2003;

(d) the estimated and actual benefited number of women under this scheme; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to review the efficiency of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme of Condensed Course of Education for Women aims at facilitating social and economic upliftment of women by providing them with education and relevant skills. The scheme aims at addressing failed candidates and drop outs in the age group of 15 years plus to complete their school education.

(c) 137 Voluntary Organizations were provided with funds under the scheme during 2002-2003.

(d) The scheme benefitted 3475 women during 2002-2003.

(e) A monitoring mechanism exists in each State to report on the working of the scheme from time to time.

Import of Coaches of Higher Prices

5491. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that coaches for Metro Railways were imported at five or seven times higher prices than the indigenously manufactured ones;

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

(c) the reasons for which the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai which was capable of manufacturing the coaches at the competitive price was kept out of the global tender for the coaches;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to get this matter inquired into from the CBI;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Integral Coach Factory at Chennai did not participate in the global tender for Delhi Metro coaches since they do not have the technology to manufacture modern metro coaches.

- (d) No, Sir.
 (e) Does not arise.
 (f) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

CBSE Books

5492. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :
 SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Central Government have made any arrangements to make CBSE books available in the market;
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) prescribes the NCERT textual materials for Secondary and Senior Secondary classes except for a few subjects. The CBSE has published books in the following subject :-

Class IX-X

English)
 Sanskrit) Communicative Course
 Franch)

Class XI-XII

Functional English
 Biotechnology
 Entrepreneurship

These books are made available through the Book stores of the CBSE at Delhi and at its Regional offices.

- (c) Does not arise.

Closure of Units of HFCL and FCI

5493. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of Durgapur unit have to vacate the quarters forthwith whereas the Government declared that they can avail the quarters upto April, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the basic amenities like school, hospitals, electricity, water will be provided upto April, 2003;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Government are considering the proposal for releasing 50% of ex-gratia and leave salary dues to the ex-employees of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited released recently on VSS and retaining the quarters as have been done in case of ex-employees of M/s. Fertilizer Corporation of India;

(f) whether the Government communicated the aforesaid decision to the HFCL for its implementation;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The schools and dispensaries at reduced scales have been continued till the end of the current academic session. Although the ex-employees retaining the company quarters till the end of the academic session were to make their own arrangements for power and water supply through State Electricity/Water Boards etc., the existing arrangements have been continued till April 30, 2003.

(e) to (h) Yes, Sir. The Government has communicated the decision to HFC on 24.4.2003 to release 50% of ex-gratia to the workmen category after observing prescribed formalities.

Disconnection of Power Supply

5494. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Junior Engineer (JE) working with BSES, Delhi had disconnected the power supply to the traffic light at Vikas Marg for more than 5 hrs. on 25.02.2003; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the action taken against the said JE?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Life Saving Medicines

5495.SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken by the Government to maintain price caps on life saving medicines while implementing new pharmaceutical policy;

(b) the details of new criteria of market share and turnover evolved by the Government in the new pharmaceutical policy;

(c) whether these criteria will lead many essential drugs being taken out of price control list;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) to (e) Government announced the 'Pharmaceutical Policy-2002' in Febraury, 2002 copies of which are available in the Parliament liabrury. The main objectives of the Policy are, interalia, ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption and strengthening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production. The Policy provides, inter-alia, as follows :-

"(i) The 279 items appearing in the alphabetical list of Essential Drugs in the National Essential Drug

List (1996) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the 173 items, which are considered important by that Ministry from the point of view of their use in various Health Programmes, in emergency care etc., with the exclusion, therefrom of sera and vaccines, blood products, combinations etc., should form the total basket out of which selection of bulk drugs be made for price regulation.

(ii) The Org-MARG data of March, 2001 would from the basis for determining the span of price control.

(iii) The Moving Annual Total (MAT) value for any formulator in respect of any bulk drug will be arrived at by adding the MAT values of all his single-ingredient formulations of that bulk drug, its salts, esters, stereo-isomers and derivatives, covering all the strengths, dosage forms and pack sizes listed against that formulator in all groups/categories of the ORE-Marg (March, 2001).

(iv) The MAT value for all the formulators, as defined in sub-para (iii) above, in respect of a particular bulk drug will be added to arrive at the total MAT value in the retail trade.

(v) The MAT value for an individual formulator, in respect of any bulk drug, as arrived at in sub-para (iii) above, will be the basis for calculating the percentage share of that formulator in the total MAT value arrived at as in sub-para (iv) above, in respect of that bulk drug.

(vi) Bulk Drugs will be kept under price regulation if :-

(a) The total MAT value, arrived at as in sub-para (iv) above, in respect of any particular bulk drug is more than Rs. 2500 lakhs (Rs. 25 Crore) and the percentage share, as defined in sub-para (v) above, of any of the formulators is 50% or more.

(b) The total MAT value, arrived at as in sub-para (iv) above, in respect of any particular

bulk drug is less than Rs. 2500 lakhs (Rs. 25 Crore) but more than Rs. 1000 lakhs (Rs. 10 Crore) and the percentage share, as defined in sub-para (v) above, of any of the formulators is 90% or more.

- (vii) All formulations containing a bulk drug as identified above, either individually or in combination with other bulk drugs, including those not identified for price control as bulk drug, will be under price control."

A Public Interest Litigation in Karnataka High Court resulted in an order dated 12.11.2002 which stopped the Government from implementing the price control regime of the Pharmaceutical Policy-2002. Government have filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court against the order of the Karnataka High Court.

[Translation]

Harassment of Kashmiri Students

5496. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI :

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of harassment of Jammu and Kashmir students studying outside the State have come to the notice of the Government recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Jammu and Kashmir Government has taken up the matter with the Union Government to give instructions to the concerned State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken or instructions issued by the Union Government to concerned State Governments to put an end to the alleged harassment of Jammu and Kashmir students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND

PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (d) No such cases of harassment have come to the notice of the Central Government. However, in connection with the busting of one terrorist module by the UP Police on 12.3.03, four students from Jammu and Kashmir studying in Western Uttar Pradesh have been arrested and incriminating items of terrorist hardware recovered from them. The necessary action has been taken against these students under the relevant laws.

[English]

Security to Witnesses

5497. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the prevailing judicial system relating to prosecutions in criminal cases and in which principle prosecution witnesses change their testimony and detract from their statement, whereby most of the cases of heinous crimes fall through and the criminals go scot free;

(b) if so, whether this state of affairs is largely attributable to the lack of security to the prosecution witnesses;

(c) whether attention of the Government has also been drawn to some neglect about certain wrong-practices such as addressing an accused as "Apradhi" in summons notices and malpractices and corruption rampant in courts; and

(d) whether the Government propose to set up any judicial administration commission to streamline the system and get over these weaknesses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) With a view to tackling the problem of witnesses turning hostile the Law Commission in its 178th report has, inter alia, recommended insertion of section 164A in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 which is follow :

"164A(1) Any police officer making an investigation into any offence punishable with imprisonment for a

period of ten years or more (with or without fine) including an offence which is punishable with death, shall in the course of such investigation, forward all persons whose evidence is essential for the just decision of the case, to the nearest Magistrate for recording their statements.

- (2) The Magistrate shall record the statements of such persons forwarded to him under sub-section (1) on oath and shall keep such statements with him awaiting further police report under section 173.
- (3) Copies of such statements shall be furnished to the investigating officer.
- (4) If the Magistrate recording the statement is not empowered to take cognizance of such offence, he shall send the statements so recorded to the magistrate empowered to take cognizance of the case.
- (5) The statement of any person duly recorded as a witness under sub-section (1) may, if such witness is produced and examined, in the discretion of the court and subject to the provisions of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, be treated as evidence."

The 178th Report of the Law Commission has been referred to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for their comments as the Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

(c) It is for the High Courts to use the appropriate legal terminology in Hindi as per relevant provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. Under article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate Judicial Service vests with the concerned High Court. Further, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the State Government frames rules and regulations in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State. The members of the State Judicial Service are governed by these rules and regulations.

Care is taken to recruit/promote persons of integrity and take action against delinquents by proper authorities. Use of information technology in courts is being encouraged to promote transparency and fairplay.

Members of the Judiciary are also public servants. Any complaint regarding malpractice/corruption by public servant attracts the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

- (d) No such proposal is under considerations.

Computer Hardware Technology Course

5498. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the computer hardware technology course is being taught in the engineering colleges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government propose to introduce the said course in Engineering colleges;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the number of colleges likely to be benefited thereby, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (f) As per the information furnished by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Computer Hardware Technology does not come under the approved nomenclatures of degree engineering programmes. However, the subject to Computer Hardware Technology is taught in engineering disciplines of Computer Science and Engineering; Electronics and Communication Engineering; and Information Technology and also to some extent in the disciplines of Electrical Engineering. Details of AICTE approved students' intake in the above-mentioned disciplines, State-wise, are given in the enclosed statement. AICTE does not have any plan to introduce Computer Hardware Technology as an independent course in engineering.

Statement

| Sl. No. | State/UT | Number of AICTE approved students' intake | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|---|--------|--------|-------|
| | | I.T. | C.S.E. | E.C.E. | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 9225 | 14490 | 21685 | 45400 |
| 2. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 30 | 30 | 60 |
| 4. | Assam | 0 | 80 | 60 | 140 |
| 5. | Bihar | 110 | 290 | 530 | 930 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 30 | 30 | 120 | 180 |
| 7. | Chattisgarh | 590 | 685 | 670 | 1945 |
| 8. | Daman and Diu | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. | Delhi | 450 | 740 | 1070 | 2260 |
| 11. | Goa | 180 | 180 | 180 | 540 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 1260 | 1575 | 1473 | 4308 |
| 13. | Haryana | 1200 | 2410 | 3225 | 6835 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 120 | 150 | 310 | 580 |
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | 160 | 200 | 460 | 820 |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 100 | 255 | 315 | 670 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 2244 | 6695 | 9115 | 18054 |
| 18. | Kerala | 1630 | 2870 | 4350 | 8850 |
| 19. | Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 1800 | 2730 | 2790 | 7320 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 6405 | 9345 | 13230 | 28980 |
| 22. | Manipur | 0 | 60 | 60 | 120 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 45 | 45 | 45 | 135 |
| 24. | Mizoram | 0 | 40 | 40 | 80 |
| 25. | Nagaland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26. | Orissa | 1515 | 2165 | 2580 | 6260 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|---------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| 27. | Pondicherry | 330 | 400 | 820 | 1550 |
| 28. | Punjab | 700 | 2080 | 3030 | 5810 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 1090 | 1814 | 2764 | 5668 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 60 | 120 | 180 | 360 |
| 31. | Tamilnadu | 13145 | 16430 | 28880 | 58455 |
| 32. | Tripura | 0 | 40 | 0 | 40 |
| 33. | Uttaranchal | 240 | 510 | 855 | 1605 |
| 34. | Uttar Pradesh | 2955 | 5450 | 7989 | 16394 |
| 35. | West Bengal | 1810 | 2320 | 2390 | 6520 |
| Total | | 47394 | 74229 | 109246 | 230869 |

I.T. – Information Technology C.S.E. – Computer Science and Engineering
E.C.E. – Electronics and Communication Engineering.

[Translation]

Central Schools

5499.PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Class IV employees of the Central Schools are under the control of private companies; and
(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

[English]

Coastal Area in Gujarat

5500.SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the total coastal area in the State of Gujarat;

- (b) the number of major/minor ports in the State; and

- (c) the assistance provided to the Gujarat State for the development of vast ocean are during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) The State of Gujarat is having about 1215 line km coastline;

- (b) The Gujarat State has one major port and forty minor ports.

- (c) During the last three years the Central Government has provided following assistance to the Gujarat State :

- (i) Rs. 687.64 lakh for Motorization of traditional fishing craft and Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty paid by the fishermen;
(ii) Rs. 53.20 lakh for Integrated Coastal Aquaculture development; and

- (iii) Rs. 97 lakh for Development of Minor Ports and Fishing Harbours.

Funds for Disaster Management Programme

5501. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government allocated funds for Disaster Management Programme in the 10th Plan;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether any comprehensive policy has been formed for Disaster Management;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the list of natural calamities for which these funds are likely to be used for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) Funds amounting to Rs. 4.07 crore and Rs. 4.87 crore have been allocated to the Ministry of Home Affairs during the first two years of the 10th Plan period i.e. 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively for the Central Sector Plan Scheme on National Disaster Management Programme which covers activities like Human Resource Development, Research and consultancy documentation of major events, vulnerability assessment and international cooperation in the filed of disaster management.

(c) and (d) A Roadmap/Framework has been prepared, which envisages establishment of Disaster Management Authorities at National and State level, preparation of disaster preparedness, mitigation and response plans and their integration with development plans, vulnerability assessment and dissemination, development and implementation of preventive structural and non-structural measures, social mobilization and awareness, strengthening of early warning systems and related dissemination mechanism, capacity building through awareness generation and training at different levels and strengthening of institutional arrangements for human resource development.

(e) The funds available with the Ministry of Home Affairs are being used for capacity building in the country

for management of various disasters including earthquake, cyclone, flood, landslides etc.

Pension Benefits

5502. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation, including from various Pensioners Associations regarding fixing of April 1, 1995 as cut off date for allowing DCRC after taking into account 100% of DA on the last pay drawn, thereby putting various categories of the Government servants to a disadvantage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the judgement of Central Administrative Tribunal, Mumbai Full Bench on 21.9.2001 in OA Nos. 542, 942 and 943 to 97, has been implemented in view of the Judgement of Supreme Court, dated 13.2.2002;

(d) if so, the details thereof, particularly the writ filed by the Government and admitted in the High Court (Judicature) Mumbai on 29.4.2002;

(e) the details of the Supreme Court's judgement No. 937/95 and SLP No. 11043/95, dated 13.2.2002; and

(f) the reasons for non-issuance of consequential orders so far, for the welfare of the pensioners w.e.f. 1.7.1993 to 31.3.1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (f) The issue was agitated by some pensioners before the CAT, Mumbai. The Hon'ble CAT ruled that they did not find any nexus or rational consideration in fixing the cut off date of 1.4.1995. The Government has filed a Writ Petition against the Judgement before the High Court of Judicature, Mumbai. The Writ Petition has been admitted and the matter is sub-judice.

In the Judgement dated 13.2.2002, of the Supreme Court in SLP (C) No. 11043/1995 and CA No. 937/1995, the Supreme Court has only refused to interfere with the

order of the Controlling Authority, which had directed to calculate the amount of gratuity of the petitioners by adding DA in terms of payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, whereas provisions of this Act are not applicable to Central Government employees.

Development Schemes in A and N

5503. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched/propose to launch developmental schemes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after the visit of the Prime Minister in January, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these schemes and the Inter-Island helicopter service is likely to be made operational there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (c) In pursuance of the decision taken in the Tenth Meeting of the Island Development Authority held at Port Blair under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 19th January, 2003, the Standing Committee of Secretaries has been assigned with the time bound responsibility of recommending a policy for development of tourism, fisheries, high value agriculture and hydro-carbon energy resources in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep that harmonizes the need to meet developmental aspirations with environmental and strategic concerns. In so far as the inter-island helicopter service in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is concerned, the requisite technical clearances have been obtained and ground work completed for its immediate introduction.

Allocation of Funds for Rural Development

5504. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita amount allocated for rural development during each of the last three years, especially

for drought prone areas of the country, State-wise; and

(b) the amount demanded by each State and released by the Union Government during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) was launched in 1973-74 with the objective of drought proofing by rejuvenating the natural resource base of identified drought prone areas in the country. The unit of implementation is a watershed project with an area of 500 hectares. Under this programme, State-wise allocation of funds is not made. The watershed projects are sanctioned as per the Guidelines for Watershed Development and the funds are released to the concerned District Rural Development Agency/Zilla Parishad in seven instalments over the project period of five years. A statement indicating State-wise funds released during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement

Drought Prone Areas Programme Details of Funds released

| State | 2000-2001 (Rupees in lakhs) | 2001-2002 (Rupees in lakhs) | 2002-2003 (Rupees in lakhs) |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 4759.58 | 4067.00 | 4854.99 |
| Bihar | 100.19 | 242.06 | 249.75 |
| Chhattisgarh | 680.75 | 700.28 | 1599.62 |
| Gujarat | 1427.34 | 1165.31 | 3273.13 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 247.00 | 316.62 | 370.81 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 368.76 | 297.00 | 222.75 |
| Jharkhand | 686.60 | 882.13 | 553.50 |
| Karnataka | 1425.97 | 2093.73 | 2265.04 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 2495.50 | 4361.00 | 4721.01 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Maharashtra | 1898.75 | 2009.62 | 1294.62 |
| Orissa | 681.69 | 970.10 | 901.10 |
| Rajasthan | 980.75 | 1195.13 | 1430.93 |
| Tamil Nadu | 908.50 | 864.88 | 1059.53 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 183.63 | 905.72 | 1717.85 |
| Uttaranchal | 324.00 | 510.75 | 376.37 |
| West Bengal | 135.00 | 317.65 | 108.00 |
| Taotal releases to States | 18958.01 | 20899.00 | 24999.00 |

Freedom of Information Act

5505.SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the criticism on the exemption clause of Freedom of Information Act that exceeds the list of reasonable restrictions provided in the Clauses (2) to (6) of Art. 19 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for excluding the private and voluntary sectors from the duty to provide information pertaining to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The exemptions contained in section 8 of the 'Freedom of Information Act, 2002' are in accord with Article 19 of the Constitution of India.

(c) The basic object of the Act is to promote openness, transparency and accountability of the Government to the public and to facilitate a fuller and more meaningful participation of the people in the governance. As such, the ambit of the Act does not extend to the private and voluntary sectors.

Development of Petrochemical Industries

5506.COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajasthan has been at a disadvantage till now as far as development of Petro-chemical industries are concerned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) wheher the Petro-chemical industries had not developed in Rajasthan due to non-availability of basic feed stocks in the State in its vicinity;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the huge Oil and Natural Gas deposits have been discovered in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Bikaner and Nagaur areas recently which would lead to the establishment of Petro-chemical industries in the State;

(f) if so, the facts thereof;

(g) whether the Government are considering to establish Petro-chemical industries in these area to open employment opportunities;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) to (d) Techno-economic considerations, including the availability of feedstock, determine the location of integrated petrochemical complexes. While Rajasthan does not have a petrochemical cracker complex, it does have downstream Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) and Polystyrene (PS) units.

(e) and (f) Oil discoveries have been made in Rajasthan Block RJ-ON-90/1. The discoveries are being appraised to assess their commercial potential.

(g) to (i) The current economic policy encourages the setting up of petrochemical industries by private entrepreneurs. The Government is not considering setting up of petrochemical industries in Rajasthan.

**Benefits to People living Below
Poverty Line**

5507. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have asked the States not to increase the number of below poverty line households and stick to the poverty line estimated by the Planning Commission in 1999-2000.

(b) if so, the reasons for not allowing the States to provide benefits to all those families living under poverty;

(c) whether the Government are considering to review the guidelines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) No such instructions have been issued to the State Governments in relation to the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), which is an urban poverty alleviation scheme, implemented by this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) A number of States have sent their suggestions for modification of SJSRY guidelines covering educational qualifications, training and tool kit cost, subsidy, restructuring of Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas (DWCUA) Groups, Administrative and Office Expenses limit and regarding material : labour ratio under Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP).

[Translation]

**Allocation/Release of Funds for
Drinking Water**

5508. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the funds allocated/released by the

Government of States for drinking water schemes under ARWSP and drinking water component under PMGY during 2003-2004, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL) : State-wise allocation and releases for the year 2003-2004 under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) have not been finalised so far. Regarding PMGY, Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is provided by the Planning Commission, Government of India. The six components which constitute PMGY are Elementary Education, Primary Health, Drinking Water, Rural Shelter, Nutrition and Rural Electrification. States/UTs have the flexibility to decide inter-se allocation of ACA among the six components of PMGY as per their own plans and priorities. In respect of Nutrition Component, States and UTs must earmark a minimum of 15 per cent allocation of their ACA to address malnutrition among children. Allocation for ACA for the year 2003-04 for PMGY for all components State-wise is at enclosed Statement.

Statement

Allocation of ACA for PMGY – 2003-04

(Rs. in Lakh)

| Sl. No. | Name of State/UTs | ACA 2003-04 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Non Special Category States | | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 15644.00 |
| 2. | Bihar | 24173.00 |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | 3435.00 |
| 4. | Goa | 72.00 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 7122.00 |
| 6. | Haryana | 1834.00 |
| 7. | Jharkhand | 7446.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| 8. | Karnataka | 8273.00 |
| 9. | Kerala | 7608.00 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 8500.00 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 10917.00 |
| 12. | Orissa | 10863.00 |
| 13. | Punjab | 4442.00 |
| 14. | Rajasthan | 10611.00 |
| 15. | Tamil Nadu | 11547.00 |
| 16. | Uttar Pradesh | 37087.00 |
| 17. | West Bengal | 18490.00 |
| Sub total | | 188064.00 |

Spl. Category States

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|----------|
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | 6500.00 |
| 2. | Assam | 19000.00 |
| 3. | Himachal Pradesh | 7000.00 |
| 4. | Jammu and Kashmir | 18000.00 |
| 5. | Manipur | 4800.00 |
| 6. | Meghalaya | 4112.00 |
| 7. | Mizoram | 4300.00 |
| 8. | Nagaland | 4526.00 |
| 9. | Sikkim | 3000.00 |
| 10. | Tripura | 5693.00 |
| 11. | Uttaranchal | 7000.00 |
| Sub total | | 83931.00 |

Union Territories

| | | |
|----|--------------|---------|
| 1. | NCT of Delhi | 1078.00 |
| 2. | Pondicherry | 465.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 3. | A and N Islands | 1002.00 |
| 4. | Chandigarh | 442.00 |
| 5. | D and N Haveli | 128.00 |
| 6. | Lakshadweep | 172.00 |
| 7. | Daman and Diu | 111.00 |
| Sub total | | 3398.00 |
| Grand total | | 275393.00 |

Amount Earmarked for Drinking Water Schemes

5509.SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount earmarked for implementation of drinking water schemes in various States particularly in Gujarat during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, State-wise; and

(b) the details of drinking water schemes approved for this plan period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) This Ministry is implementing Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 census. During 10th Five Year Plan period, provision of Rs. 900 crores has been made under AUWSP for the whole country. The allocation of funds is decided as per AUWSP Guidelines approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on year-to-year basis according to funds made available by the Planning Commission during each Annual Plan.

(b) The State-wise details of schemes approved during 2002-2003 under AUWSP and Central share released are enclosed as Statement.

Statement*Status – 20.04.2003**Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP)*

| Sl. No. | State | Annual Allocation 2002-03 | Schemes approved during 2002-03 | | Central share released during 2002-03 |
|---------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|---|
| | | | Nos. | Estt. cost | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 382.19 | Nil | – | 385.90 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 92.09 | Nil | – | 0.00 |
| 3. | Assam [⊙] | 608.35 | 2 | 999.78 | 571.60 |
| 4. | Bihar [⊙] | 336.27 | 1 | 70.69 | 419.05 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 339.72 | 8 | 674.81 | 430.52 |
| 6. | Goa | 73.45 | Nil | – | 75.29 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 627.80 | 22 | 2308.58 | 664.47 |
| 8. | Haryana [⊙] | 244.46 | 4 | 1182.01 | 579.94 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh [⊙] | 91.81 | Nil | – | 297.60 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir [⊙] | 57.38 | Nil | – | 0.00 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 250.20 | Nil | – | 445.97 |
| 12. | Karnataka [⊙] | 756.34 | 4 | 3129.98 | 1055.35 |
| 13. | Kerala | 270.86 | 5 | 1072.84 | 268.21 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 1418.58 | 42 | 5042.29 | 1236.46 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 743.72 | 5 | 2255.02 | 563.76 |
| 16. | Manipur | 192.55 | 5 | 558.12 | 174.80 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 36.28 | Nil | – | 0.00 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 100.46 | 1 | 186.28 | 46.57 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 47.44 | Nil | – | 85.42 |
| 20. | Orissa | 469.41 | 3 | 1019.22 | 254.81 |
| 21. | Punjab | 257.08 | Nil | – | 0.00 |
| 22. | Rajasthan [⊙] | 720.76 | 10 | 1341.13 | 568.48 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 13.95 | 1 | 335.88 | 83.97 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|----------------|----------|-----|----------|----------|
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 717.31 | 10 | 1972.52 | 813.16 |
| 25. | Tripura@ | 128.37 | 2 | 599.40 | 241.66 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh@ | 2655.79 | 89 | 6564.76 | 2426.09 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal@ | 185.93 | 7 | 1283.86 | 320.97 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 376.45 | 2 | 610.92 | 184.95 |
| Total | | 12195.00 | 223 | 31208.09 | 12195.00 |

@ – Revised Cost.

[English]

Raids by Anti-Corruption Branch

5510. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Police Commissioner has issued any guidelines that the SHO would be held responsible for the conduct of his juniors if they are found indulging in corrupt practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of raids conducted by the anti-corruption branch on the police stations in Delhi and the number of subordinate officers found indulging in corrupt practices, police station-wise; and

(c) the number of SHOs held account-able as a consequence thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The supervisory officers in the districts and other units have been advised that if any subordinate officer working under them is found to be indulging in malpractices, it will be taken as in adverse reflection on the quality of their supervision and performance and they

will be asked to explain the steps they had taken to remove the corruption in the units under their charge. During the years 2002 to 2003 (upto 15th April, 2003), the Anti-corruption Branch registered cases under "The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1998" against 11 police personnel posted in various police stations.

(c) Subsequent to the issue of written instructions to the supervisory officers, there was on case in which the Station House Officer concerned was issued a show cause notice after one of the police officials working under his administrative control was caught red-handed while accepting bribe.

[Translation]

Dwelling Units under Vambay

5511. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of dwelling units constructed under the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on their construction, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana was launched on 2.12.2001.

During 2001-02 Government of India Subsidy of Rs. 7356.00 lakhs was released to 16 States/UTs for construction/upgradation of 27271 dwelling units and 4605 toilet seats, out of which, construction of 5447 dwelling units and 3000 toilet seats are completed whereas construction of 8222 dwelling units are under progress. State-wise details are attached as Statement-I.

During 2002-03 Government of India Subsidy of Rs. 21835.03 lakhs was released to 17 States/UTs for construction/upgradation of 110388 dwelling units and 21488 toilet seats. Out of which, construction of 6952 dwelling units and 3658 toilet seats are completed whereas construction of 42682 dwelling units and 7825 toilet seats are under progress. State-wise details are enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of Financial and Physical Progress under Vambay during the year 2001-2002

| Sl. No. | State/UT | GOI subsidy released (Rs. in lakhs) | Units Covered | | Physical Progress | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--|---------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | Housing | Toilet | Housing | | Toilets | |
| | | | | | Completed | In progress | Completed | In progress |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1200.00 | 4000 | 0 | 742 | 93 | | |
| 2. | Chhattisgarh | 65.00 | 325 | 0 | | 325 | | |
| 3. | Delhi | 50.00 | 167 | 0 | 167 | | | |
| 4. | Gujarat | 384.00 | 1536 | 0 | 168 | 1368 | | |
| 5. | Jammu and Kashmir | 87.00 | 387 | 0 | | 128 | | |
| 6. | Karnataka | 915.00 | 3333 | 575 | 3333 | | | |
| 7. | Kerala | 182.00 | 910 | 0 | | 169 | | |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | 246.00 | 984 | 0 | 12 | 478 | | |
| 9. | Maharashtra | 1198.00 | 4661 | 597 | | | | |
| 10. | Pondicherry | 33.50 | 170 | 40 | 5 | 30 | | |
| 11. | Rajasthan | 300.00 | 1500 | 0 | | 1500 | | |
| 12. | Tamil Nadu | 1172.00 | 2610 | 3000 | 680 | 1855 | 3000 | |
| 13. | Tripura | 10.05 | 45 | 0 | | 45 | | |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | 743.45 | 3717 | | 72 | 772 | | |
| 15. | Uttaranchal | 36.00 | 180 | 0 | | | | |
| 16. | West Bengal | 734.00 | 2746 | 393 | 268 | 1459 | | |
| Total | | 7356.00 | 27271 | 4605 | 5447 | 8222 | 3000 | 0 |

Statement-II*State-wise details of Financial and Physical Progress under Vambay during the year 2002-03*

| Sl. No. | State/UT | GOI subsidy released (Rs. in lakhs) | No. of Dwelling units covered | No. of Toilet Seats covered | No. of Dwelling Units completed | No. of Dwelling Units in progress | No. of Toilet Seats completed | No. of Toilet Seats in progress |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 5535.437 | 22268 | 392 | | | | |
| 2. | Chhattisgarh | 529.410 | 2185 | 462 | | 676 | | |
| 3. | Gujarat | 3089.000 | 18776 | 1460 | | 18716 | | 98 |
| 4. | Jammu and Kashmir | 38.320 | 170 | 0 | | | | |
| 5. | Karnataka | 2042.600 | 7104 | 2215 | 1455 | 5435 | | |
| 6. | Kerala | 2389.650 | 11948 | 0 | | | | |
| 7. | Madhya Pradesh | 934.780 | 4054 | 170 | | 133 | | |
| 8. | Maharashtra | 845.600 | 328 | 3900 | | | | |
| 9. | Manipur | 7.875 | 35 | 0 | | | | |
| 10. | Nagaland | 9.000 | 40 | 0 | 16 | 24 | | |
| 11. | Orissa | 61.200 | 306 | 0 | | | | |
| 12. | Rajasthan | 900.000 | 4000 | 0 | | 800 | | |
| 13. | Tamil Nadu | 2846.500 | 27226 | 11880 | 5481 | 16898 | 3658 | 7727 |
| 14. | Tripura | 144.978 | 644 | 0 | | | | |
| 15. | Uttaranchal | 160.150 | 701 | 100 | | | | |
| 16. | Uttar Pradesh | 1108.880 | 5412 | 0 | | | | |
| 17. | West Bengal | 1191.650 | 5191 | 909 | | | | |
| Total | | 21835.030 | 110388 | 21488 | 6952 | 42682 | 3658 | 7825 |

*[English]***Mining of Diamonds**

5512. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the diamond mines in the country at present;

(b) whether new diamond mines have been explored in the country especially in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) As per the information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines, the Majhagawan diamond mine owned by National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) in the Panna district of Madhya Pradesh is the only diamond mine in the country.

(b) and (c) The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has reported that they have undertaken investigation for Kimberlite/Lamproite, the source rock for diamond, in Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. In Orissa, GSI has recently located two lamproite dykes in Sakri area, Bargarh District and also in Dumarpur and Masankura reserve forest area, Nuapara District.

[Translation]

Promotion and Seniority of IAS Officers

5513. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Indian Administrative Service Officers' Association versus Government of India for awarding promotion and for determining seniority of promoted I.A.S. Officers since 1994 has not been implemented so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay in complying with the said directives;

(c) the number of representations received by his Ministry in this regard; and

(d) the action taken thereon alongwith present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) There is no decision of the Supreme Court of 1994 in any case of the Indian Administrative Service Officers' Association versus Government of India for awarding promotion for determining seniority of promoted IAS officers.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Homeless SC/ST Families

5514. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the families belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes living in rural, urban areas and metros who do not have their own house/residential facility as per the statistics collected by the National Buildings Organisation; and

(b) the specific steps being taken by the Government to provide residential facilities to such families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) National Buildings Organisation does not collect information on Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes houseless families in rural/urban areas and Metros.

(b) One of the aims of the National Housing and Habitat Policy 1998 is to meet the special needs of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. However, since Housing is a State subject it is the responsibility of the State Governments to draw up housing schemes for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes families.

[English]

Involvement of NSG Officials in Criminal Case

5515. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether three officials of National Security Guard found involved in disappearance of a civilian in Jammu and Kashmir as reported in *The Hindustan Times* dated 21 March, 2003;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken by the Government against such officials;

(d) whether the Government have collected any data about number of custodial disappearances in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three Army Officers on deputation to NSG were allegedly involved in an incident of the disappearance of a youth on the intervening night of 17/18 August, 1990. These officers were later repatriated to the Army in the year 1992 after completion of their tenure in NSG.

(c) In 1996, the Jammu and Kashmir Government moved the Central Government for sanction of prosecution. This was not agreed to for want of sufficient evidence. The State Government was advised to vigorously pursue the investigation and complete the same. It was also mentioned that if in course of such investigation, any evidence becomes available necessitating reconsideration, the case may be resubmitted for grant of prosecution sanction. Again, a similar request was received on 6.9.99 from the State Government explaining the facts and circumstances of the case. After examination of the case, the Central Government requested the State Government on 10.11.99 to complete the investigation and file the challan before the Competent Court and the question of prosecution or otherwise will be decided only thereafter. Since then, the Central Government has not received formal request from the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir for grant of prosecution sanction.

(d) and (e) A statement is enclosed to this reply.

Statement

Custodial Disappearances in Jammu and Kashmir during last three years as per information received from the State Government

| Sl. No. | Year | No. of such cases registered | No. of persons involved | No. of cases finalised and challaned in the Court | Cases under investigation by the State Police |
|--------------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| 1. | 2000 | 17 | 25 | 1 | 16 |
| 2. | 2001 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| 3. | 2002 | 8 | 11 | 0 | 8 |
| Total | | 36 | 47 | 1 | 35 |

Reservation In Government Service

5516. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT :

YOGI ADITYA NATH :

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of backlog of jobs of other backward classes, Minorities, handicapped persons and other reserved classes during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the provision of reservation for the handicapped persons in Government services is still continuing;

(c) if so, the number of handicapped persons who were provided employment during the last three years in the country;

(d) the percentage of the handicapped persons in Government services at present; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in fill up the packlogs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) The information is not centrally maintained.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The information is not centrally maintained.

(e) Instructions have been issued to all the Ministries/Departments to ensure that the policy relating to reservation for persons with disabilities is implemented in right earnest. Instructions have also been issued that while sending requisition to the Union Public Service Commission and Staff Selection Commission etc. for filling up of the posts which have been identified suitable to be held by persons with disabilities, a certificate to the effect that the policy relating to 3% reservation for persons with disabilities has been taken care of should be furnished. Union Public Service Commission and Staff Selection Commission have been requested not to accept any requisition unless it is accompanied by such a certificate.

Utilisation of Funds

5517. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount of funds remained unutilized by his Ministry during each of last three financial years;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make full utilization of the funds available?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) to (c) In the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, an amount of Rs. 79.31 crore was surrendered from the budget for the year 2000-01. This amount included Rs. 60.66 crore as Non-Plan and Rs. 18.63 crore as Plan. The major portion of Non-Plan funds was surrendered due to reduced requirement on account of Exchange Rate Variation and also because the quantum of compensation awarded to Bhopal Gas Victims was less than anticipated. The surrender was also due to non-filling of certain posts under economy measures as well as due to 10% cut imposed by the Ministry of Finance. The surrender in the Plan Budget was mainly due to the 10% contribution of the Plan Budget support to the Non-lapsable Pool of funds for North-East Region and Sikkim. The Department had reviewed the position to ensure that the funds are utilized to the maximum possible. Consequently, during the years 2001-02 and 2002-03, the surrender of funds was Rs. 4.49 crore (approx.) (Rs. 3.20 crore Plan and Rs. 1.29 crore Non-Plan) and rs. 8.93 crore (approx). (Rs. 6.93 crore Plan and Rs. 2.00 Crore Non-Plan) respectively.

In the Department of Fertilizers, during the last three years, only in the financial year 2001-02 were funds unutilised due to lower import of urea than estimated. Provision was made for import of 12 lakh MTs of urea whereas the actual import was of 2.2 lakh MTs only. The CIF price had also shown a declining trend in 2001-2002. During 2001-02, the country witnessed drought like situation in many States which resulted in reduced consumption of fertilizers in the country. This further resulted in non-utilization of funds.

[Translation]

Awards to Inventors

5518. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to award the inventors for their inventions from this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the award-money; and

(c) the criteria laid down for making selection of the awardees for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have launched several schemes such as 'National Innovation Foundation', 'CSIR Diamond Jubilee Invention Award for School Children' and 'Biotech Product and Process Development and Commercialisation Awards' to award the inventors. The details of the schemes and criteria for selecting awardees are given in enclosed Statement.

Statement*National Innovation Foundation*

National Innovation Foundation is setup to scouting and documenting grassroots innovations. Awards are given at the national level to selected innovators through a national competition. The scheme has been in operation for the last two years.

CSIR Diamond Jubilee Invention Award for School children

Government had formulated the Schem entitled 'CSIR Diamond Jubilee Invention Award for School children' in the year 2002. Any Indian school going children up to class XII and below 18 years of age as on 30th June, 2002 was eligible to apply for the award. There were in all 60 prizes.

The Selection criteria as laid down is:- Invention should be novel, non-oblivious and utilitarian for any new concept or idea or solution to an existing problem or

completely a new method/device/utility. Even a concept of the invention proved through a prototype/experimental data would qualify even if the invention has not been worked.

The awardees were selected by two tier system-1. A five member specialist committee for shortlisting and 2. The final recommending committee.

Biotech Product and Process Development and Commercialisation Awards

The Department of Biotechnology has instituted Biotech Product and Process Development and Commercialisation Awards in 2001 for Indian scientists/innovators/entrepreneurs/institutions/companies engaged both in public as well as private sector for outstanding contributions for a new process, product development and commercialization of a technology or a product in the areas of biotechnology and biological science including agriculture, biomedical and environmental sciences. Five awards are given every year on Technology Day, 11th May since 2001 subject to suitability of nominees. Each award carries a cash amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh alongwith a citation. The selection for the awards is made on the basis of the recommendations of an Expert Committee constituted specifically for the purpose by the Department of Biotechnology. The contributions especially during the last five years are taken as main consideration in the selection of the nominees for these awards.

Developing a Clone of Tiger

5519.DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian scientists have proposed to develop a clone of Tiger in view of its total extinction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have approved the said proposal;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether India propose to enter into an agreement with Iran in the field of Bio-Technology; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA') : (a) to (d) There is no proposal from scientists to clone a tiger.

(e) and (f) There is no specific agreement for collaboration in Biotechnology with Iran.

Impact of US-Iraq War on Prices of Chemical Fertilizers

5520.SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of chemical fertilizers have gone up in the international market after the start of the US-Iraq War;

(b) if so, the names of chemical fertilizers and pre-war and post-war prices thereof; and

(c) The extent to which the prices of these fertilizers have risen in Indian market after the US-Iraq war separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) While the average C and F price of prilled urea from Arabian Gulf started firming up from last week of January 2003 and reached from \$ 140 per MT to \$ 173 per MT just prior to Iraq war, this price came down to \$ 170 per MT during the war period. However, this has further come down in the month of April 2003. On the other hand, the average C and F price of DAP has gone up from \$ 225 per MT prior to Iraq war to \$ 228-229 per MT during the war period. (Source – Fertilizer Marketing Bulletin published on weekly basis).

(c) There has been no impact of price variation of international market on all the major chemical fertilizers in Indian market as the selling price/maximum retail prices (MRPs) of these fertilizers namely urea, DAP, MOP and complex grade are uniformly fixed/notified by the Government applicable for all over the country.

[English]

Projects Under SGSY for Poverty Alleviation

5521.DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received requests from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for the extension of special projects under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for poverty alleviation programme to other backward districts of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof project-wise along with the date of their submission;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to accord sanction to these special projects of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) No, Sir. The Ministry has not received any proposals from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for extension of ongoing projects to other backward districts of the State.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Chemicals Sector

5522.SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of research and development being carried out in the chemicals sector;

(b) whether the Government propose to raise the ceiling on foreign direct investment in this sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH) : (a) Research and Development in Chemical Sector is being carried out both in the Government and Private Sector. As far as the Government is concerned, a number of Institutes and Laboratories attached with

Departments including the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) and Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals are engaged in carrying out research for development of Chemical Sector.

(b) There is no ceiling on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Chemical Sector.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Free Ration to Police Force in Andaman and Nicobar

5523.SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to provide Free Ration to the Police Force of Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Balika Samridhi Yojana

5524.SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the budget allocation made for 2003-2004 for the implementation of Balika Samridhi Yojana and funds allocated and utilized during 2002-2003 State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received any requests for the enhancement of budget allocation under said scheme from different States;

(c) if so, the funds released so far, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to allocate more funds to the States for the purpose during 2003-2004;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government have received complaints regarding the allocation of funds during the last three years; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : (a) There was no release of funds under the Balika Samridhi Yojana during the year 2002-2003. However, a provision of Rs. 15.00 crore has been kept under the scheme during 2003-04.

(b) and (c) A Statement indicating unspent balances lying with different State Governments as on 31.3.2003 is enclosed.

(d) to (f) Funds will be allocated/released to those States who furnish full utilisation certificates for the funds released so far. Enhanced allocation will depend on their performance with respect to past releases.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of Unspent Balances lying with the different States/UTs under Balika Samridhi Yojana as on 31.3.2003

| S. No. | Name of the State | Unspent Balance (Rs. in Lakhs) |
|--------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | - |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 6.581 |
| 3. | Assam | 362.92 |
| 4. | Bihar | 2116.8 |
| 5. | Goa | 0 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 258.16 |
| 7. | Haryana | 68.975 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|------------------------|----------|
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 21.13 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 80.785 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 34.83 |
| 11. | Kerala | 123.1 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 440.19 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 455.865 |
| 14. | Manipur | 19.61 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 12.541 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 0 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 7.71 |
| 18. | Orissa | 223.155 |
| 19. | Punjab | 82.48 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 289.572 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 8.275 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 225.585 |
| 23. | Tripura | 1.00 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 1742.94 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 335.29 |
| 26. | Andaman and Nicobar | 3.58 |
| 27. | Chandigarh | 1.67 |
| 28. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 2.39 |
| 29. | Daman and Diu | 1.365 |
| 30. | Delhi | 26.99 |
| 31. | Lakshadweep | 1.385 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | 5.85 |
| 33. | Chhattisgarh | 0 |
| 34. | Jharkhand | 100 |
| 35. | Uttaranchal | 100 |
| Total | | 7160.724 |

Engineering Colleges

5525.SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Engineering colleges functioning as on date in Tamil Nadu, location-wise, alongwith the annual intake of students, college-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any monitoring agency to look after these engineering colleges, during admission times;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the strict adherences with regard to the Government's policy of reservation in these colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the number of approved engineering colleges in the State of Tamil Nadu is 250 with a total intake of 79,122. Location and other details of the approved institutes are available in the official website of AICTE (www.aicte.ernet.in). AICTE has a system of monitoring at the time of granting extension of approval through assessment of expert teams. However, admission to engineering colleges are done by the admission committees constituted by the concerned State/UT Government. The State Governments are required to follow the reservation policy as prevalent in the States.

Incentive to Women for Saving under SGSY

5526.SHRI RAMSHETHH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) the women are being encouraged to save more; and

(b) if so, the incentives being given to women in this regard under the Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a)

and (b) Under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Self Help Groups (SHGs) are formed with thrift as entry point and Groups are encouraged to do savings. The savings help them to build up the group corpus, which is used as micro credit amongst the members. Once the group is assessed to be a cohesive group, it is given revolving fund through the bank. The revolving funds consists of a grant amount equivalent to the group corpus and credit which can go upto four times of the group corpus. This revolving fund is rotated amongst the members as micro credit.

Selp Help Groups could be exclusively for women or could be mixed groups also.

Land Management

5527.SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land management works in States have not been undertaken on proirotly consequent to which productivity of land and increasing agricultural production has suffered as has been brought out by the C and AG in its Report 3 of 2000 on page 221 in para 4.12.02.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Goernment have looked into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (e) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C and AG) in para 4.12.2 of the Report No. 3 of 2000 had, inter-alia, observed that in the States of Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Mizoram and Meghalaya there were certain deficiencies in the implementation of works relating to land management under the erstwhile Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). However, this Report of the C and AG does not indicate that the productivity of land and the agricultural production had suffered because of the said deficiencies. Since the schemes were implemented by the States, the observation

of the C and AG were communicated to the concerned State Governments for their comments. The States have not agreed with the observations of the C and AG. Under the new Scheme Sampurna Grameen Rojgar Yojana (SGRY), Soil and moisture conservation are permissible activities, which can be taken up by the Panchayatiraj Institutions as per the felt needs of the area.

[Translation]

Construction of Bagdigi Mine

5528. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the divers did not succeed in finding trapped coal workers in the mine after Bagdigi Coal Accident as mine was not constructed according to the approved plan;

(b) if so, the names of the persons whose responsibility has been fixed for the absence of actual plan;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the plan of Bagdigi colliery particularly of mine where accident took place was finally prepared?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) :
(a) The divers could not reach trapped miners as they had their own limitations of life lines etc. which prevented them from going down the full distance of mine workings. Working plans were prepared and maintained without conducting proper survey.

(b) Responsibility has been fixed by the Bagdigi Court of Inquiry on the following surveyors :-

(i) Shri R.N. Kundu

(ii) Shri H.c. Kushwaha

(iii) Shri R.C. Das

(c) Not applicable in view of reply given to part (b) above.

(d) Fresh Plan of VII seam was prepared on 17.3.2001, after the incident of inrush of water on 2.2.2001.

Facilities to Freedom Fighters

5529. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide any facility/ assistance to the heirs of the freedom fighters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 widows, unmarried/unemployed daughters, mothers and fathers of the deceased freedom fighter pensioners are treated as eligible family members/ dependents for the purpose of family pension and other facilities provided by the Central Government. In genuine and deserving cases, dependents of freedom fighters who are not eligible for grant of pension are also considered for grant of financial assistance from Home Minister's Discretionary Grant.

Details of other facilities that are provided by the Central Government to the family members of deceased freedom fighters' pension holders are as under :-

(i) Facility of free railway passes (1st Class/2nd A.C.) to the widows with one attendant, for life time.

(ii) Free medical facilities in all Central Government hospitals and also in the hospitals run by the Public Sector Undertakings under the control of the Bureau of Public Enterprises to the widows and their dependents. Central Government Health Services facilities have also been extended to them.

(iii) The spouse of the freedom fighter residing in the Government accommodation allotted to the freedom fighter is entitled to retain the accommodation after the demise of the freedom fighter for a period of six months.

(iv) Facility of telephone connection, subject to feasibility without installation charges and payment of only half of the rentals to the widows.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Exchange of Vacancies between
SCs and STs**

5530.SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4590 given on 18.12.2002 and be pleased to state :

(a) whether the instructions of the Government regarding the exchange of reservation between Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the same year, in case of promotion by selection from Group 'B' to the lowest rung of Group 'A' has not been withdrawn/rescinded with the issuance of DoP and T's O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2.7.1997; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) After introduction of post based reservation, it is not possible to fill up a vacancy reserved for Scheduled Tribes by a Scheduled Castes candidate and vice versa.

(b) Filling up of a vacancy reserved for Scheduled Tribes by a Scheduled Caste candidate by exchange would result into excessive reservation for Scheduled Castes which is not permissible as per the Supreme Court judgement in the case of R.K. Sabharwal versus State of Punjab.

Export of Pharmaceuticals

5531.SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are taking steps to increase the export of drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard during the last three years (year-wise)?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) and (b) Government of India is extending financial assistance through Export Promotion Council by way of Market Development Assistance Scheme (MDA) and Market Access Initiatives Scheme (MAIS) to all Indian exporters (including exporters of drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals) for increasing Indian Exports. Under the MDA programme, the following export promotion activities are undertaken :-

- (1) Financial assistance to industrial exporters to travel abroad for sales cum study tours and for participation in international fairs.
- (2) Financial assistance for taking delegations for Buyer Seller Meets.

During the last five years focus areas programmes like Focus-Latin America, Focus-Africa and Focus-CIS have been launched by the Government under the above programmes by granting :

- (i) Reimbursement of airfare for taking part in the exhibition by the Government to the member-exporters.
- (ii) Under the MAIS Government is bearing 75% of the total expenses for the first year, 50% for the second year and 25% for the third year for the warehousing facilities.
- (iii) 50% cost of engaging office personnel borne by the Government.
- (iv) 50% of the registration charges for the pharmaceuticals will be reimbursed by the Government.

**Land Use of Area converted from
Industrial to Commercial**

5532.SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether an area of about 69 hectares was converted from Industrial to Commercial for Sanjay Gandhi

Transport Nagar, from the area of Samaipur Badli Extensive Industrial Area in 1983;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the extension of the industrial use zone areas;

(d) whether a part of such industrial area was converted into residential use by approving Yadav Nagar in 1983 situated at North of Badli Railway Station; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) As per MPD-2001 the part of the area under reference has been designated for Truck Terminal/Transportation land use.

(c) There is no extension of industrial use. MPD-2001 land use plan is prepared as per policies contained therein.

(d) and (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Migration of Tribals

5533.SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of increasing migration of tribals from the North Cachar hills and Cachar districts of Assam to Manipur

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether is it due to mounting communal violence in these two districts;

(d) if so, the approximate number of tribal families affected thereby; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure the safety of these displaced families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (e) Government have received reports regarding migration of tribals from North Cachar Hills and Cachar Districts of Assam as a result of ethnic violence which took place in March-April,

2003. Over 4, 200 people of different communities are staying in relief camps set up by Government of Assam. The State Government has already taken steps to strengthen the security in the area.

[Translation]

Central Administrative Tribunal

5534.SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the States of which are devoid of Central Administrative Tribunal and State Administrative Tribunal;

(b) the reasons for not setting up these tribunals;

(c) the names of States which have closed the existing tribunals; and

(d) the names of States who have demanded the setting up of new tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) The Central Administrative Tribunal with its Principal Bench at New Delhi and 16 outlying Benches has a jurisdiction over all Central Government employees in all States of India. All States other than Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are devoid of State Administrative Tribunals.

(b) No request has been received from the concerned State Governments.

(c) Madhya Pradesh.

(d) Gujarat and Punjab.

[English]

Procurement of Stationery from Kendriya Bhandar

5535.SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Expenditure Reforms Commission has stated in its recommendation that the rates at which the

Government departments indent their stationery requirements from Kendriya Bhandar is competitive when compared with market prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Budget Grant of the GOISO during each of the last five years for procuring stationery articles to cater the needs of their indentors and has the Grant been far too less than requirement;

(d) if so, the reasons for allocating less Budget grant to GOISO;

(e) whether there is any proposal to wind up the GOISO and to make the Department of Printing and Stationery responsible for supply of stationery articles to the Government Departments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. For the last five years, the budget allocated to Government of India Stationery Office could not be utilized completely by them.

(e) and (f) Expenditure Reforms Commission has recommended winding up of Government of India Stationery Office. The Ministry of Urban Department and Poverty Alleviation has not accepted this recommendation so far.

Employees Killed by Extremists

5536. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Central Government employees killed in the extremist violence in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the compensation paid to them so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that the dependents of the Central Government employees have not been provided jobs on compassionate grounds;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of requests for jobs pending with the Government from the dependents of the Central Government employees killed in Andhra Pradesh by extremists; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to provide jobs to the next kith and kin of deceased employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) As per available information, 11 Central Government employees (CRPF-8, CISF-1, BSNL-1, FCI-1) were killed in the extremist violence in Andhra Pradesh during the last three Years (2000-2002).

(b) CRPF has paid ex-gratia compensation of Rs. 7.50 lakh each to the next of kins in 7 cases.

Government of Andhra Pradesh has sanctioned an ex-gratia of Rs. 1.50 lakh to the widow of the deceased employees of the FCI. Financial assistance of Rs. 17,000/- has been given to the bereaved family of the late BSNL employee.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) One request has been pending with BSNL for want of a guardianship certificate from the Court.

(f) As per existing rules/instructions of the Central Government, 5% of the vacancies are reserved in Groups 'C' and 'D' categories for compassionate appointments.

Panchayat Elections in States

5537. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in each State without the elected Panchayats as on date;

(b) whether the Tenth Finance Commission Report envisages that Panchayati Raj development funds have to be given only to the elected Panchayats; and

(c) if so, the funds allocated/released to Panchayats during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL) :

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

(b) Yes, Sir. Recognizing that after the 73rd Constitutional Amendment it is mandatory to have elected Panchayats, the Tenth Finance Commission provided funds for elected panchayats accordingly. The Tenth Finance Commission also provided funds to local bodies

in States, which were not required to hold Panchayat elections as per the Constitution.

(c) The details of funds allocated to Panchayati Raj Institutions and released to Panchayats during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement. Release of funds to States in the current year will be made in accordance with the guidelines issued to States for utilization of local bodies grants under Eleventh Finance Commission recommendations.

Statement

Release of Funds allocated to Panchayati Raj institutions and released to Panchayats during the last 3 years by the Finance Commission

(Rs. in lakh)

| Sl. No. | State | Annual allocation | Released | | | |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------------|----------|
| | | | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 so far | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 15204.83 | 0.00 | 15204.83 | 15204.83 | 30409.66 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 556.85 | 278.42 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 278.42 |
| 3. | Assam | 4668.95 | 0.00 | 4668.95 | 2334.47 | 7003.42 |
| 4. | Bihar | 10875.00 | 0.00 | 10875.00 | 16312.50 | 27187.50 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 4200.39 | 2100.00 | 6300.79 | 4200.38 | 12601.17 |
| 6. | Goa | 185.45 | 92.72 | 278.19 | 92.72 | 463.63 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 6960.87 | 0.00 | 6960.87 | 10441.30 | 17402.17 |
| 8. | Haryana | 2941.75 | 1470.88 | 4412.63 | 2941.74 | 8825.25 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 1313.38 | 656.68 | 1970.08 | 656.69 | 3283.45 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 1488.14 | 744.06 | 744.08 | 0.00 | 1488.14 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 4825.76 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 7882.35 | 3941.18 | 11823.53 | 3941.17 | 19705.88 |
| 13. | Kerala | 6592.58 | 3296.28 | 9888.88 | 6592.58 | 19777.74 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 10109.00 | 5054.70 | 15163.30 | 10109.00 | 30327.00 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 13134.58 | 6567.28 | 19701.88 | 6567.29 | 32836.45 |
| 16. | Manipur | 375.43 | 187.72 | 563.15 | 0.00 | 750.87 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------------------|---|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 17. Meghalaya | | 512.16 | 256.08 | 768.28 | 256.08 | 1280.40 |
| 18. Mizoram | | 157.11 | 78.56 | 235.67 | 157.10 | 471.33 |
| 19. Nagaland | | 257.33 | 128.66 | 386.01 | 128.66 | 643.33 |
| 20. Orissa | | 6911.76 | 3455.88 | 10367.64 | 3455.88 | 17279.40 |
| 21. Punjab | | 3092.71 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9278.13 | 9278.13 |
| 22. Rajasthan | | 9818.96 | 4909.48 | 14728.44 | 4909.48 | 24547.40 |
| 23. Sikkim | | 105.85 | 52.92 | 158.79 | 52.92 | 264.63 |
| 24. Tamil Nadu | | 9322.36 | 4661.18 | 13983.54 | 4661.18 | 23305.90 |
| 25. Tripura | | 569.19 | 284.60 | 853.79 | 284.59 | 1422.98 |
| 26. Uttar Pradesh | | 23342.67 | 11671.34 | 35014.01 | 11671.33 | 58356.68 |
| 27. Uttaranchal | | 3040.00 | 1520.00 | 4560.00 | 0.00 | 6080.00 |
| 28. West Bengal | | 11554.59 | 5777.30 | 17331.89 | 5777.29 | 28886.48 |
| Total | | 160000.00 | 57185.92 | 206944.18 | 120027.31 | 384157.41 |

**Dakar Frame Work of Action in
Education**

5538. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has left out India and certain other countries as Government of India failed to submit the National Action Plan on Education in conformity with the Dakar Framework of action; and

(b) the reasons for not submitting the Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. A World Bank Mission visited India from 13th to 24th February, 2003 for discussion on providing support to India's programme for Education for All in line with the Dakar Framework of action.

Family Pension

5539. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the family pension has been increased after accepting the 5th Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the rates at which the family pension is given as on date;

(c) whether family pension continue to be given to the dependent children after the demise of both the husband and the wife;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and upon whom the left over dependent children particularly the female child will depend upon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b)

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, a uniform rate of family pension at the rate of 30% of pay instead of the earlier slab rate is effective from 1.1.1996. A minimum ceiling of family pension at the rate of Rs. 1275 per month and a maximum ceiling of 30% of the highest pay in the Government has been prescribed.

(c) and (d) Under Rule 54(6) of the CCS (Pension) Rule, 1972, eligible children are entitled to family pension after the demise of both the parents or on remarriage of the surviving parent whichever events occurs earlier.

(e) In view of (c) and (d), does not arise.

**Government of India Text Book
Presses**

5540. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government of India text book presses in the country;

(b) whether some of those text book presses have been gifted by the UNESCO;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether all these presses are with the Central Government or some of these have been transferred to the State Governments;

(e) if so, the details of the presses which have been transferred to the State Governments alongwith the names of the States;

(f) whether all these presses are working at present; and

(g) if not, the presses which were closed down and the reasons for their closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) As present there are three Government of India Text Book Presses of Mysore, Chandigarh and Bhubaneswar under the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Some machinery and equipment were gifted by the Federal Republic of Germany under UNESCO programme more than 25 years ago.

(d) and (e) At present all the three presses are with the Central Government.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir.

[English]

Rashtriya Balwadi Nidhi

5541. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the programmes/schemes under the 'Rashtriya Balwadi Nidhi Yojana for women;

(b) the criteria for providing loans, grants and the financial assistance under the scheme;

(c) the share and the financial contribution of the State Government in the implementation of these schemes; and

(d) the funds allocated for these programmes/schemes during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : (a) The Department of Women and Child Development is implementing Scheme of National Creche Fund, 1994. Under the Scheme, assistance is given for running creches, aganwadi-cum-creches and training programme for creche workers.

(b) The State Governments, voluntary organization or Mahila Mandal with a known record of service in the field of child welfare and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (21 of 1860) or Registered as a Public Trust at least for the last two years are eligible for applying through concerned State Government for financial assistance from the Fund.

(c) There is no share or financial contribution of State Government in implementation of the Scheme.

(d) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

*State-wise details of funds released from National
Creche Fund during last three years*

(Rupees in lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name of the State/ UT | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
|---------|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 49.83 | 71.52 | 83.91 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | — | — | — |
| 3. | Assam | 6.90 | 0.74 | 42.90 |
| 4. | Bihar | — | 4.69 | 11.24 |
| 5. | Delhi | 0.37 | — | — |
| 6. | Goa | — | — | — |
| 7. | Gujarat | 2.89 | 6.18 | 2.80 |
| 8. | Haryana | 6.78 | 7.46 | 35.97 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 2.62 | 0.77 | — |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | — | — | — |
| 11. | Jharkhand | — | 1.51 | — |
| 12. | Karnataka | 7.25 | 5.81 | 11.30 |
| 13. | Kerala | — | — | — |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 6.41 | 12.69 | 9.86 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 22.39 | 14.15 | 21.17 |
| 16. | Manipur | 2.40 | 1.01 | — |
| 17. | Meghalaya | — | 0.49 | — |
| 18. | Mizoram | — | — | — |
| 19. | Nagaland | — | — | — |
| 20. | Orissa | 15.44 | 14.84 | 5.82 |
| 21. | Punjab | 1.85 | 4.16 | — |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 6.22 | 2.20 | 0.74 |
| 23. | Sikkim | — | — | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 13.18 | 13.24 | 22.81 |
| 25. | Tripura | — | — | — |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 25.78 | 16.99 | 21.22 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | — | 3.97 | 33.72 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 13.07 | 3.14 | 103.68 |
| 29. | A and N Islands | — | — | — |
| 30. | Chandigarh | — | — | — |
| 31. | D and N Haveli | — | — | — |
| 32. | Daman and Diu | — | — | — |
| 33. | Lakshadweep | — | — | — |
| 34. | Pondicherry | — | — | — |
| Total | | 183.38 | 185.56 | 407.14 |

*[English]***NIEPA**

5542. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked the National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) to draw guidelines relating to hiring or selecting of the retired teachers for re-employment;

(b) if so, whether NIEPA has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the recommendations thereof;

(d) whether the Government have accepted all the recommendations of NIEPA; and

(e) if so, the details of the status of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) At the initiative of University Grants Commission (UGC), the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) had organised one day national level discussion meet on re-employment of

teachers after the retirement at the age of 60/62 year in universities and colleges.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The recommendations are enclosed as Statement.

(d) and (e) NIEPA had sent a copy of the report of UGC. The Scheme was considered by the UGC but the Scheme was deferred on account of their consideration of a similar Scheme – "Professor of Eminence".

Statement

Recommendations and Executive Summary

1. The meeting was of the unanimous opinion that the services of good teachers should be available to the system of Higher Education as long as possible.
2. Good teachers generally are at the peak of their abilities during the later stages in their career and as such the experience and knowledge acquired by them during the 30 or 35 years of service must be utilized by the higher education institutions suitably.
3. The institutional needs and system's requirements should be a paramount interest in taking any decisions regarding the availing of services of teachers after superannuation or retirement.
4. At college level, the teaching abilities and at university level both teaching and research capabilities of individual teacher are to be considered besides other qualities while enlisting their services.
5. Suitable criterion for assessing the teaching abilities and research capabilities of teachers are to be developed.
6. Students' appraisal of teachers, especially during the last five years of service of teachers, has also been suggested, by a majority of the participants members, to be given due weightage in the selection of teachers, after superannuation or retirement.
7. A healthy and dignified procedure for seeking the services of deserving teachers is to be evolved in the interest of institutions rather than encouraging teachers of seek it for personal benefit.
8. The scheme evolved be such that it does not block the prospects of the youngsters/others in the departments and also deny them the experience of senior positions.
9. The teachers whose services are proposed to be retained should relinquish their privileges attached to the posts they were holding like appointment, office, official residence etc.
10. The teachers who are involved in embezzlement or moral turpitude or against whom disciplinary action has been taken should not be considered for extension of service.
11. Services of good teachers may be availed upto the age of 65 years, and in some exceptional cases, as per some members, it may be extended even upto 70 years.
12. The meeting also unanimously resolved that a small committee to be formed out of the members of draft clear guidelines and procedures for implementation of the scheme, inter-alia containing the following.
 - (a) Suitable nomenclature for the scheme consistent with the dignity of the teacher – as reemployment is not a suitable word for this profession.
 - (b) Criteria for selection
 - (c) Selection procedure keeping in views of the status and dignity of the teachers
 - (d) Service conditions
 - (e) Procedure for appointment
 - (f) Financial implications

IGNOU

5543.SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indira Gandhi National Open University has signed any agreement with the Rehabilitation Council of India to cooperate in including various programmes to benefit the handicapped people;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which it is likely to come into force;
- (d) whether the Indira Gandhi National Open University grant degrees for the courses pertaining to handicapped people's rehabilitation studies; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) The Indira Gandhi National Open University and the Rehabilitation Council of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 21st Sept. 2000 which envisage, inter-alia, promotion and implementation of extension, training and education programmes for empowerment of the special target groups of people with disabilities. The includes a certificate programme with the broad aim of enhancing awareness and imparting practical skills regarding various aspects of disability, specifically aimed at parents, child care functionaries and community workers, and a four year Bachelor's Degree Programme with the objective of preparing a trained cadre of professionals equipped to work with various categories of disability. besides an audio – video based motivational extension programme.

Forecast of Monsoon

5544. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Meteorological Department failed to forecast drought like conditions during the last year;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Director General of the Indian Meteorological Department on 16.4.2003 announced that rain fall during the south west monsoon would be below normal country-wide;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government on the observation of IMD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHHA') : (a) to (e) Since 1988, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been issuing Long Range Forecast of Southwest Monsoon rainfall using a Statistical model that relates the rainfall with 16 antecedent parameters. Except in 2002, IMD's long range monsoon forecasts were correct. Last year's monsoon forecast given by the IMD had a deviation of 20% from the actual value.

The drought of 2002 was due to several anomalous features such as :

- (i) Presence of anomalous anticyclone flow descending motion over western parts of the country;
- (ii) Absence of monsoon depressions during the season as against the normal of 5-6 depressions per season;
- (iii) Feeble and short lived low pressure areas and trough;
- (iv) A weak monsoon trough which was located close to foothills of Himalayas for a long time in July;
- (v) Weak Cross equatorial flow in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal;
- (vi) Anomalous behaviour of the El-Nino.

Yes, Sir. Based upon the newly adopted 8-Parameter Power Regression Model, IMD's long range forecast for the 2003 South-West Monsoon Season (June-September) is that the rainfall for the country as a whole is likely to be 96% of the Long Period Average (L.P.A.) with a model error of $\pm 5\%$.

For the 2003 South-West Monsoon Season for the country as a whole, the new 8-Parameter Probabilistic Model indicates;

21% probability of drought (rainfall less than 90% of LPA)

39% probability of below normal rainfall (90 to 97% of LPA)

14% probability of near normal rainfall (98 to 102% of LPA)

23% probability of above normal rainfall (103 to 110% of LPA)

3% probability of excess rainfall (more than 110% of LPA)

The Long Range Forecast issued by IMD on April 16, 2003 is based upon the data upto March, 2003 in respect of eight atmosphere, land and ocean parameters used in the model.

Various Government agencies have been apprised of the IMD forecast.

Austerity Measures

5545.SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are taking austerity measures in strongest terms;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that expenditure on foreign tours of Ministers and delegation has increased manifold in 2002-2003 as compared to 2001-2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has been a marginal increase in the expenditure on the foreign tours of members of the Union Council of Ministers. While the expenditure on this count was Rs. 27.81 crores in 2001-02, it was Rs. 28.34 crores in 2002-03. This marginal increase is mainly attributable to increase in the air fare.

All proposals relating to the visits abroad are carefully considered at various levels in the Government and only those visits which are absolutely essential are permitted with the approval of the competent authority.

Capacity Expansion for Breweries and Distilleries

5546.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Distillers' Association has demanded the Centre to remove the restrictions on the capacity expansion of these breweries and distilleries;

(b) if so, whether this ban has been in force since 1975;

(c) whether the Government have considered the request of the All India Distillers' Association;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) With a view to introducing prohibition in the country in a phased manner, a ban on creation of additional capacity or expansion of existing capacity for distillation or brewing of alcoholic drinks except in 100% export oriented cases was imposed by the Central Government on 19th November, 1975. The ban was partially relaxed in April, 1988 when the creation of additional capacity and expansion of existing capacity for manufacture of potable alcohol based on non-molasses raw materials was allowed. Subsequently, creation of fresh capacity for manufacture of beer was also permitted in February, 1989. This was also withdrawn w.e.f. 1.4.1991.

The current situation is that the Supreme Court through a judgement delivered on 29.1.1997 held that industries engaged in manufacture of alcohol meant for potable purposes should be under the total and exclusive control of the States. This judgement of 29.1.1997 occupies the field at present.

Compensation for Acquired Land by WCL

5547.SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) had acquired in 1997 the whole cultivated land of Mungoli village for Nurguda Open Cast mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the compensation for the acquired land has since been paid to the cultivators;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the case of compensation is pending in Nagpur Tribunal Court;

(g) if so, whether the judge of the Tribunal has since been appointed;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons for delay in appointing the judge of Tribunal and the time by which the judge of the Tribunal is likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) :
(a) and (b) Part cultivated land of Mungoli village (206.59 Hect.) has been acquired vide S.O. No. 406 dated 23.01.1997 under section 9 (1), of Coal Bearing Areas (A and D) Act, 1957 for Nurguda OCP.

(c) to (e) The details of the compensation paid for land acquired is as under :-

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Total land acquired | 206.59 Hect. |
| 2. Total compensation against land acquired | Rs. 1,00,77,891.06 |
| 3. Amount Paid | Rs. 62,91,688.89 |
| 4. Amount pending at Special Tribunal, Nagpur | Rs. 19,48,303.15 |
| 5. Pending due to family disputed and court cases | Rs. 18,34,899.02 |

(f) Yes, Sir. Cases in respect of 18 Land Quistees involving compensation of Rs. 19,48,303.15 is pending in the Special Tribunal at Nagpur.

(g) No Sir.

(h) and (i) The judge of the Special Tribunal, Nagpur could not be appointed since 15.4.99. The remuneration fixed earlier for the post was not sufficient to attract new incumbent. Therefore Ministry of Coal finalized the revised terms and conditions and requested Government of Maharashtra to sponsor the names of willing candidates being retired judges of High Court. After repeated correspondence, the Government of Maharashtra showed its inability to sponsor the name of any retired judge to fill up the post. The post was finally circulated on all India level through State Governments to sponsor the names of suitable retired judges. A positive response has since been received. However in the meanwhile terms of the Tribunal expired on 31.3.2002. and proposal was sent to Ministry of Finance for extension of tenure of the Special Tribunal beyond 31.2.2002. Ministry of Finance did not agree to extend the term of Special Tribunal at Nagpur and advised to find other ways of settlement of claims in consultation with Ministry of Law. The issue was examined in consultation with Ministry of Law which opined that the term of the Special Tribunal should be extended. The proposal has therefore been again referred to Ministry of Finance. A judge will be appointed as soon as the approval of Ministry of Finance is received.

[Translation]

Utilization of Machinery in CCL

5548.SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether even 30 percent machinery of the Central Coalfields Ltd. is not being utilised properly whereas large amount of Government exchequer is being utilised in the name of repair of out of order machines of purchase of diesel;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have investigated the reported connivance of management in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) :
(a) and (b) The status in respect of Heavy Earth Moving

Machinery (HEMM) at Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) as on 1.4.2003 is as under :

| HEMM | Total Nos. on Roll 1.4.2003 | Nos. working | % working |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Shovel | 114 | 101 | 88.59 |
| Dumper | 609 | 470 | 77.17 |
| Dozer | 177 | 144 | 81.35 |
| Drill | 173 | 135 | 78.03 |
| Total | 1073 | 850 | 79.20 |

The figures indicates that on an average 79% of the total HEMM are working.

HEMM are generally rehabilitated/repared at Central/regional/Unit workshop of the company. During 2002-03, 63 Nos. of HEMM have been rehabilitated/repared in the company workshop at an approximate expenditure of Rs. 10 crores.

Diesel is purchased from Public Sector Oil Companies at controlled prices. During the year 2002-03, total amount on diesel purchase had been Rs. 105.83 crores, the rate of consumption being 0.73 litre/cu. metre of excavation (prov.) Diesel consumption during the previous two years was also same (i.e. 0.73 litre/cu. metre of excavation).

(c) There is no specific complaint/investigation in this regard.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (c) above.

[English]

Technology Missions

5549.SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government propose to launch 10 Technology Missions to raise India into a fully developed nation by 2020; and

(b) if so, the details of the Technology missions and their contemplated constitution and modus operandi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA') : (a) and (b) The Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council, (TIFAC) New Delhi, an autonomous body under this Department prepared a long term national Technology Vision known as Technology Vision for India upto 2020, for making India into a fully developed nation. Based on this document, the following six sectors have initially been identified for undertaking Mission Mode projects.

1. Agriculture and Agro Food Processing
2. Road Construction and Transportation Equipment
3. Textile Machinery Upgradation
4. Health Care Services and Herbal/Natural Products
5. Upgradation of Science and Engineering Colleges relevant to Indian Industry (Mission REACH)
6. Targeted Programmes in other important areas like Electric Power, Municipal Solid Waste Management, Hydrogen Energy, etc.

So far 60 projects in the Mission Mode have been taken up.

Profit by HUDCO

5550.SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that HUDCO has earned a record profit of over 300 crores of rupees during the financial year 2001-2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) As per the Annual Report of HUDCO for 2001-2002, during the year 2001-2002, Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) has earned Rs. 133.88 crore as Profit before tax and prior period adjustments. After prior period

adjustments and provision for taxation a net Profit (after tax) of Rs. 114.06 crore has been earned for the year.

[Translation]

Development of Bio-Technology

5551.KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the development of agricultural biotechnology is likely to facilitate the study and research on agriculture – related gene in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of genes identified in the country so far and the number of genes on which research is being conducted at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA') : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, significant advances made in recent years in the area of agricultural biotechnology are going to facilitate the study and research on agriculture related genes in the country. The new tools of biotechnology have made it possible to identify, isolate and transfer gene(s) of interest into diverse crop plants across the reproductive barrier. This helps in crop improvement via molecular breeding and development of transgenic plants. Such plants with many desirable agronomic traits like pest and disease resistance, herbicide tolerance, delayed ripening, improved nutritional quality, heterosis breeding have been developed in various laboratories. Work on edible vaccines has progressed well.

(c) Nearly 22 research institutions are engaged in the development of transgenic crops through the use of identified genes. Already 27 genes specific for crop improvement have been identified. These are Bt, protease inhibitor, lectin, fatty acid desaturase, tissue specific promoter, virus resistance, protein quality and salt resistant genes. Also 24 stresses related genes have been isolated from plants of cold desert and mangrove region. Some of these genes have been transferred to commercially important crops.

The trait predominantly targeted is insect-pest resistance mainly using Bt strategy in crops like rice, cotton, tobacco, tomato, brinjal, cauliflower, cabbage, pigeonpea, sugarcane etc. For improvement of nutritional quality in potato, by over-expression of an *Amaranthus* protein gene AmAl, transgenic potato with balanced composition of amino acid and yield advantage is at advanced stage of field testing. In mustard, barnase and barstar genes which confer the male sterility and fertility restoration have been introduced for developing hybrid seeds. Also transgenic mustard plants have been raised with antisense genes of fatty acid desaturase 2 genes (FAD2) in low erusic acid background of reduce the levels of linolenic acid in mustard oil. Work is in progress on development of transgenic tomato rich in lycopin, enhanced post-harvest shelf life and quality, and on development of transgenic rice with high B-carotene.

Rice and wheat have been transformed with genes, which confer stress resistance. The transgenics developed are being characterized at molecular level. In addition, Indian Initiative for Rice Genome Sequencing has identified more than 2500 genes and efforts are on to demarcate agriculturally important genes whose functional analysis would be taken-up in near future.

[English]

Demolition of Sainik Farms

5552.SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has recently directed the MCD to furnish report on the proposed demolition of the entire Sainik farm colony;

(b) if so, whether the Sainik farms in Delhi have violated the land use regulations and building bye-laws;

(c) if so, whether the orders of the Delhi High Court have been implemented by the MCD;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (e) Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has reported that a petition CWP No. 6734/2000 titled Rajiv Malhotra Vs. Union of India and Others relating to Sainik Farm colony which has come up in violation of land use and building bye-laws is pending in the High Court of Delhi. The Hon'ble High Court passed orders on 4.4.2003 asking the Commissioner, MCD to state before the Court about the manner of implementation of the proposed policy filed along with the affidavit dated 9.7.2001. The Commissioner MCD has filed an affidavit in the Hon'ble Court on 22.4.2003 seeking extension of time.

[Translation]

Pending Proposals for Allotment of Land in Delhi

5553. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals for allotment of land to various institutions and Public Schools in Delhi lying pending in the Land and Development office alongwith the date since when they are pending;

(b) the latest position in regard to those proposals;

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

(d) whether the Government have received requests from the Public representatives to clear those proposals, during the last two years, till date;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Drug Prices

5554. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the medicines tagged under price control as per the existing drug policy;

(b) the authority exercising control over the price of drugs;

(c) whether the multinational companies are being favoured to Indian companies while exercising control over the price of drugs;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details of the last three years alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) to (e) Drugs have been identified for inclusion under price control on the basis of criteria mentioned in the 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986' announced in September, 1994. Presently, 74 bulk drugs and formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. Prices notified/fixed by the Government are applicable to manufacturers irrespective of whether the company is Indian or multi-national.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Persons

5555. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a national policy has been formulated to rehabilitate those persons who are being displaced due to the construction of roads, dams, bridges and other Government projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL) :

(a) and (b) A draft bill titled 'Project Affected Persons (Resettlement and Rehabilitation) Bill' for projects displacing 1000 or more families is under formulation.

Recognition of B.Ed. Courses

5556.DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain State Governments have sent requests for recognition of colleges for imparting B.Ed. courses;

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

(c) whether the colleges for which the recognition is sought fulfil the norms and prescribed criteria;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in grant of recognition; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) As per the information received from National Council for Teacher Education, 579 applications for grant of recognition for conducting B.Ed courses during the year 2003-04 accompanied by No Objection Certificates (NOCs) issued by State/Union Territory Governments have been received by the 31st December, 2002, the last date for receipt of such applications. State-wise details of the applications are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) The institutions whose applications were received along with NOC by the 31st December, 2002 were given an opportunity to make good, by the 15th March, 2003, deficiencies if any communicated to them. On receipt of Compliance reports, the Regional Committees of the Council, have started processing valid applications by sending Visiting Teams to these institutions. Decisions regarding grant of recognition are taken by the Regional

Committees in their meetings after considering the reports of the Visiting Teams.

Statement

State-wise details of applications received for grant of recognition for conducting B.Ed. course during 2003-2004.

| Sl. No. | Name of the State/ UT | No. of applications received for B.Ed. course for 2003-04 |
|---------|--------------------------|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 8 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1 |
| 3. | Assam | 14 |
| 4. | Bihar | 2 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 6 |
| 6. | Goa | 1 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 44 |
| 8. | Haryana | 15 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 24 |
| 10. | Kerala | 211 |
| 11. | Manipur | 4 |
| 12. | Maharashtra | 26 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 26 |
| 14. | Meghalaya | 4 |
| 15. | Nagaland | 1 |
| 16. | Punjab | 17 |
| 17. | Rajasthan | 3 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | 153 |
| 19. | West Bengal | 6 |
| 20. | Chandigarh | 1 |
| 21. | Delhi | 12 |
| Total | | 579 |

**Management Quota for Self
Financing Colleges**

5557. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether it is true that the Government are considering framing clear guidelines on management quota for admissions in self financing colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that the Government had taken up the issue with the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the response of the State Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) Consequent to the pronouncement of judgement by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on October, 2002 in TMA Pai Foundation Vs. State Government of Karnataka and Others, AICTE notified an Interim Policy Regulations. The Interim Regulations provides that the prescription of percentage of seats that can be reserved for admission by the management of technical institutions has to be made by the State Government in accordance with the local needs and different percentage can be fixed for minority and non-minority technical institutions, provided the maximum limit of percentage of management seats shall not exceed 15% of sanctioned intake in case of non-minority technical institutions and 50% in case of minority institutions. The Interim Policy Regulations were generally endorsed in the meeting of State Education Secretaries (Technical) held on 10th March, 2003.

[Translation]

Corruption Cases against IPS Officers

5558. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of I.P.S. officers against whom there are serious charges of corruption;

(b) whether any inquiries are going on against them;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to curb corruption amongst the higher officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) As per information made available by various State Government, 81 IPS Officers are found to be facing Departmental action on corruption charges for last three years i.e. 2000 to 2002.

(b) Disciplinary Proceedings have been initiated against them.

(c) A statement is attached to this reply.

(d) All India Service Act provide adequate provisions for strict action against the officer found guilty. The Central Vigilance Commission and State Vigilance Commissioners pursue the matters of corruption amongst officers.

Statement

*Number of pending cases against IPS
Officers for the last three
Years-State/Cadre-wise*

| Sl. No. | Name of the State/ Cadre | No. of IPS officers against whom disciplinary proceedings are initiated during the last three years on charges of corruption |
|---------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | - |
| 2. | AGMU | 5 |
| 3. | Assam and Meghalaya | 1 |
| 4. | Bihar | 2 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | - |
| 6. | Gujarat | 21 |
| 7. | Haryana | 5 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|-------------------|----|
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | — |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 1 |
| 11. | Karnataka | — |
| 12. | Kerala | 1 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 2 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 2 |
| 15. | Manipur-Tripura | 2 |
| 16. | Nagaland | — |
| 17. | Orissa | 9 |
| 18. | Punjab | 2 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | — |
| 20. | Sikkim | — |
| 21. | Tamil Nadu | 14 |
| 22. | Uttaranchal | — |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh | 7 |
| 24. | West Bengal | 6 |
| Total | | 81 |

[English]

Mobile Forensic Units

5559. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI SI :

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 11th Finance Commission has made provision of Rs. 49.80 crores for setting up mobile forensic units in the 415 districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments have taken further steps in this regard;

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

(e) the total fund out of the sanctioned fund by 11th Finance Commission made available to the State Governments, State-wise; and

(f) the further steps taken by Union Government to mobilise State Governments for setting up such units at the earliest possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of provision of Rs. 49.80 crores made by the XIth Finance Commission for setting up Mobile Forensic Units (Mobile FSLs) in 415 districts in different States is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per available information, the State Governments of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tamil Nadu have established a number of Mobile FSLs and the remaining State Governments are in the process of establishing these.

(e) An amount of Rs. 16,01,70,000/- has so far been released by the Ministry of Finance against an allocation of Rs. 49.80 crores for setting up Mobile FSLs in different States. The details of amount released to different States as on 21.4.2003 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(f) It is for the State Governments to take steps to set up Mobile FSLs after the funds are released by the Ministry of Finance. The Central Government has been urging upon the State Governments to make programme to utilize the funds sanctioned/released for this purpose. In addition, under the non-plan scheme for Modernization of the State Police Forces being operated by the Ministry of Home Affairs funds are allocated to the State Governments for the upgradation and modernization of the State FSLs. The progress in utilization of the funds is also being monitored. The need to upgrade/modernize the State FSLs was stressed upon in the meeting of the State Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police held in New Delhi on 7.1.2003 and it was also reiterated in the Chief Minister conference on Internal Security on 8.2.2003.

Statement-I

The details of provision of Rs. 49.80 Crores made by the Xth Finance Commission for setting up of Mobile FSLs in 415 Districts in States is as under :

| S No. | State | Mobile FSLs | Funds allocated Rs. in Lakhs |
|-------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 18 | 216 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 13 | 156 |
| 3. | Assam | 25 | 300 |
| 4. | Bihar | 57 | 684 |
| 5. | Goa | 2 | 24 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 25 | 300 |
| 7. | Haryana | 15 | 180 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 12 | 144 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 4 | 48 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 27 | 324 |
| 11. | Kerala | 17 | 204 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 37 | 444 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 21 | 252 |
| 14. | Manipur | 9 | 108 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 7 | 84 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 3 | 36 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 10 | 120 |
| 18. | Orissa | 19 | 228 |
| 19. | Punjab | 20 | 240 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 30 | 360 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 4 | 48 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 1 | 12 |
| 23. | Tripura | 4 | 48 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|---------------|-----|------|
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 15 | 180 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 20 | 240 |
| Total | | 415 | 4980 |

Statement-II

The details of amount released to different States as on 21.4.2003

| S.No. | State | Rs. in lakhs |
|-------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 138.31 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 62.74 |
| 3. | Assam | 120.66 |
| 4. | Bihar | 45.85 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 72.39 |
| 6. | Goa | 4.82 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 30.17 |
| 8. | Haryana | 72.40 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 16.19 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 19.31 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 22.93 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 130.31 |
| 13. | Kerala | 82.05 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 93.57 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 101.35 |
| 16. | Manipur | 10.86 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 33.78 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 14.48 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 48.26 |
| 20. | Orissa | 91.70 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|---------------|---------|
| 21. | Punjab | 96.53 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 144.79 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 4.83 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 12.96 |
| 25. | Tripura | 19.31 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 62.74 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | 2.41 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 46.00 |
| Total | | 1601.70 |

Under Nourished Children

5560.SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether nearly half of the Indian children are under nourished;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the large food subsidy did not result in reducing under nourishment;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : (a) As per the National Family Health Survey-2 (1998-99), the underweight in children (0-3 years) is 47%.

(b) and (c) The problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional, which cannot be addressed by food subsidy alone. It is inter-generational in nature and is an outcome of inter-related set of factors, such as food insecurity at the household level; poor purchasing power of the people; illiteracy and ignorance, particularly among women; ill health; gender discrimination against the girl child; poor socio-economic status of women; poor access to health

care, safe drinking water and sanitation; high rate of population growth, etc.

(d) The Programme being implemented, which inter-alia, aim at reducing undernutrition, include Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Nutrition Component of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY), Pilot Project in 51 Districts to provide free food-grains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women, Nutrition Education Programmes, Reproductive and Child Health Programme, National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education, Targetted Public Distribution System, etc.

Employment to Engineering Graduates

5561.SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of engineering graduates who qualified in various engineering disciplines during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of them provided with jobs in the Government, public and private sectors; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide jobs for the unemployed engineering graduates in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Though All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) grants approval for intake of students in engineering colleges in the country, admission to which is done through the State level committees. Details of students eventually passing out from more than 1200 engineering colleges affiliated to different universities are not maintained centrally. With a view to making the students employable by supplementing the knowledge and skill of students, AICTE approved engineering colleges conduct variety of programmes such as industrial training, apprenticeship training, short-term programmes, seminars, personality development tests, etc. Students passing out from engineering colleges get absorbed in various organisations both in India and abroad and also in the areas of self-employment.

[Translation]

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor?

Compensation to Owners of Land

5562.SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for compensating house owners whose houses are acquired in connection with the laying of Delhi Metro Rail Project;

(b) whether a number of property owners whose land or property was acquired for Delhi Metro Rail Project have not yet been provided compensation; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) Compensation is paid in accordance with the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

(b) and (c) All the owners/house owners whose land or property was acquired for DMRC have been paid except for cases where the matter is pending before the Courts or the claimants have not filed papers supporting their claims.

The details of pending cases is enclosed as Statement.

Statement*Information regarding Payment of Compensation in respect of Delhi MRTS Project*

| S. No. | Village/Locality | Award No. | Balance (Unpaid amount of compensation) | Remarks |
|--------------|--|-----------------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| NORTH | | | | |
| 1. | Civil Station (Mall Road) | 02/1999-2000 | 16433213 | Possession of remaining area i.e. 925 sq. mtr has not been taken by DMRC. Some of the claimants did not file the relevant papers. |
| 2. | Ram Bagh Deli Patti | 03/1999-2000 | 35953785 | Rs. 35506499 possession for remaining area i.e. 7699.42 sq.mtr. not taken by the DMRC Rs. 447286 some of the claimants did not file the relevant papers. |
| 3. | Delhi Patti Roshnara Road | 04/1999-2000 | Nil | Neither possession taken nor amount received. |
| 4. | Civil Station 15 Sham Nath Marg | 02/DC/N/2001-02 | Nil | TITLE DISPUTED. Full amount sent to ADJ court on 05.11.2001. |
| 5. | Delhi Patti Pul Bangash | 02/DC/N/2001-02 | 3398459 | Some of the claimant have not filed the required documents in support of the claims. |
| 6. | Civil Station (Cavalary Lane, Chhatra Marg) | 07/DC/N/2001-02 | Nil | Rs. 256436079 paid to owners, Rs. 167603545 sent to ADJ Court U/s 30-31. |
| 7. | Mehta Bldg. Old Rohtak Road, Ram bagh, Delhi | 12/DC/N/2001-02 | Nil | TITLED DISPUTED. Full amount sent to ADJ court U/s 30-31 on 31.7.2002. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------------|---|------------------------|-----------|--|
| 8. | Civil Station 30 Alipur Road. | 09/DC/N/02-03 | Nil | CASE SUBJUDICE, Rs. 23619138 sent to High Court on 30.01.2002 (80% amount) Rs. 11064049 sent to ADJ Court in 11/2002. |
| NORTH – EAST | | | | |
| 9. | Chandrawal | 1/1999-2000 | 184855526 | The whole amount i.e. Rs. 184855526 was deposited in ADJ Court in 11/2002. |
| CENTRAL | | | | |
| 10. | Chawri Bazar | 2/01-02 | | 50% Payment of New Amar Cinema released to owners. Rest of the payment has not been released as matter is pending before Hon'ble High Court. |
| | | | | Payment of six land owners of balance land covered by the award deposited with the ADJ Court for apportionment and matter is pending before the Court. |
| 11. | Gali Hakim BAQQA | 1/99-2000 3/2001-02 | | Payment of three land owners pending as they have not applied for payment. |
| 12. | Phatak Badal Bagh | 1/2001-2002 | | Payment amounting to Rs. 37537404 deposited with the ADJ Court for 7 land owners for apportionment. Case pending with the Court. |
| NORTH-WEST | | | | |
| 13. | Pooth Khurd, Barwala Pansali, Pehladpur Bangar | | | Land measuring 104 Bigha 16 Biswa, 192 Bigha 07 Biswa, 10 Biswansi, 50 Bigha 12 Biswa, 10 Biswansi and 2 Biswa respectively is required by the Government for public purpose. Aforesaid land notified under section 4 of LAC Act. A case titled as Iswar Singh and Ors. Vs UOI and Others in CWP No. 7860/02 and CM No. 13403/03 is pending in the Delhi High Court and Court has granted status quo. The compensation will be disbursed to the interested persons as and when the possession of the land under reference is taken over and handed over to the requisitioning departments. |
| WEST | | | | |
| 14. | Mundka | | | Compensation of Rs. 13,05,157 is pending. 24 owners have not come forward for collecting payment. |

*[English]***Registration of False Cases**

5563. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Police has been found registering false cases against innocent people than the culprits and the Courts have number of times brought this fact to the notice of the top officials of the Delhi Police;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking deterrent action against the policemen found guilty of harassing the general public; and

(c) the details of cases where Courts have written to the police authorities in this regard during each of the last three years and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (c) There were two cases during the last three years in which the court held that the evidence against the accused was fabricated and/or the police officials had falsely deposed before the court against the accused. While the disciplinary proceedings against the delinquent officials involved in one case have been instituted, the administrative authorities concerned with the second case have been directed to take appropriate departmental action against the lone police official involved in that case. Besides, the complaints received from other sources against false registration of cases are also looked into and appropriate disciplinary action against the delinquent officials, if any, is taken.

Census of Central Government Employees

5564. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a census of Central Government employees was conducted in 1995;

(b) if so, the number of employees in the Central Government in the different Ministries, both regular and casual, gazetted and non-gazetted as per 1995 census;

(c) whether any other census has been conducted after 1995 of the Central Government employees.

(d) if so, the number of employees as per the latest census; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not conducting such a census so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry-wise distribution of the number of regular Gazetted and non-Gazetted employees of Central Governments on 31.3.1995 is given in the enclosed Statement. Information on casual workers is not maintained.

(c) and (d) After 1995, Census for collection of information as on 31.3.2001 has been launched from January, 2002. After completion of collection of information, the same will be tabulated and published in the form of a report.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Ministry wise distribution of regular Central Government Employees as on 31 March 1995

| Ministry/Department | No. of Employees | | Total Regular |
|---------------------|------------------|----------|---------------|
| | Non-Gazetted | Gazetted | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| I. Agriculture | 11498 | 1469 | 12967 |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--|---|--------|-------|--------|
| II. Atomic Energy | | 21244 | 11336 | 32580 |
| III. Chemical and Fertilizers | | 325 | 270 | 595 |
| IV. Civil Aviation | | 15856 | 2148 | 18004 |
| V. Ministry of Coal | | 1757 | 402 | 2159 |
| VI. Ministry of Commerce | | 3631 | 604 | 4235 |
| VII. Communications | | 674711 | 28463 | 703174 |
| VIII. Comptroller and Auditor General of India | | 46906 | 12370 | 59276 |
| IX. Defence | | 488772 | 12077 | 500849 |
| X. Electronics | | 978 | 612 | 1590 |
| XI. Environment and Forest | | 2108 | 1029 | 3137 |
| XII. External Affairs | | 3932 | 1544 | 5476 |
| XIII. Finance | | 185501 | 24588 | 210089 |
| XIV. Food and Civil Supply | | 2810 | 1147 | 3957 |
| XV. Food Processing Industry | | 96 | 49 | 145 |
| XVI. Health and Family Welfare | | 23339 | 4432 | 27771 |
| XVII. Home Affairs | | 508162 | 25428 | 533590 |
| XVIII. Human Resource Development | | 10840 | 1686 | 12526 |
| XIX. Industry | | 5870 | 1317 | 7187 |
| XX. Information and Broadcasting | | 43259 | 12293 | 55552 |
| XXI. Labour | | 8419 | 2421 | 10840 |
| XXII. Law and Justice | | 2363 | 915 | 3278 |
| XXIII. Mines | | 14710 | 3337 | 18047 |
| XXIV. Non-Conventional Energy Source | | 224 | 186 | 410 |
| XXV. Ocean Development | | 155 | 45 | 200 |
| XXVI. Parliamentary Affairs | | 1218 | 505 | 1723 |
| XXVII. Personnel Public Grievances and Pension | | 526 | 237 | 763 |
| XXVIII. Petroleum and Natural Gas | | 240 | 74 | 314 |
| XXIX. Planning | | 5355 | 789 | 6144 |
| XXX. Power | | 1834 | 1404 | 3238 |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| XXXI. Railways | | 1591364 | 13632 | 1604996 |
| XXXII. Rural Area and Employment | | 1674 | 615 | 2289 |
| XXXIII. Science and Technology | | 22273 | 1777 | 24050 |
| XXXIV. Space | | 7434 | 8207 | 15641 |
| XXXV. Steel | | 1465 | 444 | 1909 |
| XXXVI. Surface Transport | | 5957 | 689 | 6646 |
| XXXVII. Textiles | | 980 | 185 | 1165 |
| XXXVIII. Tourism | | 472 | 95 | 567 |
| XXXIX. Urban Affairs and Employment | | 35576 | 4312 | 39888 |
| XXXX. Water Resources | | 12144 | 2085 | 14229 |
| XXXXI. Welfare | | 662 | 399 | 1061 |
| XXXXII. Miscellaneous Departments | | 25799 | 4040 | 29839 |
| Grand Total | | 3792439 | 189657 | 3982096 |

Leather Technology

5565. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have innovated a new technology to convert low grade hides from old and dead animals to obtain high quality leather;

(b) if so, which leather research institute has developed this technology;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any report thereon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA') : (a) and (b) Central Leather Research Institute Chennai, a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has developed technologies and techniques to upgrade the quality of fallen hides and skins recovered from old and dead

animals to high quality leather. These technologies are being practiced in several tanneries in the country.

(c) and (d) Central Leather Research Institute, a constituent laboratory of CSIR has not prepared any report on the subject.

Custodial Deaths

5566. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has been able to dispose of a good number of cases of custodial deaths;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending with the NHRC and the number of cases decided and disposed of during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) whether any of these cases are pending in the courts for decision as per the law for dealing with such cases;

(d) whether such cases have been withdrawn from the courts consequent upon the decisions taken by the NHRC; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had registered 8596 cases of custodial deaths on the basis of intimations received from the State Authorities from 1993 to 31.3.2003. Out of these, 6552 cases stand disposed of during these years.

(b) There are 2044 cases pending with NHRC as on 1.4.2003. A total of 5300 cases were disposed off during the last two years. A statement showing the State-wise break-up of pendency of cases of custodial deaths, date of registration and disposal is enclosed,

(c) to (e) The NHRC does not have information as to whether any of these cases are the subject of separate proceedings under any other court of law or withdrawal of such cases from the Courts consequent to the decisions taken by the NHRC.

Statement

State-wise registration, disposal nad pending of Custodial Death cases during the last two years

| State | Pending as on 1.4.01 | Regn. from 1.4.2001 to 31.3.02 | Disposal during 1.4.01 to 31.3.02 | Pending as on 1.4.02 (2+3-4) | Regn. from 1.4.02 to 31.3.03 | Disposal during 1.4.02 ot 31.3.03 | Pending as on 1.4.03 (5+6-7) |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 449 | 97 | 410 | 136 | 122 | 77 | 181 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 14 | 02 | 09 | 07 | 04 | 03 | 08 |
| Assam | 114 | 30 | 90 | 54 | 28 | 31 | 51 |
| Bihar | 606 | 146 | 575 | 177 | 157 | 102 | 232 |
| Goa | 12 | 05 | 17 | — | 01 | 01 | — |
| Gujarat | 178 | 52 | 131 | 99 | 51 | 45 | 105 |
| Haryana | 94 | 39 | 87 | 46 | 47 | 30 | 63 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 05 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 02 | 03 | 03 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 08 | — | 01 | 07 | — | — | 07 |
| Karnataka | 216 | 50 | 179 | 87 | 65 | 42 | 110 |
| Kerala | 122 | 37 | 122 | 37 | 54 | 35 | 56 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 221 | 45 | 204 | 62 | 37 | 38 | 61 |
| Maharashtra | 549 | 152 | 512 | 189 | 143 | 123 | 209 |
| Manipur | 06 | — | 05 | 01 | 01 | 02 | — |
| Meghalaya | 10 | 05 | 12 | 03 | 06 | 06 | 03 |
| Mizoram | 02 | — | — | 02 | 02 | — | 04 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Nagaland | 06 | — | 05 | 01 | — | — | 01 |
| Orissa | 194 | 56 | 203 | 47 | 42 | 49 | 40 |
| Punjab | 202 | 77 | 170 | 109 | 74 | 51 | 132 |
| Rajasthan | 208 | 54 | 195 | 67 | 61 | 27 | 91 |
| Sikkim | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tamil Nadu | 221 | 55 | 176 | 100 | 68 | 39 | 129 |
| Tripura | 03 | 01 | 01 | 03 | 02 | 02 | 03 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 795 | 194 | 679 | 310 | 185 | 175 | 320 |
| West Bengal | 144 | 71 | 130 | 85 | 65 | 58 | 92 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 06 | — | 05 | 01 | — | 01 | — |
| Chandigarh | 05 | 01 | — | 06 | 03 | 03 | 06 |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Daman and Diu | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Delhi | 136 | 32 | 128 | 40 | 32 | 31 | 41 |
| Lakshadweep | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pondicherry | — | — | — | — | 01 | — | 01 |
| Chhattisgarh | 64 | 32 | 69 | 27 | 32 | 33 | 26 |
| Jharkhand | 101 | 59 | 117 | 43 | 47 | 41 | 49 |
| Uttaranchal | 08 | 11 | 04 | 15 | 08 | 03 | 20 |
| Total | 4699 | 1305 | 4239 | 1765 | 1340 | 1061 | 2044 |

Industrial Units Covered by CISF

5567. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether more industrial units are likely to be covered by CISF in the public and private sectors; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) CISF has received

request from 10 Public Sector industrial units for providing security.

(b) A statement giving the details is attached to this reply.

Statement

| Sl.No. | Particular |
|--------|------------|
| 1 | 2 |

Jharkhand :

1. DVC's Tilaiya Hydrel Power Str/Dam, Kodarma

- | 1 | 2 |
|--|---|
| | |
| Manipur | |
| 2. Loktak Project, Manipur | |
| Arunachal Pradesh : | |
| 3. Siang HE Project, Along Twon, West Siang Distt. | |
| Haryana : | |
| 4. PX-PTA, Panipat of IOC. | |
| Maharashtra : | |
| 5 to 3 Power Stations of Maharashtra State Electricity Board (Chandrapur, Koradi, Parli) | |
| 7. | |
| 8. Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai | |
| Tripura : | |
| 9. PGCIL Kumarghat Transmission Line, Agartala. | |
| Orissa | |
| 10. IB Thermal Power Station, Jharsuguda. | |
| 11. CPP, Rourkela. | |
| Uttaranchal : | |
| 12. Maneri Bhali Hydro Electric Project, Uttarkashi. | |
| Gujarat : | |
| 13. Compressor Station (GAIL), Hazira. | |
| 14. Mill units of National Textile Corporation, Ahmedabad. | |
| 15. IFFCO Kalol. | |
| Chhattisgarh : | |
| 16. BESCL, Bhilai. | |
| Tamil Nadu : | |
| 17. NFC, Palayakayal. | |
| Jammu and Kashmir : | |
| 18. Pakal Dal HE Project, Kistwar. | |
| 19. PGCIL, Kishanpur. | |

[Translation]

**Development of New Urban Areas
and Capitals**

5568.SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the provisions laid down for accórding approval for developing vast new urban areas and capitals;

(b) the details of proposals received thereunder during the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(c) the number of proposals out of them pertaining to land acquisition and felling of trees; and

(d) the action taken by his Ministry on the proposal regarding project for the capital of Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (d) It is the responsibility of State Governments to develop new urban areas and capitals. However, Central Government supplements the efforts of State Governments through policy formulation, technical guidance and Central assistance under Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Urban Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (UDPFI) Guidelines inter-alia contain Guidelines for the land use structure in a town.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Infrastructure Development in Mega Cities, financial assistance is provided to nodal agencies designated by State Governments in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT), Central Government provides financial assistance for strengthening urban infrastructure in existing towns having elected local bodies and population upto 5 lakhs as per 1991 census.

A proposal was received from Government of Chhattisgarh for financial assistance for development of new capital city. As there was no provision for the purpose

in the 9th Plan as well as in the 10th Plan, this Ministry is not in a position to provide any financial assistance for the purpose.

[English]

Demolition of Buildings in South Delhi

5569. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ No. 4411 dated December 17, 2002 and state :

(a) whether 828 buildings/farm houses were earmarked for demolition in South Delhi under section 343(1) DMC Act, 1957, location-wise;

(b) if so, the details of buildings/farm houses demolished so far;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and time schedule worked out therefor; and

(d) the details of policy of MCD in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Autonomous Status to Colleges

5570. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of colleges and institutions which have been granted autonomous status by the University Grants Commission as on date;

(b) the details of pending proposals relating to grant to autonomous status to colleges and institutions;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to grant autonomy to some more colleges during 2003-2004; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Under the scheme of autonomous colleges, 133 colleges spread over 29 universities in eight States, have so far been given the status of autonomous college and proposals of 17 colleges are pending with the University Grants Commission for visit of Expert Committee.

(c) and (d) The scheme of autonomous colleges in an on-going scheme and autonomous status is given to the colleges, from time to time, taking into consideration their academic reputation, attainments of the faculty, physical facilities institutional management, financial resources, responsiveness of the administrative structure and involvement of faculty etc.

AICTE

5571. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Council of Technical Education has tied up with any foreign accreditation bodies to decide and judge the merit of foreign technical degrees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the AICTE propose to invite such bodies to India to assist it in upgrading its own capacity to properly assess over technical institutions in the country; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), they have neither tied-up with any foreign accreditation bodies to decide and judge the merit of foreign technical degrees nor has any proposal to invite such bodies.

Dual Language by CBSE

5572. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Board of Secondary Education has decided to do away with "Dual Languages" from the next academic session; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to do away with the options of core and elective languages at the senior school Examinations for all languages except in English, Hindi, Sanskrit and Urdu. As per the revised policy, the schools will offer all languages under a single mode of "Language and Literature" except English, Hindi, Sanskrit and Urdu. In fact, this will remove the persistent confusion amongst schools and students. The move will also be at par with many State Boards with regard to the regional languages.

[Translation]

Funds for Anganwadi Kendras

5573. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the State-wise amount of funds allocated by the Government for the Anganwadi Kendras separately during the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : The information is given in the Statement annexed.

Statement

1. State-wise details of funds released under Integrated Child Development Services (General) Scheme during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl. No. | State | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
|---------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 6229.00 | 6580.61 | 8564.65 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 681.00 | 1895.39 | 2522.72 |
| 3. | Assam | 5070.97 | 6188.61 | 7988.33 |
| 4. | Bihar | 3756.00 | 2145.11 | 1937.97 |
| 5. | Goa | 284.13 | 339.25 | 430.75 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 3726.01 | 8070.09 | 6905.28 |
| 7. | Haryana | 3593.61 | 3660.50 | 4297.19 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 1764.28 | 1984.42 | 2133.77 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 2266.00 | 2739.16 | 3666.22 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 7466.18 | 7660.68 | 10541.29 |
| 11. | Kerala | 3101.90 | 3516.30 | 5895.08 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 5590.00 | 3771.08 | 6040.51 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 6688.62 | 10193.48 | 12199.16 |
| 14. | Manipur | 1254.75 | 901.07 | 2360.06 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 664.97 | 1060.15 | 1156.87 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 868.85 | 572.95 | 1139.16 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 1941.60 | 1907.00 | 2376.47 |
| 18. | Orissa | 6133.71 | 6881.86 | 8676.42 |
| 19. | Punjab | 3759.46 | 3730.77 | 3677.09 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 5954.43 | 5947.07 | 7324.27 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 156.01 | 192.35 | 280.97 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 10286.90 | 9289.80 | 13410.76 |
| 23. | Tripura | 630.98 | 1481.36 | 1333.21 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 11519.28 | 12696.42 | 9249.89 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 8047.13 | 12650.02 | 16229.63 |
| 26. | Chhattisgarh | 625.61 | 1800.79 | 2934.24 |
| 27. | Jharkhand | 865.57 | 1961.66 | 4767.38 |
| 28. | Uttaranchal | 462.78 | 1246.76 | 836.21 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| Union Territory | | | | |
| 1. Delhi | 808.47 | 796.41 | 986.18 | |
| 2. Pondicherry | 154.85 | 154.85 | 237.09 | |
| 3. Andaman and Nicobar | 107.88 | 154.85 | 164.32 | |
| 4. Chandigarh | 88.04 | 93.35 | 121.50 | |
| 5. Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 26.83 | 31.85 | 42.00 | |
| 6. Daman and Diu | 52.56 | 37.45 | 43.24 | |
| 7. Lakshadweep | 25.43 | 31.62 | 30.83 | |
| Total | 104653.79 | 122365.19 | 150497.71 | |

II. State-wise details showing funds released under World Bank assisted ICDS Projects (excluding Training Programme Udisha) during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03

(Rs. in lakh)

| Sl. No. | State | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 2000.00 | 5000.00 | 4750.00 |
| 2. | Bihar | — | 1000.00 | 5251.00 |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | — | 600.00 | 3764.00 |
| 4. | Jharkhand | — | 400.00 | 1432.00 |
| 5. | Madhya Pradesh | 4712.00 | 6000.00 | 7886.00 |
| 6. | Kerala | 1000.00 | 2900.00 | 426.00 |
| 7. | Maharashtra | 700.00 | — | 6124.00 |
| 8. | Rajasthan | 1500.00 | 3500.00 | 3355.00 |
| 9. | Tamil Nadu | 1000.00 | — | — |
| 10. | Uttar Pradesh | 3000.00 | 2526.00 | 4053.00 |
| 11. | Andhra Pradesh | — | — | 790.00 |
| Total | | 13912.00 | 21926.00 | 37831.00 |

III. State-wise details of funds released under Training Programme UDISHA during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03

(Rs. in lakh)

| Sl. No. | Name of the State | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
|---------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 200.00 | 950.00 | 780.00 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.00 | 75.00 | 8.00 |
| 3. | Assam | 125.00 | 55.00 | 132.75 |
| 4. | Bihar | 0.00 | | 78.77 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 40.00 | 300.00 | 250.00 |
| 6. | Goa | 6.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 100.00 | 100.00 | 150.00 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 0.00 | 45.00 | 60.63 |
| 9. | Haryana | 30.00 | 70.00 | 52.22 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 5.00 | 85.00 | 62.53 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 0.00 | 20.00 | 100.00 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 150.00 | 50.00 | 158.00 |
| 13. | Kerala | 0.00 | 250.00 | 300.00 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 400.00 | 575.00 | 744.17 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 50.00 | 450.00 | 611.93 |
| 16. | Manipur | 33.00 | 60.00 | |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 40.00 | 45.00 | 25.00 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 20.00 | 45.00 | 10.28 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 50.00 | 50.00 | 40.00 |
| 20. | Orissa | 50.00 | 250.00 | 50.00 |
| 21. | Punjab | 0.00 | | 100.00 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 0.00 | 550.00 | 946.27 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 0.00 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 24. Tamil Nadu | | 0.00 | | 48.42 |
| 25. Tripura | | 5.00 | 40.00 | 70.73 |
| 26. Uttar Pradesh | | 300.0 | 750.00 | 356.15 |
| 27. Uttaranchal | | 20.00 | | 110.94 |
| 28. West Bengal | | 175.00 | 150.00 | 400.00 |
| 29. A and N Islands | | 0.00 | | |
| 30. Chandigarh | | 0.00 | 4.00 | |
| 31. Daman and Diu | | 0.00 | | |
| 32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli | | 0.00 | 2.00 | |
| 33. Delhi | | 50.00 | 25.00 | 28.00 |
| 34. Lakshadweep | | 0.51 | 1.50 | 1.00 |
| 35. Pondicherry | | 0.00 | 5.00 | 3.96 |
| Total | | 1849.51 | 5007.50 | 5684.75 |

[English]

Powers of Coal India Limited

5574. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that henceforth the seven coal producing subsidiaries of CIL will make their own purchases;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and norms laid down in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have also taken away the marketing rights enjoyed by CIL for non-core sector consumers;

(d) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(e) the time by which these arrangements are likely to come into effect; and

(f) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful to Coal India Limited?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) :
(a) and (c) Barring procurement of explosives, powers have been delegated to subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) for making their own purchases. Powers relating to marketing in the non-core sector have been delegated completely in case of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) and South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL).

(b) and (d) By unburdening itself of operational responsibilities that can easily be handled by subsidiary companies, CIL will be able to contribute better towards achieving the crucial targets of increased production and turn around. This move would also make the subsidiaries more competitive and result in quicker decision making at the operational level.

(e) Coal India Limited has been directed to take necessary steps at the earliest and report compliance to the Government.

(f) These measures will help Coal India Limited to concentrate and give better focus on its crucial role in providing overall guidance and direction in terms of medium and long term strategic planning, co-ordination and close monitoring of implementation of its strategic decisions.

[Translation]

Degree Conferred by Open Universities

5575. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued directions to the University Grants Commission to treat the degrees conferred by the open universities at par with the degrees conferred by the regular universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) As per information received from University Grants Commission (UGC), the degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded by the Indira Gandhi

National Open University are to be treated equivalent to the corresponding awards of the Universities in the Country. The UGC has issued a circular to this effect in 1992 to all the Universities.

[English]

Militant Threat in Jammu and Kashmir

5576. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :
SHRI RAMMOHAN GADDE :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item regarding militants call the shots here appearing in the *Hindu* dated 6.4.2003;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that militants in Jammu region are forcing the local population not to approach the police and security agencies for their problems but to go to them for settling any dispute;

(c) if so, the number of cases came to the notice of the Union Government till date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to curb such moves of militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the news item.

(b) and (c) No such reports/inputs regarding terrorists forcing the local population not to approach the police and security agencies for their problems but to go to the terrorists for settling any dispute have been received so far.

(d) The changing security situation in the State and available intelligence inputs are constantly reviewed, refined and monitored both at the State and Centre levels to meet the emerging threats and ground level requirements of fighting the terrorists. Besides this security forces operating in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the State Police have been sensitized to check/curb all the unlawful activities of anti-national elements.

Employment on Compassionate Grounds

5577. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 4194 dated 17.12.2002 and state :

(a) the financial loss due to the loss of production of 5 million tonnes of coal per year;

(b) the expenditure involved in meeting the demand of compensation and employment;

(c) the number of employment involved and the gap in the respective stand of BCCL and the land losses, in the first ten big cases of land disputes as on 1.3.2003; and

(d) the benefit in denying the claim of the land losses and suffering loss, facts in details giving the total balance sheet of burgeoning between BCCL and the land losses in each of the ten big disputes?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) :

(a) As reported by Coal India Limited, at the present level of operational efficiency, the financial loss due to the loss of production of 5 million tones of coal per year is approximately Rs. 60 crores.

(b) Land in most cases is being acquired under Land Acquisition Act, 1894. Number of employment against such land acquisition cases has not been finalized as various groups are making claims and counter claims. Hence, it is not possible to quantify at this stage the total expenditure towards compensation and employment.

(c) and (d) The first ten big cases of land disputes in BCCL as on 1.3.2003 are as under :-

| Name of OCP | Mouza | Land in acres | No. of Houses |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Block-II | Kessergarh | 170.00 | 108 |
| Block-IV | Sonardih | 45.17 | - |
| Phularitand | Mandra and Barwabera | 19.19 | 250 |
| Jharia Rehabilitation | Karmatand | 97.52 | - |
| do | Nagrikalan | 217.25 | - |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------------|------------|--------|-----|
| Nichitpur | Mahilidih | 77.32 | - |
| Ganga | Bassuriya | 15.17 | 56 |
| Vishwakarma | Bhuggatdih | 65.00 | 33 |
| Eas' Bassuriya | Gareria | 46.55 | 124 |
| Golukdih | Golukdih | 6.99 | 50 |
| | | 760.16 | 621 |

The number of houses shown is 621, as existed at the time of handing over the land by State Government, but this number would be more as on date.

Demand of employment of various groups on the same land fluctuates from time to time and as a result, it is not possible to assess the gap between the demand and the company's norms except in one case i.e. Viswakarma.

Based on tripartite agreement made in 1982 between BCCL, State Government and representatives of land losers, BCCL agreed to provide 50 employments out of which 42 employments have been provided. In spite of providing the above employment, physical possession is yet to be received by BCCL. Now the representatives of land losers of Viswakarma have demanded a total of 90 employments, the gap being 40.

Sports Activities

5578.DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any thought has been given to utilize the vast potential of students community gainfully either in sports or in various projects of national importance during summer; winter or other holidays in forums others than NCC Camps;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESORUCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Vast potential of student community

could be utilized in number of ways i.e. National Service Scheme (NSS). As per the information received from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, under this centrally sponsored scheme, every year volunteers are allocated to various States/UTs for fulfilling the aim of the NSS i.e. "Personality Development of the Students of +2 level and college level through Community Service". Total number of volunteers (allocated to various States/UTs) during the last three year is as under :-

| S.No. | Year | No. of volunteers |
|-------|---------|-------------------|
| 1. | 2000-01 | 16.89 lakh |
| 2. | 2001-02 | 17.56 lakh |
| 3. | 2002-03 | 19.37 lakh |

Half of the allocated volunteers undertake Special Camping Programme of the NSS through the course of the year but, mainly, during vacations/holidays. Under Special Camping Programmes, a camp of upto 10 days' duration is organised in the adopted area where the students, in association with the local communities, work for some common community activity. In the past, the themes of Special Camping Programme have been: "Youth against Famine", "Youth for Afforestation and Tree Plantation", "Youth for Mass Literacy", "Youth for Social Harmony" and "Youth for Haryali" "Youth for Jal Samvardhan" etc. and the theme for the year 2003-04 is "Youth for Swacchta". These programmes provide ample opportunities to the students for group-living, collective experience sharing and constant interaction with different communities.

(c) Does not arise.

Turnover of Kendriya Bhandar

5579.SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sales turnover of the Kendriya Bhandar has fallen this year from previous years and the sales of NCCF have increased manifold in the same period; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the comparative figures of sales of both Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF for each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATIL) : (a) and (b) The audited figures of sales turnover are available upto the year 2001-2002. The comparative figures for Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF are as under :

| (Rs. Crore) | | |
|-------------|------------------|--------|
| Year | Kendriya Bhandar | NCCF |
| 1999-2000 | 231.457 | 312.20 |
| 2000-2001 | 279.381 | 403.79 |
| 2001-2002 | 261.665 | 380.51 |

The trend of increase/decrease in sales turnover is, therefore, similar in both cases.

Expenditure during 9th Five Year Plan

5580. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether less expenditure was incurred by his Ministry than the approved outlay during the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2000) and the Ministry failed to achieve the laid down objectives as has been brought out by the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals in its Report No. 13 of 2001 in paras 17-19;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined the observations; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) to (d) The details of the observations of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals in its Report No. 13 of 2001 in paras 17-19 is available in the published Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals. Paras 17-19 and the reply submitted to the Standing Committee are reproduced in the enclosed Statement. The reasons for shortfall in expenditure have been clearly brought out in the reply submitted to the Standing Committee. The

observations of the Standing Committee for improvement in monitoring/evaluation have been noted for further action.

Statement

17. The Committee noted that the approved outlay for the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002) for the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals was Rs. 6760.00 crore which was brought down of Rs. 4012.56 crore. But even this outlay is not likely to be utilised as the actual expenditure during the first four years remained at Rs. 2739.28 crore only. After adding the likely expenditure of Rs. 209 crore slated for the last year of the Plan, the total utilisation comes to Rs. 2948.28 crore which is much less than the scaled down outlay. The Department has attributed the reasons for low utilisation to (i) tardy progress in finalisation of gas supply agreement for Assam Gas Cracker Project; (ii) variation in actual expenditure in respect of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster; and (iii) resource constraints faced by IPCL and HOCL, the internal generation of funds of both these PSUs being under severe pressure during the last four years due to unfavourable market conditions. The Department has stated that when 9th Five Year Plan was conceived in 1997, the growth rate was around 7.2% but it slowed down later in subsequent years to 5 per cent. During evidence, the Department admitted that talk of disinvestments in IPCL without actual having taken place also affected the utilisation of planned outlay to some extent. Although the Department has stated that they had been periodically interacting with the Planning Commission/Ministry of Programme Implementation, yet the Committee's inference is that no serious formal interaction took place within these organisations.

18. The Committee have been stressing repeatedly the importance of planned development. The planning is based on a serious stock taking of the strength of past achievements and failures and seeks to provide balanced targets for the future. The implementing agencies should develop vision and commitment to achieve the laid down objectives/targets.

19. The Committee are constrained to observe that the Department has failed to achieve the laid down objectives for 9th Five Year Plan. Planning Commission/Ministry of

Programme Implementation have also not played their monitoring role well. The Committee recommend that Planning Commission should evaluate performances of all Ministries with regard to their achievements of planned objectives and based upon their experiences, formulate guidelines for laying minimum standards which each implementing agency/Ministry/Department must achieve in a particular year. If any agency fails to achieve this, Planning Commission should hold a review meeting half-yearly with the agencies to evaluate the reasons for non-performance. In each Ministry/Department an exclusive cell should be entrusted with specific assignment, responsibility and accountability to implement the Planned Schemes.

Reply of the Government

This recommendation is a general recommendation of the Committee concerning plan schemes under all Departments and Ministries.

2. In so far as the observation of the Committee that this Department has failed to achieve the laid down objectives of the 9th Five Year Plan is concerned, it may be stated that when the Five Year Plan was prepared by the Department in 1996-97, it was drawn up in the back drop of three consecutive years of high growth on an average of 7.2%. However, the Plan was finally approved after two years of formal commencement of the plan period, i.e. in 1999 by which time the economic growth of the country had slowed down from 7.2% to 5%. Therefore, the Plan had to be scaled down keeping in view the unfavourable market conditions and changed economic scenario. Accordingly, the 9th Plan of the Department was proposed to be reduced from the original Rs. 6760 crores to Rs. 4012.56 crores mainly because of the resource constraint faced by Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited and Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited. Both these PSUs account for 95% of the approved Plan outlay of the Department. This was due to factors, which had affected not only Chemicals and Petrochemicals Sector but the whole economy as the pace of the growth of the Indian economy had slowed down. Further due to the decision of the Government to disinvest 25% of its equity in IPCL alongwith transfer of management control in favour of a strategic buyer, the new schemes for implementation were kept pending since, it was felt that in case of transfer of

management control from the Government to a strategic buyer, there would be no need to implement new schemes in the company. HOCL, which had been traditionally a profit making company, not only turned into a loss making from the first year of the 9th Plan itself but also started making cash losses due to changed business environment necessitating the company to face increased competition. These factors accounted for the change in the Plan size/non-implementation of the original plan of the Department. As will be seen, these factors were beyond the control of the management of the companies or the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

3. In view of the position explained in the paragraph 1, this Department has forwarded the recommendation under reference to the Planning Commission for appropriate action in the matter.

Chrome Ore Mines

5581. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) the name of Chrome Ore bearing States at present;
- (b) the number of Chrome Ore Mines leased out to public and private sector in those States so far separately;
- (c) whether some of the Chromite Mines have been closed down in those States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their closure, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) As per the information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines, the chrome ore bearing States where reserves of chromite have been identified are Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

(b) The applications for grant of mineral concessions both from the private sector and public sector are continuously received and processed by the State Governments. The State-wise number of public and private sector mines of chromite existing during the year 2001-2002 are as follows :-

| State | Public-sector | Pvt. Sector | Total |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------|
| Karnataka | 2 | — | 2 |
| Maharashtra | — | 1 | 1 |
| Orissa | 6 | 11 | 17 |
| Total | 8 | 12 | 20 |

(c) and (d) As per information available with IBM, during the last three years, in Orissa five chromite mines have been temporarily discontinued due to reasons such as directive from the State Pollution Control Board, want of clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests etc., and two mines have been abandoned due to lack of demand and exhaustion of the mineral. One mine in Maharashtra has been abandoned due to expiry of mining lease.

[Translation]

Mysteries of Ocean

5582.SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI : Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of schemes being run by the department for extending the information of interesting and Scientific mysteries in the oceans to various concerned areas;

(b) the locations where pictures and film exhibitions etc. have been organised;

(c) whether similar exhibitions are proposed to be organised in other towns of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Under Ocean Observation and Information services (OOIS) program of the Department of Ocean Development, information relating to potential fishing zone (PFZ) is being disseminated to selected locations in coastal States.

(b) Under OOIS program digital display boards have been installed at Ratnagiri, Machilipatnam, Kakinada and

Visakhapatnam. The PFZ related information is being disseminated through satellite audio broadcast at Machilipatnam, Vizag Behrampur, Kakinada, Kochi, Mangalore and Ratnagiri. In addition, the Department also organises/participates in exhibitions and fairs organised at different locations with a view to promote ocean awareness among public and school children. The details of such participation in the last two years is as follows :

2001-2002

1. "Made in India" show at Johannesburg, South Africa from 18-21 July, 2001.
2. "India Trade Exhibition" at Sau Paulo, Brazil from 25-29th September, 2001.
3. India International Maritime Expo 2001 (INMEX 2001) at Mumbai from 10-13th October 2001.
4. India International Trade Fair 2001 (IITE 2001) at New Delhi, from 14-27th November 2001. (Awarded silver medal and adjudged second for excellence in display)
5. "Swadeshi Vigyan Mela" at Kochi from 12-19th January, 2002. (Department won a special prize awarded by the Jury for its excellent exhibits)

2002-2003

1. Enviro International 2002, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 12-15th September, 2002. (Department's pavilion received an award of appreciation).
2. Swdeshi Mela, K.P. Ground, Allahabad during Oct. 25-30, 2002. (The Department won the best participant award)
3. India International Trade Fair (IITF' 2002) held at New Delhi during November 14-27.2002.
4. Swdeshi Mela, at Mumbai from 28th Jan.-4th Feb., 2003.
5. Exhibition "The Ocean and the World" with India International Centre at New Delhi, from 11-16th February, 2003.
6. Indian Trade Fair 2003, at Moscow from 17-21 February, 2003.

(c) Organising exhibitions are a part of the programs undertaken by the Department.

(d) The locations are selected on the basis of invitations received in this regard or considering the requirement for such exercise.

[English]

Kendriya Vidyalayas

5583. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to grant franchises for Kendriya Vidyalayas to NGOs and other registered bodies;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to extend uniform education through the Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Uniform Education System based on CBSE syllabus is already existing in all the Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country.

[Translation]

Closure of Mines by CCL

5584. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Coalfields Limited has closed Angwali and Pichhri coal mines;

(b) if so, since when these mines have been closed alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to reopen these coal mines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) :

(a) Angwali mine has been closed by Central Coalfields Limited but Pichri mine is being worked.

(b) Angwali mine has been closed since 1980 as it is an isolated patch under High Flood Level and scientific and mechanised mining is not possible there due to adverse geo-mining condition.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of above.

Encroachments in Delhi

5585. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Police have taken any steps so far to remove encroachments from the Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that encroachments are continuing in the Capital, particular in Indraprastha Estate, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Pant Hospital, Mirdard Road, Matasundari Road etc. under the Central District Police;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) The removal of encroachments from the public land is presently the responsibility of the land owning agencies concerned. However, Delhi Police provides assistance in removal of such encroachments at the request of the land owning agencies concerned.

(c) to (e) The field staff of Municipal Corporation of Delhi regularly inspects these areas as and when any encroachment is detected the same is removed, if necessary, with the help of local police.

[English]

**Review of Performane of Aluminium
Producing Plants**

5586. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of the aluminium producing plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the profit earned/losses suffered alongwith production and export of aluminium by each plant during each of the last three years;

(c) the demand and consumption of the aluminium in the country at present;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve availability of Aluminium in the country; and

(e) the expenditure incurred by the major aluminium companies for the import of coal (Non Coking Coal) with low ash content during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The Government is regularly reviewing the performance of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), the only aluminium Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines. So far as the performance of the private sector aluminium companies are concerned, performance review as such is not conducted by the Government.

(b) The details of the profit earned/losses suffered, production and export of aluminium by the primary producers during the last three years are as under (Figures given in the year 2002-03 are provisional) :-

| Company | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
|--|------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------|---------|---------|--------------|---------|---------|
| | Production in MT | | | Profit (PAT) Rs. Crores) | | | Export in MT | | |
| Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) | 86532 | 70353 | 96095 | -43.04* (Loss) | 18.76 | NA | 22.60 | 3028.15 | Nil |
| National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) | 230516 | 231674 | 244708 | 655.83 | 409.35 | 520.24 | 118868 | 106282 | 107302 |
| HINDALCO Industries Ltd. | 251492 | 261338 | 266313 | 678.1 | 686.0 | NA | 47477 | 43639 | NA |
| Indian Aluminium Company Limited (INDAL) | 43924 | 41014 | 50970 | 116.0 | 117.1 | NA | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Madras Aluminium Company Limited (MALCO) | 28789 | 30282 | 31102 | 27.74 | 13.89 | NA | Nil | Nil | Nil |

*Not finalized as yet

(c) The demand and consumption of the Aluminium in the country at present is over 6 lakh tonnes.

(d) Government has deregulated and decontrolled the aluminium sector and aluminium has been placed under the Open General Licence (OGL) category. Aluminium and its products are freely tradeable.

(e) As per the information available with Ministry of Mines, MALCO is the only major aluminium company importing non-coking coal. As informed by MALCO, the

expenditure incurred by it for the import of non-coking coal during the last three years are as under :-

| Year | Quantity in MT | Landed cost including duty (Rs. in crore) |
|-----------|----------------|---|
| 2000-01 | 338265 | 92.45 |
| 2001-02 | 333630 | 90.07 |
| 2002-2003 | NA | NA |

Urea Producing Plants

5587.SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FETILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) urea producing functional plants as on 1.1.2003;

(b) no. of plants which were closed down during the last two years;

(c) whether it is fact that Nangal Fertilizer plant based on fuel oil and of same design is in operation while that of Sindri was closed down; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH) : (a) List of urea producing plants functional as on 1.1.2003 is enclosed as statement.

(b) The following are the urea plants, which have either been closed or operation stopped during last two years.

| Sl. No. | Name of Plant/ Unit | State | Year/month of Stoppage of operation |
|---------|--|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. : Sindri | Jharkhand | March, 2002 |
| 2. | Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. : Neyveli | Tamil Nadu | January, 2002 |
| 3. | The Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. : Cochin-I | Kerala | May, 2001 |
| 4. | Duncans Industries Ltd. : Kanpur | Uttar Pradesh | April, 2002 |

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Sindri unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) has been closed down, as the same has not been found techno-economically viable.

Statement

(a) The following urea producing plants were functional as on 1st January, 2003 :

| Sl. No. | Name of Plant/Unit | State |
|---------|--|----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | National Fertilizers Ltd. : Nangal-II | Punjab |
| 2. | National Fertilizers Ltd. : Bhatinda | Punjab |
| 3. | National Fertilizers Ltd. : Panipat | Haryana |
| 4. | National Fertilizers Ltd. : Vijaipur | Madhya Pradesh |
| 5. | National Fertilizers Ltd. : Vijaipur Expansion | Madhya Pradesh |
| 6. | Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. : Trombay-V | Maharashtra |
| 7. | Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. : Thal | Maharashtra |
| 8. | Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. : Namrup-III | Assam |
| 9. | Madras Fertilizers Ltd. : Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 10. | Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative Ltd : Kalol | Gujarat |
| 11. | Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative Ltd : Phulpur | Uttar Pradesh |
| 12. | Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative Ltd : Phulpur Expansion | Uttar Pradesh |
| 13. | Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative Ltd : Aonla | Uttar Pradesh |
| 14. | Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative Ltd : Aonla Expansion | Uttar Pradesh |
| 15. | Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. : Hazira | Gujarat |
| 16. | Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. : Mangalore | Karnataka |
| 17. | Gujarat State Fertilizers Company Ltd. : Vadodara | Gujarat |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|---|----------------|
| 18. | Southern Petrochemical Industries Corpn. Ltd. : Tuticorin | Tamil Nadu |
| 19. | Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Co. Ltd. : Bharauch | Gujarat |
| 20. | Shriram Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. : Kota | Rajasthan |
| 21. | Zauri Industries Ltd. : Goa | Goa |
| 22. | Indo Gulf Fertilizers Ltd. : Jagdishpur | Uttar Pradesh |
| 23. | Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. : Kakinada | Andhra Pradesh |
| 24. | Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. : Kakinada Expansion | Andhra Pradesh |
| 25. | Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. : Gadepan | Rajasthan |
| 26. | Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. : Gadepan Expansion | Rajasthan |
| 27. | Tata Chemicals Ltd : Babrala | Uttar Pradesh |
| 28. | Oswal Chemcials and Fertilizers Ltd.: Shahjahnpur | Uttar Pradesh |

Structural Engineering Research Centre

5588. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to close down/privatise the "Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC)" under the CSIR;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the budget allocated to SERC during 2002-2003;

(d) whether any direction has been given to SERC to try to raise more funding from private agencies through its research work and studies;

(e) if so, the earnings of SERC from various sources; and

(f) the details of plan to make the SERC more self-sustaining during 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA') : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) CSIR has allocated to SERC Rs. 10.35 crore during 2002-03.

(d) to (f) No directions have been given specifically to SERC by CSIR for raising their funding from private agencies for research work and studies for the year 2003-04. During the year 2002-03, SERC's External Cash Flow was Rs. 19.93 crore.

[Translation]

Corruption Cases against AIS Officers

5589. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending cases of serious crimes and corruption against officers of the All India Service Cadre; and

(b) the details alongwith the status thereof, State-wise;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) According to the information given by the Central Bureau of Investigation, the number of cases of serious crimes and corruption against officers of All India Services cadre as on 31.3.2003 is 100.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Status of the cases State/Cadre wise

| Cadre/State | No. of cases at different stages | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| | Investigation | Trial in the courts |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| AGMUT | 11 | 8 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 1 | — |
| Assam-Meghalaya | — | 2 |
| Bihar/Jharkhand | — | 9 |
| Gujarat | 3 | 2 |
| Himachal Pradesh | — | 2 |
| Haryana | — | 9 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 2 | — |
| Karnataka | — | 2 |
| Kerala | 1 | 2 |
| Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh | 1 | 4 |
| Maharashtra | 1 | — |
| Manipur-Tripura | 1 | 4 |
| Nagaland | — | 1 |
| Orissa | 1 | 1 |
| Punjab | 1 | 3 |
| Rajasthan | 1 | — |
| Sikkim | — | 2 |
| Tamil Nadu | 2 | 7 |
| Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal | 3 | 10 |
| West Bengal | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 30 | 70 |

Safe Drinking Water to Workers

5590. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister for COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the management of Central Coalfields Ltd. has formulated any scheme to provide safe drinking water to the workers of Kuju and Hazaribagh coal area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred so far on this scheme;

(d) whether CCL management has so far incurred any expenditure on Sarubeda Filter Plant;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the workers are getting safe drinking water from the Sarubeda Filter Plant;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) :

(a) Yes, Sir. As informed by Coal India Limited there is a proposal to provide portable drinking water to the workers of Kuju and Hazaribagh coal area, through Integrated Water Supply Scheme (IWSS), Kuju.

(b) IWSS Kuju is a 6 MGD capacity water supply scheme envisaged for providing water for domestic use of the employees as well as water for industrial use in Kuju and Hazaribagh area of CCL. Out of the total capacity, 4 MGD is meant for domestic use.

(c) A total expenditure of 15.92 crores (Approx.) has been incurred so far.

(d) and (e) For Sarubera Filter Plant, an expenditure of Rs. 88.00 Lakh (Approximately) has been incurred out of the total expenditure of Rs. 15.92 Crores for IWSS, Kuju.

(f) Yes, Sir. Treated water is being supplied presently from the Sarubera filter plant to two collieries namely Ara and Sarubera.

(g) In the case of Sarubda Filter Plant, water is drawn from one of the abandoned quarries of Ara Colliery. The work of laying clear water pipeline from Sarubera Filter Plant to Kuju Colliery is completed and is ready for operation. This will provide drinking water facility to Kuju Colliery.

(h) Not applicable, in view to reply (g) above.

1993 Mumbai Bomb Blast

5591. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has submitted its report on the investigation of 1993 Mumbai Bomb Blast case to his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (c) On the basis of investigation by the Mumbai Police and CBI 124 accused persons involved in the 1993 Mumbai Bomb Blast cases have so far been arrested. Proper cases, charges etc. have already been filed against the 122 accused and trial for them has reached a final stage.

[English]

Allocation/Utilisation of Funds under Plan Periods

5592. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds allocated and released for the rural development programmes during the Seventh, Eighth Plan, Ninth Plan and Tenth Plan State-wise and Scheme-wise;

(b) the amount utilized by the States during the said plan period; and

(c) the target sets and achievements made under these programmes, State-wise, Scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected.

Employment on Compassionate Grounds

5593. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer given to the part (c) of the USQ No. 2334 dated 3.12.2002 and state :

(a) the reasons for no case of death prior to 1996, not being cleared alongwith the facts in details; and

(b) the steps taken to stop such arbitrary cut off year violating the NCWA?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) As reported by Coal India Limited, no case of death prior to 1996 is pending. The remaining 45 cases prior to 1996 could not be cleared mainly due to the following reasons.

(i) variation in the information given in the application and the genuinity could not be confirmed by police;

(ii) claim for indirect dependent's employment whereas direct dependents are available in the family;

(iii) the claimant being below the age o. 15 years on the date of death of employees;

(iv) dependents above 35 years of age as per service excerpts submitted by the ex-employee;

(v) submission of application after a lapse of up to 15 years;

(vi) claims and counter claims from different dependents and some cases being sub-judice;

(vii) cases of second and third wives, adopted sons and adopted daughters not found legally valid etc.

(b) Question does not arise as Coal India Limited has not fixed 1996 as cut off year to clear the cases.

Joint Venture on Rural Development

5594. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and France have signed an agreement in regard to joint venture on Rural Development;

(b) if so, whether a 170 member delegation accompanying the French Prime Minister during their visit to India have signed this agreement:

(c) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(d) the extent to which the countries have agreed to develop the relations on rural development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) No, Sir. India and France have not signed any agreement in regard to joint venture on rural development.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Expenditure Incurred on Borders

5595. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether large amount is being spent to defend the borders of the country;

(b) if so, the number of soliders deployed in different borders of the country at present;

(c) the amount spent for defending the borders during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring down the increasing expenditure on defending the borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (d) The Defene Forces and the Border Guarding Forces are maintained to defend the land, air and coastal borders of the country.

Expenditure on these Forces is incorporated in the budget every year and is got approved by the Parliament. All efforts are made to keep the expenditure at the optimum level.

The Government is committed to protect the sovemity and terrorital integrity of the country and funds required for the same are provided to the Forces.

It is not in public interest to reveal details of deployment etc.

[English]

Handling Cases of Corporate Espionage and Frauds

5596. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian companies in the country are ill prepared to handle cases of frauds and corporate espionage as reported in the Statesman dated March 20, 2003;

(b) if so, the measures taken/proosed to be taken by the Government to check such frauds; and

(c) steps being taken by the Government to educate the Indian companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) The Government do not have any information about the ill preparedness or otherwise of the Indian companies to handle cases of frauds by their employees within the organization as they themselves are required to devise internal Systems and procedures to prevent such frauds and corporate espionage.

(b) and (c) The Government have not taken any measures to check such frauds nor organized any training programmes to educate the Indian companies in this regard.

Courses on Astrology and Bastu Kala Shastra

5597. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) names of Universities, affiliated and constituent colleges imparting courses on Astrology and Bastu Kala Shastra;

(b) whether M.Phil, Ph.D and D.Sc/D.Lit courses have been opened in any of the universities on Astrology and Bastu Kala Shastra;

(c) if so, the names of such universities and current status in this regard;

(d) the details of the procedure for selection of faculty members for these subjects; and

(e) the details of the incentives being given to such universities and colleges by the Government and U.G.C.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the data regarding the courses being offered by the universities, affiliated and constituent colleges is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. However, the UGC has selected 16 Universities in the year 2001-02 to offer courses on Vedic Astrology. A list of these universities is enclosed as Statement.

(d) UGC has notified Regulations on Minimum Qualification for appointment and Career Advancement of Lecturers, Readers and Professors in the Universities and Colleges.

(e) The UGC has released a grant of Rs. 15.00 lakh each to 16 Universities during 2001-2002 for introduction of Vedic Astrology.

Statement

List of Universities selected by UGC for Vedic Astrology from 2001-2002

1. B.R. Ambedkar University, Agra
2. Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra
3. Himachal Pradesh University
4. Jammu University
5. Jiwaji University
6. Lucknow University
7. Madurai Kamraj University

8. Mysore University

9. Punjab University

10. Ranchi University

11. Rajasthan University

12. Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapith

13. Saurashtra University, Rajkot

14. Sh. Jagannath Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Puri

15. Shanmugha Arts, Science Technology and Research Academy (SASTRA)

16. Vikram University

Violation of Arms Act

5598. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that All India Muslim League distributed Panchshuls to its activities in the country;

(b) if so, whether this weapon called Panchtan Pak resembles Trishul flaunted by the Hindutwa outfits;

(c) if so, whether it is true that the blades of Panchatan Pak have been deliberately kept shorter than 9 inches to avoid violation of Arms Act; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Centre/States to curb such armed religious activism by fundamentalists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) As per the available information the Indian Union Muslim League had organized a press conference on 13.3.2003 at Mumbai, where the idea of distribution of 'Panchshul' was mooted. However these Panchshuls have not been prepared or distributed so far.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7566/2003]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. 21 [S.O(E)] (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 2003 regarding alteration of Metro alignment as specified in the Schedule to the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978, issued under section 32 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7566-A/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Undertaking (Hindi and English versions) between the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Coal for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7567/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Foundry and Forge Technology, Ranchi,

for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Foundry and Forge Technology, Ranchi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7568/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Engineering College, Rourkela, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Engineering College, Rourkela, for the year 2001-2002.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7569/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Technical Teachers Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Technical Teachers Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7570/2003]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology, Warangal, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology, Warangal, for the year 2001-2002.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7571/2003]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Calicut Regional Engineering College, Calicut, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Calicut Regional Engineering College, Calicut, for the year 2001-2002.

(10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7572/2003]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Technical Teachers' Training Institute, Bhopal, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Technical Teachers' Training Institute, Bhopal, for the year 2001-2002.

(12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7573/2003]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : On behalf of Shri Chhattarpal Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Fertilizers Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7574/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House :

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the District Primary Education Programme-II, Uttar Pradesh (Uttar Pradesh Education for all Project Board), Lucknow, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the District Primary Education Programme-II, Uttar Pradesh (Uttar Pradesh Education for all Project Board), Lucknow, for the year 2001-2002.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7575/2003]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the District Primary Education Programme-III, Uttar Pradesh (Uttar Pradesh Education for all Project Board), Lucknow, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Shri Ashok Pradhan]

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the District Primary Education Programme-III, Uttar Pradesh (Uttar Pradesh Education for all Project Board), Lucknow, for the year 2001-2002.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7576/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Amendment Regulations, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 54 in Gazette of India dated the 8th February, 2003 under article 320 (5) of the Constitution of India.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7577/2003]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 404 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2003 regarding constitution of the Review Committee consisting of three Members under the provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 issued under section 60 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7578/2003]

- (3) A copy of the Border Security Force (Dental Surgeon Cadre) Recruitment Rules, 2002 (Hindi

and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 422 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 141 of the Border Security Force Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7579/2003]

12.02 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Sixteenth Report

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : Sir, I beg to present the Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs (Department of Economic Affairs — Banking Division) — 'Regional Rural Banks'.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up item No. 9 — Calling Attention.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for Adjournment Motion. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Your notice for Adjournment Motion has been disallowed. You can raise it in the 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, Kindly permit me to raise it. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All Adjournment Motion notices have been rejected. You can raise it in the 'Zero Hour' which will be taken up after the Calling Attention.

Now, Shri Mohan S. Delkar.

12.03 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Denial of fundamental democratic right enshrined
in the Constitution to the citizens to be governed
by their elected representatives in the Union
Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and
Daman and Diu**

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) :
Sir, I call the attention of the Deputy Prime Minister to the
following matter of urgent public importance and request
that he may make a statement thereon :

“The situation arising out of denial of fundamental
democratic right enshrined in the Constitution to the
citizens to be governed by their elected representatives
in the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and
Daman and Diu and the steps to be taken by the
Government in regard thereto.”

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN-CHARGE OF
THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
(SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Sir, the Union Territories of Daman
and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli are administered
by the President through an Administrator appointed by the
President under Article 239 of the Constitution. The
Government have taken several concrete measures with
a view to ensuring people's participation in the process
of formulation of implementation of developmental schemes
and administration of these territories.

2. In pursuance of the Constitution (Seventy-third
Amendment) Act, 1992, a two tier system of Panchayati
Raj Institutions comprising Gram Panchayat and District
Panchayat has been set up in both the Union Territories
of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. In Daman
and Diu, there is one District Panchayat and 10 Gram
'Panchayats. In Dadra and Nagar Haveli, there is one
District Panchayat and 11 Gram Panchayats.

The members of these Panchayats are chosen by
direct election. They have also been given necessary

powers and authority to enable them to function as
effective institutions of local-self Government. As per the
73rd Constitutional Amendment 29 subjects listed in the
Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution are to be transferred
to the Panchayats to enable them to prepare and
implement plans for economic development and social
justice. The Union Territory of Daman and Diu has so
far transferred 20 schemes relating to Agriculture, Medical
and Health Services, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary
Services, Tourism, Education, Public Works etc. Similarly,
the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli has
transferred 18 schemes relating to Community Development,
Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Education, Electricity,
Public Works etc. Adequate funds and functionaries have
also been provided to the Panchayati Raj Institutions for
their efficient functioning.

3. A Municipality each for the two districts of Daman and
Diu has been set up under the Daman and Diu
Municipalities (Amendment) Regulation, 1994. The members
of the Municipality are chosen by direct elections. The
Municipalities have been given powers and authority
necessary to enable them to function as an institution of
self-Government. A proposal to set up a Municipality for
Silvassa is under consideration of the Government.

4. In order to provide for direct interaction between the
Central Government and the people's representatives of
the two Union Territories, a Home Minister's Advisory
Committee each for the two Union Territories has been set
up to advise the Union Home Minister on administrative
and developmental issues. The Home Minister's Advisory
Committee, *inter alia*, consists of Members of the Lok
Sabha representing the Union Territory, five Members from
the District Panchayats, one member from SC/ST from
amongst the Members of District Panchayat, one women
member, if there is no woman member out of the five
members of the District Panchayat. In addition, the Home
Minister's Advisory Committee of Daman and Diu also has
Presidents of the Municipal Councils of Daman and Diu
as its members.

5. it will be clear from the facts mentioned by me that
the Government have taken concrete measures to
democratize the functioning of the administration of the two

[Shri L.K. Advani]

Union Territories at grass-root levels to ensure required degree of people's participation and involvement in their governance. The existing administrative set up of the two Union Territories is functioning satisfactorily.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express thanks for the opportunity you have given me to speak on such an importance subject. I have gone through the whole statement.

The amendment to the constitution of India was made ten years ago. Twenty nine subjects were to be transferred to the district Panchayats, there is no legislature, no assembly. Therefore, it was decided by the Ministry of home affairs that more powers would be given to Union territories. As it is twenty nine subjects were to be transferred in pursuance of the provision made in the constitution. But only four subject have been transferred to district panchayats in 10 years and that too on papers only. No powers have been given to District Panchayats. These directives have been issued by not less a Ministry than the Home Affairs. They have enumerated eight points for the administration to comply with. Almost one and half to two years have elapsed since then. They have not been implemented so far. Now the situation has come to such a pass. It is violation of Article 14 of the constitution. We have democracy in India, only the elected representative of people have the power of decision making what is the situation in Urban terroritoes? They have no powers. They cannot do anything. If this right is being enjoyed by all the citizens under Article 14 of the Constitution, why not the citizens residing in Union Territories can enjoy such right. I have raised this question. This is the question of fundamental rights. What is the situation today when we are not vested with requisite powers. The Health Department has become non functional. It has become a research station. A person who has been made Chief Medical Officer, has nothig to do with medical activities.

[English]

He is not qualified.

[Translation]

Such a person has been made the Chief Medical Officer. The Hospital has just become a research centre.

What is the condition of the education department? Literacy rate is the lowest in Dadra and Nagar Haweli as compared to the other parts of country. All the States have submitted their reports and work started under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan launched by the Government of India. But our Union Territory has not even submitted the report. The same is the status of PMGS Yojana. That fund has been drawn from the DRDA and utilised on some other works in violation of the guidelines. There is nobody to take care of this. We have no role to play and nobody consults us, nothing is being discussed and no meeting is held for the purpose. Nobody knows as to what is happening. I would tell you about the role of the Adminitrator.

[English]

The Administrator is more than a Chief Minister. He is a Chief Minister as well as Governor.

[Translation]

We come to know about this only when we read newspapers or hear from people that these rules have already been framed. Today the Administrator enjoys all powers. All powers are vested in him right from taking policy decisions to framing of rules and implementing of budget proposals. But all this is not discussed. Elected representatives are sitting there, but they are not consulted. We ask MHA as to what action has been taken in pursuance of the directives issued by them and what is the position in this regard. I would like to thank the Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister for taking initiative to provide such facilities also in Union Territories. Directive in this regard was issued one and half year back.

MR. SPEAKER : You have been allowed 2-3 minutes time. Please conclude.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : The Ministry of Home Affairs had issued the directives on the 12th instant. These directives enumerated the role of district panchayats and the facilities provided to them. But that directive has not

been implemented. So far as framing of service rules is concerned, directives were issued from here so to what would be the composition of Panchayat administration and how to frame service rules for them. Ministry of Home Affairs guided them about the type of rules to be framed. The district rules were framed and passed in the General Body. The administrator has got the powers to pass them and to notify them. But for the last and one and half years rules are pending with him and they have not been notified. He asks us to get the rules passed, then he would notify it. But one and half year, have passed since then, the rules have not been notified so far. He has himself framed rules. The District Panchayat made itself the authority. It has made the President and the Vice President as authorities. But the elected members have not powers as far as the service rules are concerned.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Since it is a very important matter concerning lakhs of people, therefore, my views should kindly be heard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Delkar, the rule does not permit a speech. I would like to read out for your information the particular rule under which you have raised this Calling Attention. The rule clearly says :

"There shall be no debate on such statement at the time it is made but each member in whose name the item stands in the list of business may, with the permission of the Speaker, ask a clarificatory question and the Minister shall reply. . ."

So, you have to ask the question. This is the rule.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : I am putting the question only. 35,000 farmers are shareholders in the Cooperative sugar factory. The then Minister of Rural Development who is presently the National President of Bhartiya Janata Party, Shri Venkaiya Naidu and the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Shri Vidya Sagar Rao, had gone

there. They laid the foundation stone of the sugar factory. This project had been given clearance by the Government of India. They had said that they are just making a starting. But two years have lapsed after the approval of the Government but the administration has not taken any steps. Shri Advani had gone to Silvasa to commission the drinking water project. About 15-20 villages around that were covered under this project. Shri Advani had gone there. He inaugurated the project. The project would supply water to 10-12 villages. Though switch of the project was turned on that day, yet water supply actually started after ten months. The same is the situation in Union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and other Union Territories as well. So I have given a notice and I want justice to be done. When the people of other parts of the country have been given this right, why should the people of Dadra and Nagar Haveli be deprived of it. A body has been constituted there where the Chief Councillor is being appointed by Ministry of Home Affairs. It was proposed to give more powers to District Panchayat. But there is nobody to take care of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

[English]

What is the difference between General Musharraf and my Administrator? There is no difference. He is a director.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan S. Delkar, please conclude.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Even the directives of the Ministry of Home Affairs is not being implemented for almost one and half years and we are not informed we come to know the next morning that such and such work going on.

Sir, I would like to ask three questions. The Government created a post of Chief Councillor by amending the constitution, since legislative assembly is not functioning there as legislature more executive powers had to be given to Chief Councillor. Will the hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister please to state whether this Chief Councillor be appointed as head of the administration.

[Shri Mohan S. Delkar]

[English]

He is the Chief of only the apex elected body of the Union Territory and he is the Head. He is an elected member.

[Translation]

The people have elected him to adorn the Chair.

Will he be appointed as the head of the administration? Will the administrators function under the Chief Counsellor will you make such provisions? Out of the 29 departments that were to be given to the district Panchayat, only four subjects have been given to them so far. Your officers are giving wrong information. I know about the statement that the officers have prepared. Today I submit it with challenge that I will resign from the Parliament if any of my statement is proved false. The officers insult the President and ask him to get out.

[English]

I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Panchayat.

[Translation]

The situation there is such that the letters are written daily regarding the removal of the President. Only four subjects have been given to District Panchayat. When the Government will hand over the remaining 25 departments? In constitution it is stated that the entire power will be given to district Panchayat and they will function independently and take their own decision. The Government should inform as to when the 25 department will be handed over?

At the end I would like to know from the hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister as to when the directives that were issued one and half year back will be implemented. I would like to get the reply of all the four questions. Whether the action is going to be taken by the Government against the officer who did not implement it?

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : This matter is related to the Constitutional position of the Union

Territories. Therefore, this requires a detailed discussion in the House. So, let there be a discussion on this subject, as decided by the hon. Speaker. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, please allow a detailed discussion on this very important issue. . . .(Interruptions)

[Tanslation]

It has happened for the first time. Where there is no Assemblies the issues of that region is never discussed and it is applicable to all regions. There is total arbitrariness there. There is no Government and the sentiment of the people of that region is not taken into account and the subjects which are being referred have not been transferred anywhere in spite of repeated disucssion.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever is being submitted by Shri Pawan Bansalji is absolutely correct. The discussion on Union Territories has never been held here. It is a very serious issue and there is need to ponder over it. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, you can ask your question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, this is a matter of constitutional provision. Not even once was this discussed in the House. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bangarappa, let the discussion continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, will the hon. Deputy Prime Minister agree for a discussion?. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, the strongest weapon. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, the question posed with respect to the Union Territories are answered here. But, I have no objection in having a full-fledged discussion on the Union Territories because Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal would like to discuss Chandigarh. I have no hesitation, I

have no problem. Today, it happens that this particular question came up in which the basic consideration very often is that very many Union Territories which were there earlier have got Assemblies; whereas in the case of those Union Territories which have not got Assemblies, this kind of a question is raised.

As I have pointed out, today the Panchayats having been created, the elected representatives are there who participate in the development of administration of those Union Territories. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : No, Sir. No power is given. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am guided by the Chair.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Deputy Prime Minister that the functions under the Constitution have not been transferred to the Panchayats. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, let there be a discussion on this.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Sir, the Committee is there, the elected members are there, the Body is there, But no powers have been given. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question-answer here. There is a debate here. Shri Delkar, you have made your points. You have spoken enough on the points. Please allow Shri Thomas to speak. He has also given a notice.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the strongest weapon in the hands of any Indian is the right to vote and unfortunately our brethren in the Union Territories who do not have a Legislative Assembly, as the hon. Deputy Prime Minister has said, are deprived of the right to vote for a Government of their choice and for a Legislative Assembly of their choice. They do not get any participation in the planning and in the regulation-making or in the law-making.

Today, after the Calling Attention Motion was admitted, I happened to talk to the President of the District Panchayat of Daman and Diu who is a lady. She was telling me that the distance from Daman to Diu is 800 kilometres and for

attending a Panchayat Meeting, the members of the District Panchayat are not even given the travelling allowance. The TA is not given for the last two to three years. They are not giving the TA to them. She was also saying that the meetings are held in Daman as well as in Diu alternatively. After two meetings in Daman, one meeting will be held in Diu. So, how are these members supposed to go there and meet there? This is the importance that has been given to the Panchayat.

The Administrator there is a bureaucrat. I do not name anybody. It is not offensive to name anybody. But any bureaucrat who will come to power, as already stated by hon. Member Shri Mohan Delkar, has the power of the Governor, the Chief Minister as well as the bureaucracy and everything – all coming to one person. An Administrator of that type cannot be questioned and he is not directly answerable to the people, is not directly answerable to the Panchayat President or the President of the District Panchayat or the Municipality. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask a question to the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and not make a speech.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, that is the position. Therefore, I would also say that article 239 of the Constitution envisages that 'save as otherwise provided by a law made by the Parliament, the President may appoint an Administrator. . . .'(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sukdeo Paswan is not here. Let the hon. Minister reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Therefore, the law to be made by the Parliament is given the first priority and if it is not there, of course, the Administrator can rule.

Therefore, my question to the hon. Deputy Prime Minister is : will the Government think of a kind of legislature for these two Union Territories and also for Lakshadweep, from where our Deputy Speaker is coming, and also to the other Union Territories which do not have a legislature and whether the Government will consider to

[Shri P.C. Thomas]

have a legislature of some sort so that an elected body can come here.

My second question is concerning the district Panchayats or the Municipalities which have already been formed and to which about 18 to 20 powers have already been given. Will the Government consider giving all the powers to the 29 Departments or schemes and also give full powers to work out and to implement the Plans etc. and give the powers to the concerned District Panchayats and the Municipal Chairmen?

Now, I come to my last question. These are very sweep places. I am sure that we all should go to Daman. I also had an opportunity to go to Silvassa once. It is a beautiful place like Kerala, which is full of fruits, mangoes and other activities.

MR. SPEAKER : How is it pertinent here?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : There are industries also. In Chhota Daman, there are industries, but in the other one, there is no industry. So, people there have a very serious complaint that the local people are not getting employment also. This is also one matter which is to be considered. They cannot go to the Administrator and pray that they should be given employment. In this perspective also, I would seek the permission of the Chair and ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether more powers would be given to the elected representatives at the earliest and within a time limit which the hon. Deputy Prime Minister would like to say in the House. I would appeal to the hon. Deputy Prime Minister to declare a time limit within which these powers can be fully transferred and can be really transferred to the people of the Union Territories.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, being a Parliamentarian the concern expressed by hon'ble Mohan ji and Thomas ji about Dadra and Nagar Haveli

is quite natural Mohan ji is the Member of Parliament from Nagar Haveli however, I would like to humbly submit that two tier Panchayat system was introduced through 73rd Constitution Amendment in 1992. There is democracy in the country and the Government desire that the developmental works in the village should be done properly by the representatives elected by the village people. As the hon'ble Deputy-Prime Minister submitted initially that there are district Panchayats, one for Diu and one for Daman, 10 Panchayats one Panchayat in Dadra, Nagar Haveli and 11 district Panchayat. In Daman and Diu there are corporation and there is also a MP. It is evident that there are elected representatives in it. Administration takes welfare measures for the people and implement the various schemes according to the laws formulated by Panchayat. The works are performed in district Panchayat on behalf of them. Being the vigilant Member of Parliament, they also play role.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : There is no role for MP there.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : They have their own role. They meet the members of Panchayat and the people of administration regularly. They meet every week. If the hon'ble Member does not meet them I would like to advise that they should meet him. The Member should also meet them. There is no restriction in meeting you. You are being elected for five terms so I accept that. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : You please give reply to the three questions that I have asked.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : As I have submitted that the powers have been delegated at three levels-Panchayat, District Panchayat and corporation and according to that they function. As I have said that there are 29 subjects After 73rd constitution amendment, the process of handing over of subjects had commenced. As has been submitted by the Deputy Prime Minister that the status of Union Territory of Delhi is different. With a view to the function the position of Andaman and Nicobar and Chandigarh is totally different. They have different procedure for the delegating power and the implementation of centrally sponsored

schemes. You have commended the Deputy Prime Minister that two year back the Government proposed to provide more and more power to Daman, Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli regarding the Central Government's scheme. The hon'ble Members has suggested that.

[English]

Service rules for employees of the district Panchayat

[Translation]

and it has been mentioned in the service rules that more and more power should be given to them. Regarding jurisdiction, on behalf of the Central Government. . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Hon'ble Minister, the Central Government are confused regarding this. Earlier it was stated that we should frame the rules for District Panchayat. When rules were framed by us and were sent for notification, the Government with held it. Thereafter, different rules were framed and notification was sent by the Development Commissioner, Administrator awarding authority to themselves. The President and the Vice-President do not have any role in it. Such service rules are going to be notified. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

Sir, the officers of the Union Territory are absolutely misguiding the Home Ministry.

[Translation]

When rules are notified, the Development Commissioners and Administrators will become authority on their own.

[English]

What is the meaning of service rules?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You may have some after way out for this.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what could be the other way one?

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is going to implement a wrong procedure.

MR. SPEAKER : The rules provide an other way out.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek justice from you. It is the question of feelings of lakhs of people.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Delkar, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will not get a reply from the Minister.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, no wrong thing should take place here.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the case is very serious. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I allowed Delkarjee to put questions as per rules. He put the question and the Minister is replying now. You please listen to the reply of the Minister.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : But the Minister is not giving a correct reply. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This does not mean that the reply to your liking will be given by the hon. Minister. It is not possible. Please sit down. Let the Ministry reply. If you are annoyed with the reply of the Minister, you give a notice against that. Some other way out is also there for it.

[English]

Let the Minister complete his reply.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are receiving false reports and he is placing wrong things

[Shri Mohan S. Delkar]

here. What is the provision in the service rules about the authority who should operate on behalf of the Panchayat.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Let me complete, please.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, the Constitution has been shattered to smithereens as far as Union Territories are concerned. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Member that there are certain provisions in the service rules about the authority who should operate on behalf of the panchayat about which details were sent to the Union Government. There are certain rules in it on which.

[English]

The Government is considering whatever is being sent to us, but there are some discrepancies in the rules. So, we are examining them and as soon as the examination is over, we will definitely see what best can be done.

[Translation]

So far as the hon. Minister's question about the sugar factory is concerned it is a good question. In the year 1990, it was decided to set up this sugar factory. At that time, it was decided that sugarcane-growers form a society in which the Union Government would contribute. The Union Government would provide 30 hectares of land for it and the co-operate society would give 12.28 hectares of land.

[English]

But that proposal could not be found viable at that point of time because of certain reasons.

[Translation]

But the factory could not be set up there. People expressed the wish at that time that the factory should be set up elsewhere but today they feel that this is the right place for it. It was the wish of the people at that time that it would not be at this place but somewhere else. Later on it was decided that Sarangi is the place, where with the kind permission of august house. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : It is a matter of ten years, when a piece of land was acquired for the purpose. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : You have asked about the status of factory with the kind permission of hon. Members, it is being constructed at Sarangi. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : You gave permission for the entire thing. Shri Naidu and Shri Vidyasagar Rao went there.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today's question was that whether the people of any constituency have the right to govern through their representatives or not. I have replied that question. In fact if it is brought to our notice that any administrator has not done any work there, we will certainly take action. As has been said by the hon. Member that the instructions given by the Ministry of Home Affairs have not so far been implemented wholly. I shall certainly look into it. I would like to add one more thing that all the administrators would be given instruction to interact with people's representatives more and more. The Members of Parliament are also included in it and this much of assurance I would like to give that they will certainly comply with those instructions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will not now take up the 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, UP) : Sir, I would also like to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER : I have got four to five adjournment motion and I would like to take up each one of them during the 'Zero Hour'.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the bill was in the process of being passed here to divide Bihar, the Hon. Minister of Home affairs had assured us that a special cell would be created and Bihar will be given economic package, the loss due to such division would be duly compensated. . . . (Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, one hundred crores rupees were spent on the 'Lathi Rally' being organised in Bihar. Even then he is asking for more money. Will he spend this money also on the rally. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : They are preparing for the 'Lathi Rally' with great pomp and show.

MR. SPEAKER : Since there is a reference of 'Lathi', so you please sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : All the hon. Members of Parliament whether belong to Lok Sabha or. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what was their achievement when Bihar was not divided, they wasted two hundred crores rupees on "lathi rally". . . . (Interruptions) are funds being utilised there properly. . . . (Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all MPs submitted a memorandum to the PM. The representatives of a population of five crore and twenty lakh have made a demand for waiving off all debts of Bihar and also for providing an economic package to Bihar. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana under Bihar was provided Rs. 14.00 crores. That has not been utilized yet. He is misleading the House. He is trying to make news on radio and T.V. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has an 'Adjournment Motion'.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : How much development have they done in Bihar. There are no roads, people have not got respite from floods. . . . (Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Bihar has not been provided with economic package till now. An Injustice is being done to the people of Bihar. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs has breached the promise by not giving economic package to the people of Bihar. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let the Member speak; how can you stop him from speaking?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Not rally or Maharaila, but a raila was organised in Bihar on 30th April against it. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : What is the position of Rural Electrification Scheme there. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kirti Azad, let the Member make his views clear.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The people form nook and corner of Bihar are coming to this raila. The Central Government are not releasing Bihar's share including Rural Development Scheme. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Sir, since this issue pertains to Bihar, I should get an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Tenth Finance Commission has made this recommendations and

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

a sum of four hundred and twenty five crore rupees under the head of Panchayati Raj is due to be paid to us. . . .(Interruptions) It has been revealed by the Bihar legislature that Rs. 1 Lakh and 79 thousands crore rupees are outstanding. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Only the submission of Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh will go on record nothing else.

[Translation]

Whatever Raghuvansh Prasad ji has to say is to be recorded and nothing else.

(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : That is why an unprecedented Maharaila has been organised in Gandhi Maidan there. The farmers and labourers from rural areas are coming to participate in the rally. The people has been congregating against non-release of funds for Bihar by the Government of India. The economic package has not been given to Bihar. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Bhavana Gawali ji, what happened to you.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : **It is against the central Government that they are wielding their lathis. . . .(Interruptions) Not raila, a Maharaila will be organised to drive away the rioters.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Since he is speaking on the notice of Adjournment Motion, there will be no debate on this.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Pocketing share should be stopped. Shri Prabhunath Singh and I were absent at the time when this issue was raised. An

*Not recorded.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

undue advantage of our absence was taken. Today I am well prepared. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to inform all honourable members that I had received notice for five Adjournment Motions. I did not give permission for Adjournment Motion and allowed them to speak on the issues in Zero Hour. Therefore the names of those five members are before me who have given notice of adjournment on different issues and I have allowed to speak right now. There is not such procedure here that after has raised one issue here the reply from the other side must be given. This procedure is not here and I also do not intend to introduce such a new procedure here. There are notices of Zero Hour and the numbers of these notices are twenty. I expect from the House to allow all these to be included in the proceeding, as it is necessary to have all issues here. Hon. Member gives notice here by coming early morning. There is why I would like to take up all notice. So let me do my duties and I want your cooperation in it. Now, Jaiswalji please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : His notice is here and I am allowing him to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to add something to whatever Raghuvansh Babu has said. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no need to add anything.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvansh Babu, you please sit down. You have already made your submission.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Only Jaiswal ji's submission will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, elections of all cantonment Boards of the country were

*Not recorded.

to be held about 2½ years ago but the Government of India said that as far as contonment Boards are concerned. . . .(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people will not be able to record proceedings in such a chaos. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am going to permit her after these notices are over. Her notice is not on Adjournment Motion.

[Translation]

Your notice is also here but I will give priority in Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvansh Prasad ji, why you get up time and again? What happened to you, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please keep quite now Let everybody get an opportunity.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Lal Muni ji, please sit down. I have not called your name, please sit down. How can the House be run like this? Raghuvansh Prasad ji, is there any need to give reply to each and every question of yours? You are a very good member, a very good hon. Member.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Lal Muni ji, I have not called your name, why you keep on standing?

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the form of all cantonment Board of the country was ending about 2½ years ago, at that time the Government of India wanted to amend the constitution of the cantonment Boards and so the terms of all elected people's representatives had been increased by one year. But the Government of India could not do anything to amend the consitution of those cantonment Boards within one year, therefore they increased the term by another one year on

the pretext that no amendment has been made so far. That is why the term of the Cantonment Boards is increased by one year. Even after the lapse of two years, the Government of India has not been able to make any amendment in the constitution. When it could not make any amendment, it dissolved all the cantonment Boards of country and assured that as long as any amendment is not made in the constitution and as long as there is not election the Government are constituting new boards in which the Government will nominate a people's representative to each cantonment Board.

Sir months have elapsed since then, but no people's representative has been nominated to any contonment board till date. That's why only two persons, i.e. the Chief Executive Officer local Community officer of army of the concerned place do whatever they like in all cantonment boards all over the country. I would like to cite the example of Kanpur cantonment board. During last three months the CEO of the cantonment board and the brigadier posted in my constituency, by ten times, have increased the water tax.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, water tax has been increased by ten times. Besides, re-assessment of house tax is being done of those houses for which tax assessment has already been done. The people living in cantonment areas are being tortured and exploited in many ways. Therefore, I demand from the hon. Minister of Defence that till the time people's representatives are elected, no increase should be made in any tax. Election should be conducted as soon as possible. If any change or amendment is needed in legislation that should be brought after election only.

MR. SPEAKER : Jaiswaljee, your speech is complete. Please take your seat now. I have other names also in the list. I would like to give time to them also.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Sir, this is a very serious matter. My most urgent demand is that no increase in any kind of tax should be made, no re-assessment should be made of house tax and the election should be conducted soon in the cantonment boards Officials of the Board have been involved in embezzlement of lakhs and

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

crores of rupees in the absence of elected public representatives. The officers occupying any post do whatever they like and they are taking arbitrary decisions while dealing with the people residing in cantonment area and also involved in embezzling of public funds. The hon'ble Defence Minister therefore, through you, Sir, I again request that no such increase should be made in taxes till the people's representatives are elected. Any amendments should be made in the rules only after conducting the election and also no increase should be made in water tax till then. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, I would like to raise an important matter. It is quite distressing to raise it repeatedly in the House while the Government bulldozes forward by tilting the historical facts in favour of *Sangh Parivar*. I am mentioning about the newly prepared history textbooks of NCERT. They are full of untruth and half truth. While Vaikunth is a beautiful mythological concept of our country, it is interpreted in the history textbooks as a historical fact. While mentioning about Mahatma Gandhi, these textbooks do not mention about his assassination or about his assassin.

Sir, Hitler is personified. In the name of history, the untruth and the half truth are combined there. Our young generation should learn scientifically. They should have a scientific mind. But all this is thrown away.

So, the Government should come forward with an explanation as to who prepared this text and who authorised them to prepare this text. Sir, never in this country, Mahatma Gandhi was being neglected like this. Can you mention about Mahatma Gandhi without mentioning about his assassination, without mentioning about his gruesome murder and without mentioning about its assassin? Sir, nothing is found in these history textbooks. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Is it compulsory to mention about Nathuram Godse? . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : So, these textbooks should be withdrawn. The Government should come forward with an explanation in this House.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I also associate myself with him. Yesterday also I mentioned about Hitler.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. Your name will be associated.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Sir, my name may also be associated with the views expressed by Shri Suresh Kurup.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, your name will also be associated.

Now, Shri Ramchandra Paswan.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, yesterday also I brought it to the notice of this august House that there is a report to the effect that Hitler, as the founder of the Nazist Party, is characterised as a great man of socialism and nationalism in those textbooks. But not a word is mentioned about the millions of Jews who were massacred. . . .(Interruptions). It is very unfortunate. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards some important issues. In Bihar Panchayatiraj has been constituted. Election has been conducted on the orders of the court but two years have elapsed since then and no constitutional powers have been given to Panchayat members. A meeting of all the representatives of Panchayati Raj and Zila Parishad was held on 22.4.2003 at the instance of Lok Jana Shakti Party in the august presence of political veterans like Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Chaturanan Mishra and all of them

expressed their concern on this situation. All types of development work in Bihar have come to a halt. The Government of Bihar are some how other like to carry their Government with the help of lathi. On the other hand the Central Government are trying to carry on their Government by distributing Trishuls. I would like to know as to when the representatives of local panchayats and Zila Parishads will be given constitutional powers instead of lathi and Trishuls. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : All the representatives elected in Gram Panchayats have been given their constitutional powers. . . .(Interruptions) But nobody is raising the issue of package of Rs. 600 crore which has been withheld by the Government of India. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvanshji I have not allowed you to speak.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I must thank you for the opportunity you have given to me. I have risen today to draw the attention of the House to a scandal of the first magnitude.

Sir, a leading Central Public Sector Undertaking made a huge fraudulent investment in a cash-strapped company. I am referring to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited. It made an investment of Rs. 250 crore in Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation in May 2002. This is not only a stinking investment, but also a sinking investment because not one rupee can be recovered from this Corporation.

While making this investment, the two important guidelines laid down by the Public Sector Enterprises Board have been blatantly and deliberately ignored. One is, the Public Sector Enterprises Board laid down a rule that investment must be made only in companies which enjoy the highest rating. That is, the rating should be of the order of 'AAA'. But when the investment was made, the company was only enjoying the rating of 'A+SO'. It is interesting and important to note that the status of this Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation

has since been further downgraded. Its status now is 'BBSO', which is as good as zero and which is as good as zilch.

Another condition violated in the process was this. Normally investments are made only for one year. In this case, the investment was made for ten long years. This is public money. This is the money of the Central PSU; this is an amount of Rs. 250 crore. Why was this investment made? This investment was made to clear the dues of contractors of MKVDC. Is it the way we make investments?

In view of the blatant fraud perpetrated, I demand that a statement be made by the Minister of Communications. I demand that a judicial inquiry be ordered. I also demand that a full-fledged substantive discussion be sanctioned by you. These are my demands.

12.51 hrs.

(i) **Re : Miserable condition of Dr. Vashist Narayan Singh a world renowned Mathematician**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards an issue related to Dr. Vashistha Narayan Singh, a world renowned mathematician who is an asset of the nation. Dr. Vashistha Narayan belongs to the State of Bihar and UP both. The members here know that he got fame in a very short time. He was born in 1946 at Basantpur village in Arrah district. In a very short period, in 1964, he earned a niche for himself not only in this country but in the international forum. He returned to India with the ideas that he would serve his country, motherland, but the atmosphere prevailing here is known to all. He had worked as a reader in IIT Kanpur from 1971 to 1972. He had worked in Indian Aesthetical Institute in Calcutta. After that he fell ill. Owing to lack of proper care presently he has been hospitalized in Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences Shahdara since 4.9.2002. A few days ago, I visited him. I hope, with the good wishes of this House and countrymen, he may recover. But problem his family faces is as to where will they go if he is discharged from that hospital.

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

Here Hon'ble member Shri Reghunathji and others also have given him some help. In such circumstances. I think, the country should take care of such great mathematicians, specialists, and also take care of their family and should think about their future. I discussed about him with doctors there also. He is likely to be discharged but he is not yet sound mentally.

In such circumstances I demand from Government of India that arrangements should be made for his stay in Delhi by allotting him a flat so that he may make his contribution to the nation as a world renowned mathematician. In future and render his services to the nation. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : He is a great mathematician known to the world. Please ask the Government to take action. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : He is a great mathematician. He is also known to I.A. He went to America and had his mathematical formulae on making sputnik. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This issue has come up many a times. The Finance Bill is under discussion now, please put it up. After the discussion Finance Bill is over.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a strike from 31st March. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : The Government should take note of this notice. It is a very important issue. There is unanimity on this issue. The entire House is unanimous on this issue. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The hon. Minister is very much here.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : I am well aware of the sentiments of Ram Vilas Paswan ji, rest of the hon'ble Members and the entire House. I will apprise the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development

and the Minister of Health and Family Welfare of the same.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : But it is you who are the Minister of Urban Development.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I have become aware of it. I am aware of the sentiment of the House regarding it and I will bring this to the notice of the Ministers concerned. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : He is the Minister and he has to allot the houses, to whom it has to be informed. Will he ponder over it?. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : The biggest problem for them is accommodation and the health, can we not arrange a flat for them in Delhi?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : At least you please allot him a flat.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I will talk to the hon'ble Members and will take necessary action in this regard.

12.59 hrs.

(ii) **RE : Law and Order situation in the State of Bihar and need for Providing Security to Members**

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue has been raised in the House for the third-fourth time and today I am raising it once again.

13.00 hrs.

Everyone is aware that there are terrorists, criminals and goondas in my Khagaria Lok Sabha Constituency. We fight against such elements. I would like to tell you about the incident. That occurred on 27th of April in the evening. There was a programme of hon. Minister of Railway in Naogachhia. While I was returning from Naogachhia with 10-15 vehicles I found an Ex. M.L.A. who has been convicted under section 302 was standing at the toll bridge near the line hotel along with 100-150 men armed with rifles and Lathi. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : He was your supporter. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Why will he be my supporter? . . .(Interruptions) He was not my supporter. He was fighting against me. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Renu Kumari ji you please address the chair.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : His goonas lathi charged on our vehicles and compelled those accompanying me to get down from the vehicles. Except my vehicle they seized rest of the vehicles. I contacted the SP, D.M. and IG, however till today our vehicles have not been recovered. I would like to submit to you that I do not have anything to do if Lathi tridents or rollers rallies are held. However the way law and order situation is deteriorating in Bihar is a matter of serious concern. The day of reckoning will arrive. If Ravan had to face the consequences of his arrogance then what will happen to other people. I am submitting this for the third-fourth time. I have been assaulted earlier too however security has not been provided to me. The Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Ministry of Home Affairs has left the House. Through you I would like to submit that if. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvansh ji you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : You have nothing to do with it. . . .(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir,* his daughter is of my age. His daughter is assaulted then would he remain silent? Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please ask him. . . .(Interruptions) His daughter is of my age. If anyone had done injustice to his daughter had he remained silent like this*. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvansh Babu, you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, several times I have asked for security protection and demanded

for security guards. However till today it has not been provided. If the security is not provided I will also be assassinated like Harin Pandeya. Will the Government provide security to me after my assassination. I would once again submit that if security is not provided to me. I do not know what will be my state of mind. Through you I would like to submit to the Government of India that security should be provided to me and inquiry should be held regarding this incident. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Government of India to provide security to Shrimati Renu Kumari. As far as snatching of vehicles is concerned, we condiment it, I would like to submit that the Minister of Railways, the Government of India had said to the press persons that might is right applied earlier, now those who have might have rail. When the Minister of Railways, is supporting the rally then what can be said about others?. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Renu Kumari ji is the Member of Parliament of our party. I would like to submit that she has raised this issue several times in the House. It is a very serious matter. During inter-session period she had not telephonic discussion with DGP about which Privilege Motion has been given to you. You may not take up that privilege motion however on your behalf you please direct the Government of India to provide security to Renu Kumari. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : There is no one to listen to Renu Kumari. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam) : Renuka Chowdhary is with Renu Kumari. . . .(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not need personal security however you should certainly provide security to Renu Kumari. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the situation in Bihar is deteriorating day by day. It is not a secret thing. There is danger to the life of Renu Kumari. The criminals of Bihar regime are after the life to Renu Kumari. So I would like to request you that special arrangement should be made for the security of Renu Kumari. . . .(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is speaking in range. The word 'goonda' should be expunged. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not convert Lok Sabha in Bihar Sabha.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I will intimate to the Minister of Home Affairs regarding the security matter that has been raised by Shrimati Renu Kumari. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should formulate a scheme in regard to security of Members of Parliament. The Deputy Prime Minister is getting security as per the Prime Minister. 'Z' category security cover given to me has been withdrawn. We do not say anything out of modesty. Therefore, a policy should be formulated in regard to security in which it should be prescribed that what kind of security a Member need, or who is in need to security. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is speaking without his turn. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing else other than what Shri Brar speak will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Earlier, I have given you two opportunities to speak, now I cannot give you permission.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : The State Minister said that he will inform the Minister of Home Affairs. But security arrangement cannot be made by giving information. I would like the Chair to direct that the Security should be provided to Shrimati Renu Kumari.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on a special issue. Many saints, great 'Peers' and 'fakirs' were born in this country. Guru Nanak Saheb is one of world Known peer-fakir. In 58 years of odesysey, Guru Nanak' Saheb visited mecca via Baghdad. At that time music was banned in Iraq. he propogated 'sufism' and following great tradition of India, he recited these lines on 'Rabab' :-

'Awwal Alla noor upaya'
Kudrat ke sab bande
ek noor ie sab jag upjayo
kaun bhale ko mande'

He said all these things. I would like to request you to listen carefully that Guru Nanak Saheb was imprisoned in Amanabad jail during first aggression of Babar.

Now, I would like to come to the point. We demanded that the holy Gurudwara, built after Guru Nanak Saheb visit over there, which got damaged during US - Iraq war should be repaired. Our Chief Minister and various organisations have contacted American Ambassador and other people of that country for repair of the Gurudwara. It is a very important matter. Through you, I would like to tell that not only sikhs residing in 117 countries worship Guru Nanak Saheb, but Sindhis and many other people too worship him. The Chairman of Minorities Commission of India and BJP's spokesperson have given the statement that no gurudwara exists in Iraq. They were saying that no gurudwara exists in Iraq. It has hurt the sentiments of the people.

I would conclude in just a second, I never speak without your permission. On one hand it is being said that.

USA is considering Iraq gurudwara repair. They agrees that Guru Nanak Saheb Gurudwara needs repair and on the other hand, Chairman of National Minorities Commission in a programme of Sikh Sangat', where spokesperson of Akali Dal (Badal) and BJP were present said that no gurudwara exists in Iraq. I would like to submit that Guru Nanak Saheb respected all over the world, like Chhatrapati Shivaji. Fakir Bahlout and Fakir Dastgeer names are still inscribed over there. Guru Nanak Saheb recited the sermon of humanity and love on his 'Rabab' over there, thousands of people gathered. Therefore, the people of Punjab, the entire House, and the entire country feels that these words should be taken back. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur) : I want to be associate myself with Shri J.S. Brar.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you will be permitted to associate yourself with him.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak for a minute while supporting this view. . . .(Interruptions) While respecting the views of hon'ble Member, and fully supporting his views I would like to say that it is a very important place and it is not only a source of inspiration for India, but for entire world. Many people take spiritual inspiration from there. Therefore, it should not only be repaired, but if needed further renovation, then it should be renovated properly and politics should not be played in this regard. I do not know what Chairman of Minorities Commission said in this regard, but nobody from Bharatiya Janata Party gave this kind of statement and I understand. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI J.S. BRAR : I am not playing the politics. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : You too are aware what kind of issues are raised daily in newspapers. . . .(Interruptions) If you continue to argue after believing every article of the newspaper, then we would not be able to respect each other's faith. Guru Nanak Saheb is equally respected by Sikhs and non-sikhs. Therefore, while respecting their

feelings. I would like to request that. . . .(Interruptions) Necessary action should be taken, but I strongly deny whatever has been said about Bharatiya Janata Party. I would like to refute such allegations and would like that political words should not be used for such a holy place. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 pm.

13.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till fourteen of the clock.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will take up matters under Rule 377

- (i) **Need to take effective steps to solve acute drinking water problem in Rajasthan**

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : The acute drinking water problem is going to aggravate further in urban and rural areas of Rajasthan with the onset of summer. In urban areas due to drying of all dams and ponds and receding ground water level, water is being supplied at very low pressure against the demand. At some places this situation prevail for 24 hours, some times for 48 hours and sometimes even for 72 hours. The situation is more grave and alarming in rural areas. Water supply through tanks is quite inadequate. Most of the handpumps and tubewells are on the verge of drying up and grave water crisis is going to be occur in May and June till the

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

rain arrives. Outbreak of many diseases is feared due to supply of water contaminated with flouride and other chemicals. The situation is more grave for cattles.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government of India to provide assistance at war footing to save people of Rajasthan from this grave water crisis by digging more handpumps and tubewels in those urban and rural areas of the State where water can be available and to supply potable water through railways and other Sources to farlung rural areas.

(ii) Need for effective implementation of 'Jaldhara' project in Ranchi Parliamentary constituency, Jharkhand with a view to provide better irrigation facilities

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Jharkhand is a plateau region. There is lack of means of irrigation here. There is lack of minor irrigation projects and canal etc. are also in a state of dilapidation. It is on account of this that poor farmers have to depend on rainfall for irrigation. Since it is a plateau region, only well of small and big diameter and check-dam may be effective which can be constructed under 'Jaldhara Yojana'. However, Jaldhara Yojana is also not successful in this region. The ponds which are being constructed are also incomplete and in many region there is no pond. It is due to this that water table of this region is gradually falling. If wells, check-dams and ponds are constructed in a planned and accelerated way under the 'Jaldhara Yojana' then it will help farmers in irrigating their field and the falling of water table of this region can be checked.

So, through the House, I would like to urge upon the Central Government to provide irrigation facilities to all sections in my Parliamentary constituency, Ranchi by way of planned and speedy implementation of irrigation schemes under Jaldhara Yojana.

(iii) Need to review the functioning of Bharat Coking Coal Limited, Jharkhand

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the management of Bharat Coking

Coal Limited is indiferent towards the problems like fire incidents of coal mines in its area No. 3, 4 and 5, the dilapidated, condition of staff quarters, crisis of drinking water and ill functioning of sale and civil departments. On several occasions the attention of the management has been drawn to these problems by the staffs and general public however, no action has been taken by the Government.

Lakhs of tonns of coal are getting burnt and destroyed, it is on account of that there is revenue loss to the company. The works like house maintenance and arrangement for drinking water are done merely on the paper and the people are not getting benefit at all. Employment or compensation has not been provided to hundred of displaced people.

So, I urge upon the Government to sort out the said problems at the earliest and to take necessary action in this regard by constituting high level inquiry.

(iv) Need to ensure that oil companies do not deduct more than the outstanding dues particularly from SC/ST oil dealers

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Murena) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, various oil companies all over the country give dealership to unemployed youths belonging to SC/ST community under the reservation quota. The furnished godowns and show-rooms are also provided to them by the companies and for that take Rs. 2 per cylinder and even after the recovery of the entire expenditure born by the companies for showrooms, the companies keep on deducting amount from dealers.

My submission to the Central Government is that in this way the oil companies are causing extensive damage to such dealers of SC/ST community. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to issue instruction to stop such practice so that the thousands of persons belonging to SC/ST community may get relief.

(v) Need to set up Bauxite and Aluminium based industries in Lohardaga Parliamentary constituency, Jharkhand

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT (Lohardaga) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is a huge reserve of bauxite and

aluminium in my parliamentary constituency Lohardaga, Jharkhand. The ore of this region is transported to bauxite based industry located in distant area, Renukot, Uttar Pradesh and Muri area of Ranchi. If bauxite based industries are setup in and around Lohardaga, it will provide employment to tribal population of this area and will also help in economic development. Besides, expenditure incurred on transportation can be saved and the loss of raw material at the time of transportation can also be checked.

Though the House, I would like to urge upon the Central Government to take incentive action for setting up bauxite and aluminium based industry in my Parliamentary Constituency, Lohardaga.

- (vi) **Need to provide adequate Central assistance to the Government of Karnataka for implementation of several schemes for the welfare of backward classes in the State**

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur) The State Government of Karnataka has been implementing several schemes for the welfare of backward classes. No doubt, the State Government is increasing its budget for the welfare of backward classes every year. But it is not sufficient to meet the growing genuine needs of poor backward classes as well as rural segments in the State.

I request the Union Government to provide adequate funds to meet the requirement and also request the Union Government to provide funds for the welfare of these classes under special Central Assistance Scheme in proportion to the backward as well as rural population. The State Government of Karnataka may be provided funds for scholarships for the students in junior colleges, sanction of tuition fee for professional courses, opening of new backward classes hostels, construction of residential schools and hostel buildings, Needless to say without Central assistance, it would be extremely difficult for the State Government of Karnataka alone to improve the lot of backward classes in the State.

- (vii) **Need to review the decision regarding allotment of coal blocks of Western Coalfields Limited for power production in Karnataka**

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : Sir, there has been an agreement among the Bengal EMTA, Coal India Limited (CIL) and the Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) that the WCL shall not exploit coal in seven blocks of coal reserves and instead these seven blocks shall be allotted through the Union Ministry of Coal to Bengal EMTA for supply of coal to Karnataka Power Company Limited's Thermal Power Plant coming up at Bellary in Karnataka. Thus, the proposed power plants to NTPC in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra and the Bhadrawati Power Plant of Central India Power Company there, shall not be getting coal, thus affecting badly the power production. Maharashtra is already facing a shortage of power to the tune of 3000 MW.

There is need to review this decision of allotment of coal blocks of WCL for power production in Karnataka and instead to reserve these coal blocks for proposed power plants in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra, where thousands of acres of land have already been acquired for the proposed power plants and the water storage. The *Bhoomi Pujan* was also performed by the then Prime Minister. This deal also needs to be inquired into by an independent agency, preferably by the CBI to find out the truth.

- (viii) **Need to clear the proposal of Kerala Government for setting up a fishing harbour at Thalai in Kannur District**

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : The Thalai Fishing Harbour at Thalasserry is the long-felt need of the people of Northern part of Kerala. It is directly beneficial to almost 30,000 fishermen community and lakhs of people indirectly. Based on the studies conducted, the Government of Kerala have submitted a Project Report for constructing a fishing harbour at Thalai in Kannur District. Thalai Bay is a very suitable spot for the purpose and there is a natural fish-handling centre. The estimated cost of the Project is Rs. 19.40 crore.

[Prof. A.K. Premajam]

There is immense potential for fish processing and export in the State and the materialization of this Project will augment the sector. The Project is presently pending with the Government of India. I request the hon. Minister for Agriculture to examine the matter and approve the project at the earliest.

(ix) Need to reconsider the proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh for rehabilitation of families residing on Railway land in Visakhapatnam City

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh had sent a proposal to the Railway Board for rehabilitation of the encroachers on the Railway lands in Visakhapatnam City occupied by about 2200 families. It is proposed to get these land vacated and to rehabilitate the encroachers in alternative railway land near the Old Railway Station at Visakhapatnam. The State Government requested the Union Government for transfer of this land to the State free of cost but the Ministry of Railways have not agreed to the proposal of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

I, therefore, request the Union Minister of Railways to reconsider the proposal and to give necessary instruction for transfer of the above-mentioned land to the State Government free of cost for rehabilitation of encroachers on the Railway lands in Visakhapatnam City.

(x) Need for construction of a bridge on river Sharda between Bailhaghat and Sirsighat in Kheri District, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Mr. Deputy-Sepaker, Sir there is a road from Shahjahanpur to Gola Gokarannatu via Mohmadi that connect Kheri district with the central part of Uttar Pradesh. This road is being upgraded by the Government of India through CRF. However, one has to cover 115 km. to reach Nidhasan and Tirkunia from Gola because there is no bridge over river Sharda that flows in between. If the bridge is constructed

over Sharda river between Bailhaghat and Sirsighat this distance will be reduced to 60 km. only. Thus Tikonika which is a big mandi along Indo-Nepal border will be directly connected to Lucknow-Delhi route at Shahjahanpur via Gola Gokarnath. It is expected that once this route is opened there will be accelerated economic development in the middle area of the Kheri district. In the past business has been undertaken in this area by bullock cart or boats.

So, I urge upon the Government that this bridge which is important from the point of strategy and trade should be constructed expeditiously.

(xi) Need to establish youth service centres and sports stadium in each district of the country

[English]

*SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur) : In a vast country like ours which has several ethnic races, promotion of sports and nation-building, involving, youth, needs to be given more of thrust still. More than 75% of our population are in the age group of below 35 years. About 34% of about 102 crore people of our land are in the age group between 15-35 years. It is disheartening to note that this year's allocation for sports scholarship is less than last year's. This may not help us to prepare our youth for the next Asian Games or Athens Olympics. Similarly the allocation for National Service Corps and recently established National Reconstruction Corps is also less this year. At a time when we go for globalization allowing more role for private sector, we need to train our youth to take leadership in both social and community service sector. Even the report from National Youth Commission is delayed now. There is an urgent need to rope in responsible youth leaders and sportspersons who can help formulating an action plan for the youth in the new millennium. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to go in for establishing and setting up youth social service centres and a sports stadium in every district of the country.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

(xii) Need for construction of a road overbridge near Khagaria railway station, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is extremely essential to construct road overbridge between Khagaria located along NH 31 adjacent to Eastern Dhala of Khagaria railway station and Home guard Fandi. Sada hospital, bank, Jail, college, divisional office, DAV school, Kenderiya Vidhalaya, Telecom divisional office, collectoriate and several residential areas are adjacent to this area. Nearly 40 pairs of trains pass through this crossing and it is on account of this that every time this railway crossing remains closed and there remains long queue of vehicle due to which common people, Government officials and officers have to face difficulties. If road overbridge is constructed at this spot, the people will not have to face these difficulties.

Therefore, through you I would like to urge upon the Central Government to construct road overbridge at the said spot.

(xiii) Need to protect Kantilo Nila Madhav, a place of tourist importance in Khandapara Assembly segment of Bhubaneswar Parliamentary Constituency, Orissa

[English]

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar) : Kantilo Nila Madhav is located in the Khandapara Assembly segment in my Parliamentary Constituency. It is a holy place and the source of our culture. Since its origin from those days, pilgrims throughout the world were visiting the place of Lord Jagannath. The place is now totally isolated from the time of super cyclone and floods. The great river Mahanadi of our State is flowing beside the monument and the river currents are damaging the entire places of Nila Madhav. I earnestly request the Government for its protection and to announce it as an international tourist place.

Near the monument, there is a village called Padmavati, the biggest village of the Assembly segment

located on the banks of river Mahanadi. The floods always affect the village during the monsoon season.

I request the Government of India to protect the villagers of Padmavati by ordering for stone packing of the river immediately to safeguard the lives of the villagers.

(xiv) Need for construction of an airport at Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh to boost trade and exports

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (Moradabad) : Sir, if the Government is keen to earn more than the present Rs. 2,000 crore in foreign exchange annually, from Moradabad, it will need to make some prudent infrastructural investments.

An airport needs to be constructed to give wings to its soaring exports.

Further, National Highway No. 24 needs to be upgraded into an Expressway or to be four-laned from Hapur to Moradabad. This will be commercially viable given the huge volume of traffic and will give trade and export in Moradabad the necessary fillip, as most prospective businessmen avoid the road because of the inherent danger it poses due to being narrow, overcrowded and pot-holed.

(xv) Need to review the decision to shift the Indian Institute of Mass Communication at Dhenkanal to Utkal University, Orissa

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Sir, the people of Dhenkanal Parliamentary Constituency and Orissa are very much agitated on the move to shift the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Dhenkanal to Utkal University. The IIMC was set up at Dhenkanal in 1993 with the objective of providing quality teaching, training and research in mass communication for the Eastern India. The Government of India took decision to set up similar institutes at Dimapur in Nagaland, Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh and Kottayam in Kerala. The IIMC, Dhenkanal shifted to its new campus on the hilltop in Dhenkanal town. Since then the Government of India has spent about Rs. 15 crore on construction activities and staff expenses.

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

Other than Oriya, the students are getting teaching and training in other Indian languages. The Institute has proved itself a reputed one as its students have now occupied significant posts in several national dailies. So, it is not justified to propose for its transfer to Utkal University beset with financial and administrative problems. With the shifting, the noble objective for which the Institute was set up at an educationally backward region may not be achieved.

As such, I request the Government to stop any move to shift IIMC from Dhenkanal.

14.22 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 2003

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up item no. 11, that is, the discussion on the Finance Bill. Shri Sangtam was on his legs. He may continue his speech now.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, yesterday I had raised a very important matter concerning the Finance Bill, 2003, but the House had to be adjourned because of some important reason. However, I was mentioning about tax holiday given to the North-East for 10 years and excise duty exemption given to the industrialists in the North-East and those entrepreneurs who had set up their industries in the North-East. Due to various factors, the North-East is very backward and its economy is still at a low ebb. Therefore, the Government of India has been announcing package after package for the North-East, but because of the flip-flop policy of the Government of India, a wrong message has gone to the industrialists.

Sir, the solution lies in the plucking of holes in the policy of implementation rather than scrapping the policy or tampering it on a monthly basis and issuing nine notifications within a period of 1½ years. This process has conveyed a message of one step forward and two steps

backward. In this regard, The Government of Assam, the Government of Tripura as well as the Members of Parliament of the North-East have represented to the Prime Minister of India and the Finance Minister for continuation of tax holiday for the North-East as well as exemption of excise duty.

I personally feel that there should be a big publicity campaign launched by the appropriate Ministry of the Government of India about the nicotine content and any other intoxicating substance contained in the tobacco products like cigarette, *gutka*, *pan masala* etc. to spread the message to the people that these things are not good for human consumption. However, the crux of the matter here is not what my opinion is, but the very important matter is that the entire North-East is reeling under tremendous economic problems and we have to provide better jobs to the people and bring industrial development to the North-East. In this regard, we have to draw two definite lines. There are cigarette companies which, after making finished products, bring them into the North-East and try to get the excise duty concession which is given by the Government of India. Similarly, the companies which have already established their factories and are manufacturing products in the North-East and are giving gainful employment to the people should be given the benefits of tax holiday and excise duty exemption.

Unless we identify these, it will not help, and just giving a blanket ban on this is not fair on the part of the Government of India.

I would like to bring to the notice of the House a notification issued under the Central Excise Act. It states :

"The notification of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Nos. G.S.R. 508(E), dated the 8th July, 1999 and G.S.R. 509(E), dated 8th July, 1999 issued under sub-section (1) of section 5A of the Central Excise Act read with sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957 and sub-section (3) of section 3 of Additional Duties of Excise (Textile and Textile Articles) Act, 1978,

by the Central Government shall stand amended and shall be deemed to have been amended in the manner as date specified in column (4) of that Schedule retrospectively and accordingly, notwithstanding anything contained in any judgement, decree or order of any court, tribunal or other authority, any action taken or anything done or purported to have been done for all purpose, as validity and effectively taken or done as if the notifications as amended by this sub-section had been in force at all material times."

The proposed amendment has cast serious doubts on the minds of investors and people of North East Region towards the flip-flop policy and credibility of the Government of India. This deterrent action will prevent all industries, who have planned or already moved to North East from future investments. People will lose faith in the Government machinery and the secessionist forces will find a better environment to breed. If not arrested, the Parliament, one of the world's largest democracy, would send signals of a wrong public policy as the genesis of sound democratic system lies on the faith and trust on the Governmental words and action.

All those who have resorted to misuse and exploitation of policy for North-East should be blacklisted and proceeded as per law for offences committed by them. The Industry Policy for North Eastern Region should not be tampered with by any of the Ministries in the larger interest of unity, integrity, peace and harmony of this country.

Sir, the Special Leave Petition of the Government is pending in the Court. This is done ignoring the repeated persuasion of the Government of Assam to honour the judgement and bring back the confidence of investors at least now. May I state, if Government pleads before the Court that the Government is not bound either morally or legally to give benefits of tax exemptions under Industrial Policy for ten years and they have a right to grant the same and withdraw the same anytime notwithstanding the kind pronouncement of the hon. Prime Minister, made by the Department of Industrial Policy and the series of notifications of Ministry of Finance, it would be far cry to accept flow of any investment in North East for industrial

development? Such a legalistic approach is uncalled for while talking of development of North East. This holds good for Industrial Policies and Incentives Schemes announced for States like Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, etc.

Sir, on the 18th of April, 2003, Dr. C.P. Thakur, the Minister in charge of North East Development has written a letter to the Finance Minister explaining the concerns of the industrialists of the North East and also expressing the sentiments of the people of North East. I would like to quote this letter :

"For the misuse of the benefits by some of the units and for administrative failure, the genuine entrepreneurs who had genuinely invested their hard earned money in the North East region in spite of the then prevailing insurgent conditions should not be made to suffer due to the blanket withdrawal of the benefits. The investment decisions by the entrepreneurs are made by factoring in all the benefits available over a span of the policy package announced. If the benefits are withdrawn before the completion of the period of the package, the entrepreneurs will be left with nothing but sinking their entire investment. It will lead to the closure of units, which would mean stoppage of income and employment generation in the North Eastern Region."

Sir, there have been several pronouncements even earlier than that even with regard to the refineries of Bongaigaon, Digboi and Numaligarh. In the case of Numaligarh also, the Government has announced that there will be 100 per cent excise exemption but again it went back to 50 per cent, and matters like that. Then, 10 per cent fund has been kept there for infrastructural development for the North-East. You take out 10 per cent from each budgeted account of the Ministries and Departments. Today, it is not being done properly. Therefore, the message which goes down to the people of the North-East is not very sound today.

Sir, an important thing which the Prime Minister used to say about the North-East is this. In Hindi I will say,

[Shri K.A. Sangtam]

[Translation]

North-East is far from Delhi but it always remains in our hearts.

[English]

But, this has not turned out to be true because many times, the Prime Minister says many things but the Departments and the Ministries connected to his Government is going back from the commitments made by him. So, I think giving this kind of a message to the people, not only of the North-East, but also of the entire country, and those people who want to invest in the North-East is not good. I think, giving a false promise is not a very sound thing in this country. People who are wanting to secede from this country, especially the people from the North-East, they do not think very very good about this. The hon. Finance Minister is a very honourable person. I have had two or three occasions to speak to him. Whenever I used to speak to him about certain problem he used to quickly react. Today, I am sure, you will listen to our pleas. Whatever you have given to the people, the tax holidays for 10 years, and exemption of excise duty for the benefit of the industrialists and entrepreneurs will bring out economy and boom the incomes of the people. I am sure it will go a long way in bringing the integrity of this country. I am sure with a person like you, and the Finance Minister taking up all those issues, will make a big headway for the people of the North-East.

With these few words, I would like to thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE (Chimur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the bill making the Central Government's Financial Proposals effective for the financial year 2003-2004. I want to felicitate the Finance Minister Shri Jaswant Singh as he has been trying to implement various schemes since he took charge of the Finance Ministry. I also want to felicitate this House as all the members of Parliament are working amicably and passing bills despite that there is large number of

political parties including ruling and opposition parties. I feel a great satisfaction in it.

Sir, I would like to apprise the House about the situation of our country at the time when NDA Government came into power in 1999. Unemployment prevailed all over the country. Educated unemployed youth were wandering here and there in search of job. More than 7 crore educated unemployed were there in the country. In Maharashtra along there were 40-50 lakh educated unemployed people. Sky-rocketing prices were badly affecting the poor. Foreign debt was so much that the country was reeling under the burden of foreign loan of Rs. 6 lakh crores against which 16,000 crores were being paid as interest.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, NDA Government has provided Rs. 10,000-20 lakh to educate unemployed for self employment. 12% concession is given for taking loan to set up a small scale industry and the limit of 1 crore has been increased upto 5 crore. No income tax is levied on the small scale industry investing upto Rs. 5 crore. The most important work accomplished by the NDA Government is the implementation of the 'Kisan Credit Card Scheme'.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was a time when farmers had to pledge their house or fields to money lenders, Patels or land lords to get a loan of Rs. 1-5 thousand only. Sometimes those land lords usurp their land or house. In view of this pitiable condition of farmers, Shri Vajpayee, NDA Government has really obliged the farmers. Today, a farmers can take loan from the banks upto 50%. He has to pay the interest only on the amount of loan he takes. Farmer is really benefited by it. NDA Government has formulated 12 schemes. For Scheduled Castes and Tribes, out of which 9 schemes are for women, 5 for educated unemployed and the limit of Rs. 1 crore under 'Panth Pradhan Scheme' has been increased to Rs. 2 lakh. It has benefited the farmers a lot and also resolved the problem of unemployment to an extent. 9 schemes are for farmers and 5 are for labourers. In total there are 22 such schemes.

As per my information, NDA Government has formulated more than 100 schemes but it is a matter of

regret that through Gram Sabha prepare the list of BPL but because of local influence, this list does not depict the true picture and thus the deserving farmers, labourers and other people do not get the benefits of this scheme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have one or two more suggestions. State Governments do not allot liquor shops to societies. My suggestion is that both Central and State Governments can earn profit if Central Government allows the State Government to allot the liquor shops to societies and State Government agrees to give a part of its earning to Central Government. I think in this way a profit of billions of rupees can be earned. In Maharashtra, such allotments have been made at one rupee lease for several years. If the allotments will be made at market rates, even then a profit of billions of rupees can be earned. The amount outstanding against big factories has been recovered. NDA Government enacted the bill in this regard and they are recovering the outstanding amount lying against those factories and the recovered amount is being utilized to give concessions to educate unemployed, farmers and labourers. I also want to suggest that salaries to the officers and employees should be given on the basis of their performance. This can be judged through computers.

Some Government officers and other employees perform their duties diligently but they are not rewarded accordingly, however, those who do not work are getting it. Therefore, hard working employees should be given due remuneration. A huge expenditure can be saved if such an arrangement is done through computers. There are several Government offices where there is no work and they are as good as closed even then budget allocation is being made for them. Billions of rupees can be saved if they are closed.

I have one more suggestion. So far as Government jobs are concerned, it is seen that in a family, the family head, his son and daughter-in-law all are in Government jobs. 10 people from a single family are engaged in Government jobs. The problem of unemployment can be solved to an extent if only one member from each family is given Government job.

Black money is in abundance in our country. If this money is brought back in circulation, tax realization would

be increased. Large number of temples and mosques are there in our country. Secret donations are given for these temples and mosques. If a part of these donations is deposited in national exchequer legally, funds would be increased there. For example, billions of rupees are lying unutilized in Tirupati Balaji Temple. There are several such temples. My suggestion is that this money should be deposited in national exchequer legally. Temples do not need the entire donation. However, by depositing it in national exchequer, tax realization can be increased.

Similarly, I have to give a suggestion regarding the salary of the employees also. On one hand, a pilot of Indian Airlines is getting a salary of Rs. 3 lakh-10 lakh a month but on the other the employee working under health care scheme is getting Rs. 50 month. There is great difference between 6 lakh rupees per month and 50 rupees per month. It is really shameful. It seems inappropriate to speak on this issue but the situation has compelled me to do so. Therefore, such a huge salary should be discontinued. My suggestion is that the farmers' loan upto Rs. 50 thousands should be waived off if not the entire amount. Last time when I had raised this issue, hon'ble Finance Minister had announced to waive off the interest upto Rs. 50 thousand in the event of famine. However, orders to this effect has not been issued so far. Therefore, a loan of Rs. 50 thousand alongwith the interest should be waived off for all the farmers without making any discrimination among small, medium or big farmers. I give you some figures to support my point. There are 773 factories in Maharashtra against whom Rs. 10-20 crores are lying outstanding. Hence, Rs. 28,000 crores are to be recovered from Maharashtra alone. 43,00,000 crore rupees belonging to many Indians are lying in Swiss bank. Some of them have even expired. Therefore, the entire amount should be deposited in national exchequer. If a law is enacted in this regard, it can enhance the tax realization. Rs. 2423 crores against Harshad Mehta, Rs. 1403 crores against Hiten Dalal and Rs. 9727 crores were lying outstanding against other nine persons as on 31st December, 1999. Such a huge amount is lying as bad debt. Likewise, there are several people in film industry against whom crores of rupees are lying outstanding.

[Shri Namdeo Harbaji Diwathe]

Rs. 60,000 crores of banks are lying as bad debt. This amount includes small sector, Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yjana, medium and big sectors as well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the country has to pay Rs. 1 lakh 1 thousand crore as interest on the loan taken. the companies of State Public Sector Enterprises are situated in various States. Subsidy is being provided to them but they are running into losses. An investment of Rs. 1 lakh 10 thousands crores is made in 11 such companies though the loss is Rs. 14,881 crores. The total NPA in 27 banks of Public Sector and 4 Financial Institutions was Rs. 77,830 crores as on 31st March, 2002. When we can write off crores and billions of rupees against companies, then why not just Rs. 6,501 crores against the farmers can be waived off. I want to submit that if it is done, farmers will worship not only the NDA Government but the entire House. Therefore, I request you to waive off their loan.

I regret to say that as per the 'Mid-day' newspaper of Delhi dated 31st March, 2002, Rs. 110 thousand crores were lying unutilised. I would like to say that what is going on for the last 50 years in the name of poverty alleviation. Why are we poor? It is neither the curse of Goddesses and Gods nor a sin committed in previous birth. It is the result of wrong policies of the last 50 years. Attention should be paid towards it. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : Kindly also assess the results of wrong policies of four years of the present Government. Several companies have been sold out. Even several companies were sold out at a throw away price. Please assess that also. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : I do not want to say more. I just want to say that when outstanding loan against the companies was waived off or transferred in bad debt account or declared as NPA what is the problem in waiving off the loan worth 50 thousand crore rupees given to farmers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please wind up now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : I would like to submit that if hon'ble Minister pays attention towards it, the farmers and labourers of the entire country will be thankful to him.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra) : . . .(Interruptions) We should at least listen to our inner voice. . .(Interruptions) ask your family members how much peace they get. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Raj Babbarji, please address the Chair.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJ BABBAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I felt sad but I am happy also that at least some of the members of this House considered me as an actor. They will get me the best actor award also in the coming days. . . .(Interruptions) Actually I have rise to oppose this Finance Bill. I consider this bill just opposite to the social, geographical and political conditions of the country. My intention is not to make any comment on hon'ble Minister Shri Jaswant Singhji. However, it is true that it is for the few people around him, who are only duty bound towards their designations and who gave priority to maintain balance sheet and under estimated their social responsibility. Several priorities have been given in this bill. Funds have been demanded for various sector like, rural development, youth, potable water, small industries, urban development, employment and poverty alleviation. It has been given so far and further also it would be continued. I know it because the economy of the country runs on figures but we should also listen to or inner voice. Many of my colleagues are sitting on the other side. . . .(Interruptions) they should introspect themselves.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir today the country is under the influence of dollar, pounds and multi-nationals. This bill favours them. Multi-nationals are gradually making hold on each and every sector of our country. Take an example of our sports. We become proud of our country when we see our brilliant sports persons achieving their goals but whether we have ever paid attention towards it as to who is controlling these sports persons. It is the multinational

companies who are controlling them. During the World Cup Cricket which continued for two months, the attention of the people all over the country remained focused on it but no advertisement of and big Indian company was shown on television. They are being controlled by multi nationals. Our country is an agriculture based country but whether any major Indian company is there in Food Industry. Not a single major Indian company is existing in Food Industry. . . .(Interruptions) Only action will reach to you. I think I am talking about you and me also. In politics, I am too junior to them, but have started understanding the inferences drawn from their statements. . . .(Interruptions) Infact I am feeling good that these people have a realisation somewhere in their heart that they shall have to listen to Raj Babbar. Today, not even a single industry of our country, be it agro industry, sports, or electronics industry, no industry is able to compete the foreign companies. All indigenous companies are being disinvested gradually. Multi-national companies are dominating us today so much so, that most of my friends feel ashamed of mentioning the names. In whatever manner the evenings may be spent but liquor of foreign brand is sold in this country. Beyond that, hon. Raghuvansh Prasad ji said yesterday that the prices of liquor of foreign brand sold in the country are being lessened. I do agree that tobacco, cigarette, liquor etc. are injurious to our health and today the WHO is getting them closed. But our country is enabling the big American companies to invest in India and cigarettes of reputed brands are being produced here. I do not say that the Government should encourage the use of tobacco but we must review our policy and see as to what we are doing. Are we restraining the manufacturer or the consumer? We should restrain the consumer. China is a big market of tobacco. Infact China had placed an order to us, but that order too was snatched as we could not control the quality and thus this order was placed to other countries.

Why is it not that we make some efforts which could be in the interest of the country? I do not say that the Government should put restrictions, now take for example the Textile Industry. Unluckily we have VAT, which itself is a peculiar thing. Ketan Saheb understands this and hope that he would also understand it. This would create

problem for the traders. VAT has created a bad atmosphere. And he was making remarks there, well I would not say as to how much donation he used to take. These people gave donation throughout their lives and they gave it to such an extent that now they have become almost mad for you. And you have made them mad too. Now you have started throwing stones on them, and they are unable to breathe. Madanlal Khurana ji went to the extent to saying "Koi pattar se na mare mere diwane ko." You made efforts and met the hon. Prime Minister, but it gives me pain whenever I think about VAT. All traders, big or small shall have a wander here and there and tax would be charged on the goods sold. Infact we are imitating that Vat System which is implemented on big departmental stores spread in an area of one lakh square feet where as traders here start their business in four by four feet shops. I am not lying, one can see the Kalba Devi area in Mumbai, there are merely four by four feet shops. The situation in Kanpur, Agra is same in this regard—Luhar Gali, Heeng ki Mandi, Kacheri Ghat, or Rawat pada – all are the same, shops are so small there.

People who always supported the Government should not be harassed like this. Please do not impose such laws on them otherwise they would think as to what reward are they getting for supporting them and the Government then, would not be in a position to face them. They talk of those departmental stores, whose profits are between 15 to 25 percent and traders of our country earn just 5 to 10 percent profit. Had it been profit to such an extent, then let me put that more than hundred articles in India are tax-free. Now only 36 articles would be tax-free under the VAT system. Tax would be charged on sugar, cloth, water, jaggery, Bidi, Cigarette and even bread. our country, in 1957, in this very House, made a law that tax would not be charged on articles of common use for consumers and common man. He is talking of fifty years. I can say only this much that the Government have completed four years, but we should not count all this, country does not run like this. It runs when the people have a place in their heart for the Government, so I do not want to object to anything. I am, therefore, saying that the Government are all capable, they can make amendments. And they have assured us too with regard to garments, I am obliged to them for this. This area

[Shri Raj Babbar]

covers tailor, small trader-thread seller, person collecting small pieces of clothes etc. and these people should definitely not be oppressed. We shall have to think seriously for those small tailors who are competing with big companies in the International market. The Government will have to think about them and they have assured that they would consider in this regard. I extend my thanks for that.

The Government have also mentioned that something will be done with regard to powerlooms. Yesterday professor Sahib was speaking on this. He very well, pointed out that the powerloom does not belong to just one State. Well, they may have thought it to be the problem of one State and that maximum of minority people are into it. They have no consideration for them even if injustice is done to them. But I would not say anything in this regard. Maximum minority people are labourers, very less number of them are owners etc. infact people of our category who belong to affluent class are owners etc.

15.00 hrs.

And, therefore, instead of talking of interest or harm of minority people, we should look into the system, progress of the country. Vat has been imposed on clothes too. Everyone needs clothes – Hindu, Muslim, Sikh or Chirstian. One need cloth when he is born and when he dies, then also cloth is needed for his 'Kafan'. . . .
(Interruptions) I think SARS is there! He was with you. But if it affects you then you would find it difficult to sit there.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : He would not be infected, you would be infected.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR : I am not infected, that is why I am saying as he was with you for so many days, you must have been infected and if at all you get infected he would get you treated. The mask to be used would also be made of cloth. I request that VAT may kindly be removed from cloth as it is very important in human life. All traders

of our country, especially those of Uttar Pradesh would be ruined. There are small markets of cloth in U.P. viz in Kanpur, Agra etc. Cloth traders do not sell cloth in shops. 40 crore youth in this country are unemployed. They don't get work and so they cover a distance of 20-30 kilometers to village on bicycle borrowing Rs. 200-300 from their family members to sell cloth there. Now they are also under Vat system. How would these small traders do if tax is imposed on them. If the Government wish to impose tax on cloth, they may impose the duty on the manufacture, and this duty can be increased too, but common traders and common man may not be harassed like this.

I request the hon. Minister of Finance, no one doubts his intelligence, knowledge etc., that this is no party issue and is related to the common people. It is our duty to put the problems here of those people who have elected us and resolve them.

Sangtam Ji just submitted that he has received many representations and he has met many people. It has been demanded in Guwahati that an industrial policy be chalked out for the north-east. The meaning of Guwahati is-Guwa means 'beetelnut' and Hat means market.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRABORTY) : Haat means road.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR : Alright, I would correct myself as I have not studied there.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : Please bring the Director and Produce when you deliver your speech.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR : If you become my director and producer, you would understand my point easily.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, his director hon. Mulayam Singh Yadav is not present here and his producer, hon. Amar Singh is also not here, but he is doing a good job.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR : Since Amar Singh ji is not a Member of this House, it is not proper to name him. Mulayam Singh ji is a leader of such a stature and I feel that you ought not to speak about him in this manner.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Raj Babbar, now you will have to address the Chair. There is no time and we cannot indulge in such things.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR : So far as arecanut is concerned, industrial policy for the north-east was formulated in the year 1996. The then Prime Minister visited there and he announced a package for the region. Another Prime Minister went there in 1997. He formulated the policy, it was discussed in Planning Commission and in Finance Ministry. But after formulating the policy it was left unimplemented. Thereafter, on July, 8 1998, perhaps there was a caretaker Government then, Prime Minister makes a visit to North-East and announces a policy. It is none other than hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee, about whom it is said that goddess 'Saraswati speaks through him, when he speaks, he makes one spell bound. I remember that in my childhood, I used to go to hear him in my shorts whenever I came to know that he is coming for electioneering. I still have trust in him. So far as policy is concerned, it is withdrawn after elections in December, 1999. Then it is again proclaimed on January 17, 2000. Thereafter, it is implemented for Meghalaya on March, 1. Then it is implemented for Mizoram on July 21, 2000 and for Nagaland it is implemented on August 28, 2000. Not only that, the Manipur, it is implemented on November 9, 2000. Then, without assigning any reason whatsoever, the policy is again withdrawn. I say that death penalty may be given to those who are not implementing the policies properly. Most severe penalties be given to those who misuse the policies aimed at betterment of youth and farmers of the country. Those who did not misuse the policy move court where they are assured that policy cannot be withdrawn. But the Bill says that the policy is being

withdrawn with retrospective effect. This is my request that if they truly desire to root out insurgency there such steps should not be taken. If the Government does anything that results in farmers not getting good price for their arecanut, or for lime in Meghalaya then farmers will have no other option but to take to guns. The youth, who was already attracted to guns, was getting some relief, and now he would go back to guns. Therefore, through this House, I would like to request that the policy be implemented at all costs. Policy in Kashmir has recently been announced and if the policies are withdrawn in this manner, then nobody would trust the policies. This is not the question of Prime Minister, but the question of a decision taken by the Government and the Government's decision should be honoured. People who were responsible for its misuse were not punished and instead Government is offering its apology. People are being punished for the crime they did not commit. It should not be done. Through you, I would like to say only the guilty should be punished. Guilty should not be spared.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : You have neither of the two.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR : I have committed no crime, therefore, I have not taken any name.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the criminal does not sport either moustache or beard, then?

SHRI RAJ BABBAR : I won't say anything. People from the back are making comments. They are my seniors, and I can't say anything about them.

Sir, before speaking on film industry, I would like to say one thing about farmers. It is my duty to speak for film industry, but I would like to speak for farmers. Farmers toil in their fields day and night. This year, potato farmers had bumper crop but they are not getting proper prices for this. Farmers produce their crop by toiling hard, and Government says that decisions will be taken in a week. Farmers are compelled to commit suicide when no decision is taken by the Government. The problem is not limited to Uttar Pradesh only. Some people from UP are coming to meet hon'ble Prime Minister to discuss about

[Shri Raj Babbar]

sugarcane problem. But sugarcane is produced not only in UP but also in Maharashtra, Bihar and other States of the country. Potato, like sugarcane is also important for us, but multinational companies are reaping profits from potato production where poor farmers of the country are committing suicide.

In the end, I would like to speak about Cinema. I know, that some of your steps have provided relief to cinema world. I thank the Government for that. They declared cinema as industry, but whenever an industry is declared, then it is provided a number of facilities. They admitted that it was not considered an industry for forty years. It is declared an industry on account of its backwardness. If that industry is backward then it should have some norms to enable it to prosper. All the incentives and facilities required for its prosperity need to be provided. They may be asked to come up with good stories. Movies having good story lines should be made tax free. Just giving the status of an industry is not enough for cinema world, but it should be recognised as a backward industry and be provided all the facilities. It is necessary to check the impact of multinational companies on arts. House should take this impact seriously.

I would again say that hon'ble Finance Minister is very intelligent. I have seen one thing in him. Whenever I talked to him, he never gave an impression that I am an opposition Member. He always blessed me as a younger brother. Though only I am saying it, but trust me that I am giving voice to views of many from both sides. What I am saying may not be said by all in the House but it must have found its echo in party meetings or other platforms. Therefore, I request you to listen to my voice and all other voices and make necessary changes. Finally, I would like to oppose the Bill.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, out of all the film actors who have spoken, he has made the best speech. The Chair and we all should appreciate that fact.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is why, he has got a little more extra time to speak.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur) : After Shri Raj Babbar, I have been called to participate in this debate. I am neither a 'neta' nor an 'abhineta'. I wish to quote Kazi Nazrul Islam :

"Judge, Magistrate tarai sabe,
Laat Bad laat tarai hobe,
Amra sudhu Chaser Malik,
Grass er Malik noi,
E desh, E desh bolcho karey,
E desh toder noi;"

I belong to that class class of 'Chasi'; I am neither a 'neta' nor an 'abhineta'.

15.13 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to support the Finance Bill, 2003, as a partner of the NDA.

I will only touch upon one aspect of the financial policy of the Government of India enshrined in Finance Minister's speech and CST and the additional excise duty contained in the Finance Bill. This aspect is the first aspect, as mentioned by our hon. Finance Minister in para 130, page 23, in his Budget Speech. This is the first aspect. He says that this year, that menas, 2003-04, will be historic with the States switching over to Value Added tax. The Central Government has been a partner with States in the highest tradition of cooperative federalism in this path-breaking reform.

Sir, I only wish to touch upon VAT. I will not speak on anything other than that. I have some doubts and apprehensions. I am sure, the hon. Finance Minister will try to dispel those doubts and apprehensions. I have some queries regarding VAT and, I am sure, the Finance Minister will address those queries.

They say that VAT is being implemented in 125 countries of the world, though the Finance Minister has mentioned in his statement that it is practised in 120 countries. Four of our neighbouring countries – XXXXBangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are practising VAT. Those countries introduced VAT seven to

eight years back. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any in-depth study has been made on implementation of VAT in those 125 countries, or at least in the four neighbouring countries. Has it been studied as to what has been their experience with VAT, to what extent has it been successful and to what extent it has failed, etc.? If so, the House may please be apprised of the finding of that study. It is then that the House will be convinced that if it has succeeded in those countries, we might as well implement it in our country.

Secondly, is excise duty – that is the production tax – imposed in those 125 countries as also the four adjoining countries? Thirdly, which of the federal countries, leaving Pakistan, among those 125 countries have introduced Value Added Tax in their States? What has been their experience? What was the result? That information should also be given to this House. Two major federal countries – the United States and Canada – have not introduced VAT in their countries. They have gone in for Retail Sales Tax (RST) and Business Turnover Tax (BTT). Are these not better than VAT? The Minister may explain that also to the House.

My next point is a more important one. The Finance Minister should convince this House, whether he is sanguine, that the revenue earned in the States would be higher after the introduction of VAT. Looking at the complexity of the procedures involved – despite the fact that the Finance Ministry thinks that it would be very simple – would it not breed more harassment and corruption, and lead to consequential loss of revenue?

Shall not VAT cause steep hike in price since it is a multi-point tax? You know that in 1970s, following the recommendations of the Bhoothalingam Committee, a multi-point tax was introduced in Andhra Pradesh. It was proved disastrous both for the consumers and for the traders. Therefore, since VAT is a multi-point tax, would it not result in a steep rise in prices? The Finance Minister may explain that to the House.

When VAT comes into operation, would turnover tax, entry tax, octroi, surcharge, etc., be done away with? If so, what would be its revenue implication to the States? That

should also be explained to the House. If things go negative the States will go from bad to worse. From frying pan they will fall into the fire. What are the immediate and long-term effects of VAT on the revenues of States?

VAT is a presumptive tax. The success of VAT depends upon certain presumptions.

One has to presume only. It is on the presumption that if proper and perfect information system is available or at least, it would be available very shortly. Vat would be successful. But without proper and perfect information system, VAT will lead the market to chaos. That is what I have thought about it. So, this doubt has to be dispelled by the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, given the Indian conditions, so far as VAT is concerned, we suffer from certain things. The House knows and those who are dealing with taxes know that we are suffering from lack of conceptual clarity on VAT. Ninety-nine percent of the people, I am sure, have no conceptual clarity on VAT. There is absence of inter-State and Centre-State coordination. Most of the States – if not all – have not made adequate preparation. They have not developed the ability to implement more difficult measures. So, this doubt has to be dispelled by the hon. Minister in his reply. If he would go ahead with its implementation in a hurry or haste, it would only be an introduction of inferior variants of VAT. That has to be explained by the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, before preparing the soil, if one wants to sow or transplant, the result would be disastrous. He will not get the harvest, he will not get even the seed which he has sown. So, likewise, adequate steps at the State and district level in most of the States are desirable to be taken to address the issues of structure, operation, law, administration, enforcement and transition to the new system. All these things have to be studied in greater details at the State and district level. Otherwise, they will not be able to implement VAT properly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Trilochan Kanungo, please conclude now.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Sir, please grant him some more time. He is making very important

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

points, and he is the only Member from our Party to speak on this debate.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Within a few minutes, I am concluding, Sir.

In this regard, a few conclaves of States' Finance Ministers were held in New Delhi. But it is not sufficient. My point is that adequate training of officers and ground level officials is necessary before you launch VAT in all the States. Training is very much necessary at the State and district level. It is not my view only. It is the view of the experts.

Sir, one of the eminent experts and an outstanding scholar on public finance, Prof. Govind Rao, whom the Government of India is consulting every now and then, has also very aptly and correctly said :

"The past experience in Maharashtra and elsewhere has shown that half-baked reforms in the name of VAT have done more harm than good in evolving a tax system required to meet the challenges of a more open and competitive environment."

This is the view of an outstanding expert, Prof. Govind Rao of National Institute of Public Finance and Policy whom the Government of India is consulting every now and then.

Therefore, Sir, so far as VAT is concerned, my request to the hon. Finance Minister would be to kindly wait up to April, 2004. In this House, previously, it was told by the hon. Finance Minister that VAT would be implemented from 1st April, 2002; and then it was told that it would be implemented from 1st April, 2003, but it could not be done. Now, 16 States, including Orissa, out of 28 States, have agreed to implement VAT from 1st June. But I do not know what will they do. Therefore, I am appealing to the hon. Minister to please not be in a hurry or haste. Wait up to April, 2004, and, in the meanwhile, ask the States to go in greater details to do daily exercise at the ground level and get themselves ready for the reform the process and result.

All the Finance Ministers in the States are not like Prof. Asim Dasgupta. Prof. Asim Dasgupta, as a Professor has conceptual clarity, through he has not much of information on all these questions.

My point is that please do not be in a hurry. You are a national leader. You are a statesman. Everybody has faith in you. Do not be in a hurry. You ask the States to prepare the ground level so far as VAT is concerned. This is regarding VAT.

Central Sales Tax is connected with VAT. Central Sales Tax was created later, after the Constitution was enacted. In 1956, not only article 269 but article 286 was also amended to bring in the Central Sales Tax. Entry 92A of the Union List has been incorporated for Central Sales Tax, and Entry 54 of the State List has been amended.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. There are still 19 Members who want to speak.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would request you to give me three or four minutes more. I will not ask you more than that.

Sir, I am telling only about the Central Sales Tax because the Finance Minister has referred. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : A number of hon'ble Members wish to participate therefore please keep an eye on time and conclude, your views briefly.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Sir, if my request fails here with the chair the country's request with the Finance Minister will also fail. If it fails with the hon. Chairman, then there also it will fail.

Sir, what is Central Sales Tax? The Central Sales Tax was introduced in 1957. What for? It was introduced in 1957. After amending the Constitution, the Central Sales Tax Act was enacted. It was created to trace and identify the inter State transactions with one per cent tax, But, in the long run, at stages, it was raised to four per cent, and

it became a revenue earning mechanism, a revenue earning vehicle for the prosperous States. Now, I am again quoting the hon. Minister. To what extent has this levy of Sales Tax harmed you – The Chairman and me? You are from Bihar and I am from Orissa. To what extent has it harmed us? "The levy on Central Sales Tax creates severe impediments to internal trade and market segmentation, spill over of input and output taxes with unintended consequences on relative price configuration and inequitable research transfers with richer and prosperous States, collecting significant amount of taxes from the consumers in poorer States like Bihar and Orissa". "The levy of Central Sales Tax not only leads to distortions, but also has adverse inter-regional equity implications. In the pricing situation, the taxes are shifted forward and the consumers in poorer States pay taxes to richer producing States." I am not elaborating as to how CST has come down to this level. Do you know the CST of four high income States like Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra and Punjab with 23 per cent population, Gross States' Domestic Product (GSDP) is 29 per cent, consumption share is 23 per cent, sales tax share is 29 per cent to 30 per cent, and CST is 43 per cent.

The five low income States are Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. That is, not just BIMARU, but BIMARU plus 'O', that is, Orissa. The population of Orissa is 46 per cent and the CST is 18 per cent; the high income States' population is 23 per cent and the CST is 43 per cent. This is our fate after the introduction of CST. It has to be done away with. So, my request is this. Why to reduce it to only two per cent and why not to do away with it immediately? The entire CST should be done away with in the interest of the larger and poorer population of this country.

So far as Orissa is concerned, do you know that the population of Orissa is four per cent of the population of this country and the share of CST is only 0.56 per cent? This is the fate of the poorer States. Please look at the poorer States and then formulate the policies and formulate the laws. That is my request.

Similarly, additional excise duty has been mentioned in the Finance Bill. It is a good thing because additional

excise duty will be transferred to the States. Sales Tax on sugar, Textiles and Tobacco were taken over by centre in 1957 on consensus. Yes, States can reimpose taxes on sugar, tobacco and textiles now. But please do not put a ceiling that it would be only four per cent. Please allow the States to have freedom; please give the States full freedom to impose taxes on sugar, tobacco and textiles. Then only we will do justice to the poorer States and then only we will do justice to the people of India.

I am not speaking these things in my personal interest, I am speaking these things in public interest. I am not speaking these things for class interest, but I am speaking these things in mass interest. I am also not speaking these things for political considerations, but I am speaking these things in the interest of the poorer States.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE (Ichalkaranji) Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House and the country towards the condition of the powerloom industry of the country. At present there are 17 lakhs powerlooms in the country out of which lakhs, that is, more than fifty percent of them are situation in Maharashtra. Most of these powerlooms are in my parliamentary constituency. One powerlooms provides employment to at least five persons. Powerloom is the second largest employment generating industry after agriculture in our country but the industry is facing a critical condition due to the apathy of the Government and the implementation of value added tax (VAT) system in the country. It is likely to directly affect 2 crore and 14 lakhs workers of the country. A tax of 10 percent through CENVAT and of 4 percent through VAT will be imposed on the powerloom industry i.e. an additional tax burden of 14 percent will be borne by the powerloom industry which will push this powerloom industry towards the verge of devastation besides owing to the implementation of both the CENVAT and VAT inspector raj system would start again. Hence, through you, I would like to demand from the hon. Minister of Finance and the Government to reconsider the hike in this additional tax and provide the central assistance to promote the powerloom industry in Maharashtra at the earliest. With these words I conclude.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing Finance Bill. Prior to it we had discussed in detail general budget also. The discussion on the demands for grants of two to three Ministeries was also held. I was listening the views of the leaders of opposition. They were highlighting the shortcomings of the budget and all of them were pointing out some lacuna or the other in the budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this reminds me of a story. A youngman visited a eye specialist, complaining of severe pain in his eyes and head and also complaining of the watering eyes. Doctor checked his eyesight and number of his spectacles. The doctor put on different lenses on the patient's eyes to find the suitable number and also asked the ailing youth to read out a piece of writing. The youth remained silent throughout. Doctor felt that the youth was unable to sight correctly what is written and he kept on changing the lenses. At last doctor got tired of the whole exercise.

[English]

when the doctor was about to give up, the youngman revealed "I have not learnt how to read and write".

[Translation]

When the doctor tested, the youngman confessed his inability to read and write. Keeping in view the remarks and comments made by the leaders and the Members of the opposition parties I feel that they are not looking at the budget in a positive manner. Hence I would like to advise hon. Minister of Finance that he need that be tense on their reactions because they are shortsighted. . . . (Interruptions) There should be a vision to look at the things.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Finance had announced some of the need schemes while delivering his budgetary speech on 25th February.

[English]

The hon. Finance Minister said, 'health for the poor'.

[Translation]

He said that he wanted to provide health facilities to the common man. He has made several announcements on health and education.

[English]

He announced an insurance scheme, a unique medical health coverage to the poor, to the downtrodden and to the persons below poverty line. It was a universal Health Insurance Scheme'

[Translation]

The scheme was started from my constituency in Mumbai. Hon. Finance Minister had proposed that for a one rupee per day contribution by a poor, medical cover of Rs. 30000 will be provided to him and in case of accident a medical cover of Rs. 25000 would be provided. We have initiated the scheme and a very good response has been received. I would provide the details of the scheme to any of the willing member. This scheme was launched by hon. Anand Adsulji and Sushma Swarajji and the forms of insurance policy of 10 thousand persons were handed over to the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri Adsulji by Shrimati Sushma Swaraj in my constituency. This is a unique yojana. Hence I said that there should be vision to see these things. Such a good scheme has been formulated-parents were asked for a premium of one and a half rupees per day. The whole family of five will be covered. "Ma Baap Aur Bachhon ki Raksha, Dedh rupaiye mein swasthya surakhia". Any ailing member of the family will get the medical cover on giving one and a half rupee per day. Both the Ministers had visited there. "Bharat Sarkar ka Atal Adhar, sukhi swasth apana parivar". We revolved to cover one lakh persons under the scheme. I had narrated the story of the illiterate youngman visiting the doctor to bring home the message that the budget contains several good features provided we are willing to spot them.

I will soon come to the Finance Bill but as regards the senior citizens I would like to say that the hon. Finance Minister had mentioned that there are 7.75 crore senior

citizens in our country at present and their number is likely to be around 12 crore in the next seven years.

[English]

In Mahabharata also it is written that there is no Sabha where no elderly people are present.

[Translation]

We have tried to respect them. In the budget of this year to be implemented from 1st April.

[English]

Senior citizens upto the annual income of Rs. 1,65,000 will not be able to pay a single paise tax.

[Translation]

The DTS system has been in vogue for several years. Senior citizens pay tax, collect DTS certificate and wait in the que for getting their refund. This year the announcement was made that just you have to submit a self declaration form. It is because that we want to respect the senior citizens. Another very good scheme pension scheme for senior citizens was started. We maintained that senior citizens be given security. Hence this pension scheme for senior citizens is proposed to be started to provide them social security. Before coming to the amendment part of Finance Bill. I would like to give two suggestions to the hon. Finance Minister. Several private in service companies are interestd in this old age persons scheme to be implemented by LIC. I would like to submit that :

[English]

"Life Insurance Corporation is a Government of India's Corporation."

[Translation]

People have faith in the Government, hence the implementation of the proposed old age pension scheme should be done by LIC. Alongwith it. I would also request that the 8 lakhs odd LIC agents should also be given an opportunity to be a part of the scheme. Today LIC and

[English]

Insurance Division in the Government of India now in the name of bringing down expenditure.

[Translation]

Efforts are being made to keep the agents out of the implementation aspect of the scheme and to get it implemented through corporate agents and the banks. I request you to give an opportunity to the eight lakh agents to be a part of the implementation exercise of this pension scheme for senior citizens started with the name of social security scheme.

Secondly I would request you that I mentioned about social security scheme it has already been implemented in Mumbai, the Chairman of the National Insurance Company handed over the policy to first ten women. I would like to submit that the Government should announce that the insurance companies should implement these schemes in both urban and rural areas. They should campaign for it. If the insurance Companies emphasize on the profit aspect and think that the premium is of very small amount e.g. Rs. 340 etc., then they would not strive hard and as such, implementation of the shemes will suffer. Hence I submit that either you please yourself on Shri Adsulji should take into account as to how much work progress has been made and which areas, villages and cities have been covered by those insurance companies. Central monitoring in regard a as to how the scheme is being implemented should also be done.

[English]

Now regarding the Finance Bill, during my last budget speech also I had requested that

[Translation]

the work done by NGO's and social organisations in regard to the rehabilitation of the earthquake victims in Katch region of Gujarat has been praised all over the country. These social welfare organisations alongwith many other organisations have rehabilitated severla villages together. The rehabilitation work of some of the villages is yet to be done. Gujarat Government and other concerned

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

departments have cleared the townplanning schemes of the four major cities of Gujarat six months ago. The rehabilitation work of those is still to be done, plan has been sanctioned but if the work is not completed by 31st March, 2003, all the funds being provided to those organisations will be withdrawn.

[English]

My request is that under section 80(g)(v)

[Translation]

the schemes of enabling the NGO's to participate to undertake rehabilitation work in earthquake affected areas be given an assistance of two years.

I would also like to express my gratitude to you for dispelling any doubts created in regard to the insurance investment. I hope that you will throw more light on the aspect of investment in insurance sector while concluding this discussion. In fact circular has been issued in this regard. I would also like to praise one more press note of the Ministry of Finance as it has discussed in detail about the powerloom and textiles sectors. Several Members have expressed their concern on the circular issued by the department of central excise in which it has been mentioned that they would like to complete this cycle or circle. I would like to request them that

[English]

we have to face the effect of WTO this year when the company will open up. We would have to prepare ourselves for that situation.

[Translation]

We will have to motivate people of our area to prepare themselves. In view of tax protection system we are not going to be taxed heavily, but.

[English]

We all would come within the whole cricle. It would not help the economy.

[Translation]

Meanwhile, I would also request the hon. Finance Minister, as he has stated in the beginning that he wants to give rebate to small traders. Now you will have to define small traders. Small has dual connotation. Looms are of several types. On type of loom is such whereby one can have annual production of 50 thousand and with other type of modern loom production

[English]

may be more than two to three lakhs. We need not only concentrate on the turn over.

[Translation]

If anyone keeps 8, 10 or 12 looms his annual production would be Rs. one lakh then the turnover will be twelve lakhs or twenty lakhs. But it would not be the profit.

The meaning of small should not be linked to the turnover but to profit.

[English]

They are self-employed people.

[Translation]

He is giving employment to four persons. If he himself earns Rs. 25 thousand per mensum he would be in a position to perform in a better way. -

[English]

The definition of 'small' must include ten to twelve lakh or the production turnover of twenty to twenty five lakhs. As I said in the 'beginning.

[Translation]

In case of readymade garments, the minimum limit shall define the word 'small'.

[English]

It has to be a little bigger than the powerloom sector.

[Translation]

My submission is that whatever exemption he grants to readymade garments sector, if the value of Rs. 20 lakh is added to garments and if 10 percent profit is worked out then it would be Rs. 2 lakh per annum.

[English]

It has to be anything between 30 lakhs to 50 lakhs.

[Translation]

I believe hon. Minister wants to bring our income in tax-net but economic or social reform cannot be carried out overnight.

[English]

It has to be done in phases.

[Translation]

First provide some facility to the small businessman and then motivate him to pay tax.

In addition, I would like to make one more request that

[English]

Please give chance to the people. Many people belonging to Surat, Bhiwandi and also people from both Northern and Southern India have come and met us.

[Translation]

I know that the system is such. Many people have not disclosed their looms, as their capital investment. They have two type of worries. First is regarding excise, and second they say that if excise is reflected in record books then personnel of Income Tax Deptt. would ask about the source of income or the investment made as it has been kept 'Benami' so far. We have to accept that. Everything is not accepted in a single day.

[English]

That is why, the hon. Finance Minister, while replying to this debate, should declare a special package for the powerloom and the ready-made garments sector.

[Translation]

Today small trader wants to come within tax-net. But if the Government did not clarify the definition of 'small', CBDT personnel and income tax officers will come to them and harass them. It is better if hon. Minister clarifies it today.

[English]

Otherwise also it would not be in the accounts. It would remain in the parallel economy. Let them come once for all.

[Translation]

As he has introduced VRS. There is a special package for this sector that if looms and capital investment is reflected in the books once.

[English]

There would not be any investigation.

[Translation]

Then will have to pay income tax and excise on that. I am sure hon. Finance Minister will pay attention towards the difficulties being faced by textile sector.

I have two – three small points. There is a tax benefit on VRS.

[English]

I would like to say that some experts have expressed concern that.

[Translation]

He has stated that if they take benefit in instalment. If it is taken in one year it would Rs. 5 lakhs and if it is divided in two financial years, then the VRS will be Rs. 4 lakhs 80 thousand upto 31 March, 2003 and Rs. 4 lakh after 1st April. This way, what will be the exemption – Rs. 9 lakh or Rs. 5 lakh.

[English]

You need correction over there. Simultaneously, regarding the Capital Gains Tax on the sale of listed equity, I have brought to the notice of his Department

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[*Translation*]

that it will be calculated on new purchases made during one year. If his intention is such then would he try to ensure that no one should violate it by giving gifts etc. Some alternative should be found out.

[*English*]

If the intention is not to grant the benefit in respect of shares, then appropriate amendment should be made in the proposed section wherein it is said that share acquired by the assesses by way of gift etc. during the period of one year does not get the benefit if the previous owner has not acquired the same during the period of one year.

[*Translation*]

Similar is the case of edible oil, refined oil Godrej manufactures very good quality of refined oil. If excise duty is imposed on refined oil, which higher middle class of the society only can afford to consume. I will have no objection. But I would like to bring one thing to his notice that the day excise duty was imposed the companies changed the name of brand of oil and made it unbranded to evade tax. And they wrote on the packs, packed by Godrej. They are not paying the Excise. Thereafter, we will bring wholesale dealer or large retailer companies to the fore. Otherwise, large companies will escape and small businessman or people form middle class, who just do the packaging will be trapped. Therefore, I would like to draw your attention towards this aspect also.

I am concerned about housing sector also. Whichever Government comes to power, big builders create a lobby and manipulate the things. The Government have extended incentive to housing sector for two more years.

[*English*]

The Transfer of Development Rights. TDR, is only in Mumbai.

[*Translation*]

Extend two floors in old building and try to apply TDR, then it will be left to CBDT for clarification.

They have submitted a representation.

[*English*]

What is the definition of Housing Project? We have to give incentive purely for one hundred per cent residential complex only.

[*Translation*]

First, there would be a legal bidder for three years, but in minimum extension.

[*English*]

You can clarify that this will only applicable to residential project.

[*Translation*]

We develop new townships. I am of the view that this kind of tax incentive should not be provided to big builders. I respect the feelings of MPs from North East if industrial extension takes place in North-East, I do not mind more incentive is given to them, and if the tax of Rs. 2-3 thousand crore is not paid to the Government by cigarette or tobacco company in the name of backward Country or backward State,

[*English*]

I cannot support that kind of proposal; it has to be stopped.

[*Translation*]

If more incentives and funds are required for North East, the Government should give them more package, but those will set up factory in Hyderabad or Ahmedabad and will show production over there then the concession would be granted to them in excise duty.

[*English*]

I support the Finance Ministry's move.

[*Translation*]

and there should be no change in the provisions made therein.

I would like to draw your attention towards one more issue. My colleague, Shri Adsul is very active in cooperative bank.

[English]

In the last two years, after Mr. Ketan Parekh came into the picture.

[Translation]

Cooperative banks are lying closed for 6 months, 14 months.

[English]

I am concerned about my small depositors.

[Translation]

Nothing happen to banks. What is the role of cooperative department of State Government and RBI. Those depositors.

[English]

Whose deposit is insured up to one lakh rupees

[Translation]

are not getting insurance. Unless there is liquidation, the money of small depositor, or needy person would be blocked. The bank branch is lying closed for last one year, withdrawal is not allowed to them.

[English]

I would urge the Finance Minister to declare a time period.

[Translation]

RBI should declare the time period of one month for giving package, it should restructure its policies.

[English]

Otherwise, allow my depositors to withdraw,

[Translation]

They should get insurance cover of one lakh rupees. Insurance Cooperation is havng 4500 crore rupees of RBI

as on date. There is no shortage of funds, out of the total deposit of Rs. 500 crore in bank 200 crore rupees are of small depositors is deposited Rs. 50,000, 85,000, 14,000 or one lakh rupee are of great importance for them.

[English]

I would like to draw your attention to one more provision.

[Translation]

A provision has been made for education. Rs. 12,000 are proposed to be spent on the education of a child.

[English]

I think we will have to add one more provision clarifying or defining the meaning of expenditure on education'

[Translation]

I support it if it has been done for promoting the education, but if somebody joins private coaching class or tuition and pay one thousand rupees for it, then he should not get income tax benefit.

[English]

That type of clarification should come otherwise.

[Translation]

We would suffer huge loss.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Finance towards a particular issue.

[English]

The out sourcing business in the US and the UK.

[Translation]

All the figures and estimates given by you have proven false. I am having all the sources. I tried to raise this matter 2-3 times in the House that a movement has been launched in USA and UK to check the growth of Indian IT enabling sector.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[English]

Though it is not directly concerned with the Finance Bill. In the name of unemployment.

[Translation]

USA has four states earlier there was New Jersey also.

[English]

Now, in four different States, that Bill has been introduced.

[Translation]

The discussion is going on and if the Bill is passed then the business of this field in India would be at the top. We have assessed income to be garnered from there.

[English]

I think in the year 2010, out sourcing or IT Enabled sector.

[Translation]

It is on account of this we have expected that it would be more than Rs. 50,000 crore. I request you to take this issue seriously otherwise it would be too late.

I would like to draw your attention towards one more issue.

[English]

That is purely concerned with the provisions of the Finance Bill. This is regarding service tax.

[Translation]

Last time also I said that if service tax is charged 8 percent instead of 5 percent, income would increase.

[English]

It is not.

[Translation]

We will have to strengthen service tax system. There is a direct income tax which is levied on the income but in that

case also a person shows his income less while filing income tax return in the same way, there is also another tax, that is service tax.

[English]

The person is collecting money from the common man.

[Translation]

The people like cable operator or those running coaching classes collect 5 to 8 percent service tax from common man, but do not pay to the Government. This network is so vast that I also mentioned last time that a cable operator collects 5 to 8 percent service tax from 20 lakh cable connection while they deposit tax of

[English]

less than one lakh connections

[Translation]

to the service tax department. They show the number of the connections less than one lakh, therefore I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister to these things.

In the end, I would like to say that the hon'ble Minister of Finance has given many good suggestions about insurance, I would conclude after expressing my concern about LIC, last time in the House I displayed an advertisement that pay rupees fifty, and get general insurance of fifty lakh rupees. This advertisement was given by a private company and further it was written below

[English]

that you can get Rs. 50 lakh provided the company earns so much in the next twenty years.

[Translation]

Is this a joke?

[English]

What is IRDA doing?

[Translation]

Earlier also, this company gave such advertisement.

[English]

Contribute only Rs. 99 and get security for Rs. 1 crore.

[Translation]

I further, it was written below that if death occurs on 15 August then, Rs. 1 crore would be given otherwise only Rs. 5 lakh would be given. No action is taken against this kind of company, what does the IRDA do?

[English]

Are the regulators not accountable to anybody? Do they just want authority?

[Translation]

In the end, I would conclude after speaking about VAT.

16.00 hrs.

I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance to give momentum to VAT. All states may take little more time to get prepared for it.

[English]

I am concluding. Coming to my point, I would say that there is no problem. We can give that much time.

[Translation]

The initiative taken by him should be pursued. It is the responsibility of the States, it is their right. But it has to be seen, how should the 28 States be brought under this system. He worked hard during the last year for this purpose. As a result of which half of the States have become mentally prepared for it, they have also devised many systems technically. It appears that it will take another 3-4 months.

[English]

They will be fit for that.

[Translation]

Other States have also said that they are ready for it, but some difficulties are before them.

[English]

We may be ready in the beginning of the year 2004. But you should take them into confidence.

[Translation]

Many States want to implement this system from June. He should support them. If they want another 4-6 months, then it can be started fully from coming April 1.

[English]

You can give the time period.

[Translation]

They will take public in confidence in four six months, they will take common man into confidence, it would be beneficial to all. Representatives from 6 Institutes including Institutes, Industries and traders association also of different places met me and submitted their representations.

[English]

We can talk to them and sort it out.

[Translation]

Therefore, it appears to me, that all components of society whether it is customers, trader or administration are responsible. All these have to be taken into confidence and they should be made realise that VAT would be beneficial to all. I am sure that it will happen and all States will cooperate you from 1st April of next year instead 1st June of the year. He should maintain the enthusiasm with which he has introduced this system, he has done home work also hence I am sure we would be able to give momentum to the industrial growth by implementing this system in India.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am extremely grateful to you and to my party for giving me this time to participate in the Finance Bill.

With my profound respect and regard for Shri Jaswant Singh as a person, as my senior in the Armed Forces. as

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

a Parliamentarian and as an orator, I would like to say that I am at my wits' end as to how do I say something about him as the Finance Minister and hurt his sentiments or feelings.

The Budget is an instrument or a machinery to manage the economy of a country. In the Finance Bill, there are various taxation proposals which help towards achieving the Budget proposals. The Budget has received cestatic comments, admiration and eulogies. From whom has it received these things? It is from the captains of industry, from the Chambers of Commerce, from the multinationals and from the leaders of the world business. But I would submit that I may have to sound a few discordant notes from some experts, and I hope they are admitted as experts. First is a gentleman called Shri Jai Dubashi. Everyone knows that for the last twenty or thirty years, he has been writing on finances. I think, at one time, he was part of the Think Tank of the BJP. What does he say in the Free Press Journal? I quote :

"Singh's Budget lacks direction. It only serves the rich class and betrays the poor. There is nothing in the Budget for the senior citizens. In fact, they stand to lose the most. Interest rates have been slashed and will be cut down further for that is the demand of the foreign investors. I would not be surprised if they touch four per cent by the end of the year for that is what the foreign investors want. Those who depend almost entirely on interest from fixed deposits, as senior people do, will beat a loss to make both ends meet."

Then, there is another gentleman called Shri S.L. Rao. He was the Director General of the National Council for Applied Economic Research. I hope Shri Kirit Somaiya will admit that he is not as unprofessional and as unknowledgeable as the Opposition Members are because he happens to be the Director General of the National Council for Applied Economic Research. He says: "It is long on rhetoric and short on resources". This Budget lacks an articulated conceptual framework to tackle problems in a wholistic state. One of our former Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram was the one who gave us the 'dream

Budget'. The hon. Finance Minister's distinguished predecessor gave us the 'feel good' Budget and now we have the 'give away' Budget. Now, Shri Chidambaram says "Jaswant's forgotten fields – nothing exposes the Centre's anti-agricultural bias more than the repeated failure to spend the amount outlayed for the sector". In 2002-03, the outlay was Rs. 3,733 crore and by the end of March, 2003, only Rs. 3,219 crore will be spent. The year 2002-03 has been a bad year for the farmers. The sector registered a negative growth of 3.1 per cent. According to the hon. Prime Minister, the year also witnessed the worst drought in 15 years. The unkindest cut was to raise the fertilizer price. So, I was not surprised by the roll back. There are many such things and I do not want to go into too many details. Similar is the shoddy state with the defence, with our national security. He has been a member of the Armed Forces. I have also been a member of the Armed Forces. Both of us have fought wars. I was mystified by the comment of the French Defence Minister who is on a tour to India. Yesterday, the hon. Lady, the Defence Minister of France, whose pictures are adorning today's newspapers, said, "No one will talk to you seriously or take you seriously, if you do not have a credible defence, a deterrent defence." What is a credible defence? We do not discuss it here in Parliament for the last ten years. Last year, we gave up Rs. 9,300 crore, yet he is a military man and he is giving us again Rs. 65,000 crore. There is knee-jerk reaction and there are shivers. Nobody wants to sign a file. There is the ghost of Bofors; there is the ghost of Tehelka; there is the ghost of so many scams. Nobody wants to sign. So, all those fast track procedures, all those special procurements and all those higher defence management systems are at a standstill. With the nuclear blackmail. I do not know, or anyone in the House does not know, what is our capability. Do we have a deterrent capability? We are not supposed to discuss it here. It might give a knee-jerk reaction to the General sitting across the border who may press the button. We are not allowed to discuss it in the Standing Committee of Defence. We introduced it one day before it, then we withdraw it. So, I think national security, national defence, a credible national defence, is something which we require, if we have to develop as a country. As a schoolboy, we have

learnt that if you want peace, be prepared for wars. What is our preparation? In the last three years, Rs. 24,000 crore has been left unspent. The same is the position in my own home State. The year 1999 saw the worst super cyclone. My good friend and the President of my college, when I was a student, Shri Trilochan Kanungo, said, brandishing the CAG Report, that out of Rs. 645 crore, Rs. 137 crore were spent and Rs. 509 crore could not be spent. He said all Congressmen should be hung from the nearest lamppost. It was found that in April, 2001, money was given when there was no Congress Ministry. On the 5th of March, the Congress Ministry had resigned. He party is in power. Nobody has so far swung from the oak tree like Tom Dooley, or from the lamppost. I have the *Indian Express* saying that up to the month of December, only 34 per cent of the cyclone relief has been spent.

Now, the Prime Minister's Relief Fund is used for contingencies like war or natural calamities like the Gujarat earthquake or the Orissa super cyclone or floods in Assam or West Bengal or Andhra Pradesh etc. Whenever such a calamity occurs, our countrymen generously contribute to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. More than Rs. 250 crore has gone into Orissa. Nobody knows how much has been spent because there is no audit by the C and AG on that. There is an audit by the C and AG on what the Government spends. The C and AG said that in the first year only 23 per cent of the money was spent. This is the fourth year after the super cyclone and only 24 per cent of the money has been spent. But as far as the Prime Minister's Relief Fund is concerned, it is not audited. So, I do not know how much has been spent, what has happened or any farm house has been built in Chattarpur. Some of the buildings constructed after the cyclone are still remaining unoccupied till today and half of them are incomplete.

The hon. Finance Minister talked of financial management in his Budget speech. I compliment him for that because management is the buzzword today, whether it is management of finance, whether it is management of defence, whether it is management of the Government, whether it is the management of the country. After the Gujarat earthquake, we constituted a Disaster Management Committee with a lot of fanfare and the hon. Prime Minister

is the Chairperson of that Committee. It is a very high level Committee and I think Shri Sharad Pawar is the Co-Chairperson of that Committee. Till date there have been three committees including this high-power committee, but there is no plan on disaster management.

Now, there is a doctrine on nuclear weapons management and nobody knows what that doctrine is because national security is a holy cow and it is denied even to Parliament. We are supposed to pass the defence budget every year and even the Standing Committee which is supposed to go into the nitty-gritty is also being prevented from looking into it. So, the hon. Finance Minister must take us into confidence and say as to how he would like to improve the management.

Sir, I saw another newspaper report – I do not know. I stand to correction – that the Finance Ministry shall now monitor all the defence projects. The hon. Finance Minister has been the former Defence Minister and I do not know what his experience was, but I saw this news item only seven days back. When Shri Shivraj Patil and I were in the Defence Ministry we had seen that in spite of the fact that Parliament would sanction sums of money, every month the FADS, which is an integrated finance, would poke his nose and money would not be spent.

16.13 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

During the last year, Rs. 9,300 crore went unspent as the Standing Committee Report has brought out. Upto 31st of December, the Defence Ministry was not allowed to spend. On the 1st of March, the Defence Ministry was asked to spend Rs. 9,300 crore. It is virtually impossible. Every year, about Rs. 9,000 crore or Rs. 8,000 crore will go back unspent. So, I would like the hon. Finance Minister to ponder over it. He is a military man, he is a finance man now and one of the best debaters in the country. As a school boy, he got the Gold Medal in the All India Debating Competition.

Sir, beauty lies in the beholder's eye. As the hon. Minister Shri Trilochan Kanungo was saying, in the State

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of Orissa 48 per cent of the people are living below the poverty line and for the last 40 years it has been beset with weather-related problems like drought, flood, cyclone etc. It is a State with 42 per cent of SC/ST population with a very meagre tax resource base. So, how does Orissa come up to the All India level, leave alone coming to the level of Punjab or Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka or Maharashtra? As a military officer, I have been taught in the Infantry School, Mau that, when we run a class, if there are weak students we should spend a little more time, little more attention and a little more focus on them so that they come to up to the level of the others in the class and we should not bring down the class to the level of the weakest. I am not saying him to bring down the level of Punjab or Tamil Nadu or Maharashtra or Karnakaka, but I request him to please bring up Orissa. We are at the bottom of the economic ladder. During every election, whether it is my party or the BJP or the BJD, we keep in our election manifestoes that Special Category Status would be given to the State of Orissa just like the seven sisters or the hill States like Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal. Only day-before-yesterday, I got a reply from Shri S.B. Mookherjee that it is impossible to make Orissa a Special Category State because we do not have an international boundary.

So, we have to create either Bengal into a Sovereign Democratic Republic or Andhra Pradesh or Chhattisgarh. Then only we will be eligible for a Special Category State. Sir, it is not going to happen. Therefore, I would like to plead to the hon. Finance Minister, like they have a special focus on KBK districts (Kalahandi, Bolangir, Koraput districts), let them think something about Orissa and other States which are perpetually and chronically beset with weather-related problems and are at the bottom of the economic ladder, whether it is infrastructure or whether it is roads. I will show you any number of examples. I am carrying all my questions and answers. Gen. Khanduri replies to me: "Yes, we appreciate but there is a ban on the 10th Plan, we cannot take the roads". We have Augul-Tikarpada Road and Keonjhar to Dhenkanal, which are National Highways. Both, Shri Ananata Nayak and I want two district headquarters on the two National Highways.

We cannot have a State Highway or a National Highway to be connected. If you take cultural tourism, we have no money, there is a ban. If you take rail. Orissa is always at the bottom end. We are far less per thousand population, per thousand kilometre route line. This year, only Rs. 390 crore were given. I compliment the Finance Minister and the Railway Minister for it. But the machinery that will implement – we may be high on intent i.e. intention, maybe low in content – is not up to the mark. From the hang ups of the ICS, we are still controlling, we are still regulating but the administrative machinery is not developing or is not a vehicle for development, is still a vehicle for control.

Now, take, for instance, the irrigation. There are 15 Projects which the Government of Orissa wants to be taken up. They have sent a Memorandum. Every six months, they are sending Memorandum. Only three or four days back, the hon. Irrigation Minister Shri Mangala Kisan had come. He had gone to meet Shri T.R. Baalu. Everything is either held up at the Ministry of Environment and Forests like 'Rengali'. It was started in 1973 for Rs. 273 crore. It is in my entire constituency. Sir, Rs. 800 crore have been spent. Three railway lines have not been crossed. So the dam is at one side. The headwork is in one side. The fields are at one side. It has not crossed the Railway Line. So, there is no water. In the worst drought of the century, we did not get a drop of water. Now, the Ministry of Environment and Forests is still sitting pretty over it. My Chief Minister has come and met him. The Irrigation Minister has met him. Now, from where are these 15 Projects? They are from Kalahandi, Bolangir, Koraput Distt. Telengiri, Cheligada, Upper Lanth. Dhauragoth, that is in my constituency, Upper Indravati, that is in Shri Bikram Keshari Deo's constituency, Upper Kolab, Salki, Sasan, Anandapur, Mahendratanaya, Salandi Sanskar, which is the Water Resources Minister's home constituency, Ong dam, Ret and Hadua. So, they are all languishing here. They have been technically cleared but there is no implementation.

Same is the question of bridges. In 1990, late Shri Biju Patnaik laid the foundation stone of a bridge on river Brahmini, named after the youngest freedom fighter of the world, Shri Baji Raut. It is 2003. There is still no action.

There was an administrative approval, there was an allocation in the Budget. Now, from Rs. 22 crore, it has come to Rs. 36 crore. Now when it is going to come? Is it going to link the entire six steel plants which were planned by Shri Biju Patnaik to the district headquarters? It will open up the entire route from Kolkata to the Central Orissa.

Same thing in with regard to telephones and telecom. We are having a telecom revolution. We are supposed to be leaders in information technology. There are no cables being given to Orissa. So, most of the backward regions are not getting telephone connections of cables. They have got the WLL and VPT. The functioning is more by exception than by rule. People are without any communication.

Now, let me come to drought. The whole concept of KBK is because of the stargation deaths in Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput. The Government accepted the recommendations of the Petitions Committee of Rajya Sabha. Now, enough money is being pumped in, but the drought is one of the severest. This year's drought is more severe than the last year's drought. The wells have dried up. Drinking water resources have come down. Cattle are dying and the people are going to die. Just like in Barmer and Jaisalmer desert, we also have 50 degree Celsius of heat in Sambalpur, Kalahandi and Angul. Therefore, we have not been able to make this area drought-proof. I do not know whether it is due to lack of resources or lack of administrative things or lack of will. I would entreat on the hon. Minister to ponder over it and see if he can help us in this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I am concluding. I will make one or two points. One thing, which is related to my own constituency, is about the Indian Institute of Mass Communications. I raised it under rule 377 today. It is a national Institute like the IIM or the IITs. For the last 10 years, the Branch in Dhenkanal has been producing the All India topper. A number of people are in national papers.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : I wish to inform the

hon. Member that he had come and spoken about the IIMC earlier. That was an earlier decision. I have already advised the officials concerned to keep the IIMC in its present location till we have taken proper decision.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I am very grateful. I thank you very much. . . .(Interruptions) One is in Kottayam; one is in Jhabua; and one is in Dimapur.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : One is located in my constituency. It is the most neglected one.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : I think more IIMCs will be coming up.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I am very grateful. This is an Institute where for the last 10 years, the all India topper is from Dhenkanal. This time when the hon. Speaker took the three Members of Parliament. Shri Kirti Azad, myself and Shri Dinesh Trivedi, in Johannesburg, I met four boys who are products of IIMC, Dhenkanal and they are employed by the newspapers in Johannesburg. So, I thank the hon. Finance Minister very much. I am extremely grateful to him. The whole of Eastern India will be grateful to you.

My last point is, this year also we could not discuss the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs. This is the Olympic year. The hon. Prime Minister last year had assured us that Rs. 500 crore would be given in this year's Budget because we have to train our sports people who will be going to the Olympics. We have identified eight disciplines like athletics, boxing, weightlifting, wrestling, shooting and yachting. But, this Rs. 383 crore, which has been given, is only for building infrastructure. There is nothing for training. From 31st of October, 2002, 52 coaches, including the expert on general training methods and technique, have been sent home. Till today, till the 1st of May, I do not think any foreign coaches are going to come. We have just got a few months left to participate in the Olympics or to train for the Olympics. Today, Olympic game is highly professional and it has excellent standard. If we have to reach it, we have to apply sports sciences, we have to apply scientific methods of training and it mostly requires management of the sportsmen. Unless we manage our

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sportsmen properly, if we allow the sportsmen just to practise by themselves, we will be sending a large contingent, but they will be coming back, probably, last or something like that. Over the years, India has been hitting at the places of fourth and fifth positions. There is every chance that we may win more than one bronze medal like we won in the 2000 Sydney Games. We won that also in weightlifting. There are four or five games in which we may win. In shooting, we are expecting a win. In tennis, we are expecting a win. So, kindly spare some resources for the training and coaching of our sportsmen.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

I stand here in support of the Finance Bill of the current fiscal year. Before I go into the Finance Bill and the Budget, as they are both inter-related. I must congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for very many reasons. The first of these is that he has been able to ensure 17.9 per cent more collection of direct and indirect taxes. He has been able to ensure that the Debt Recovery Tribunal got Rs. 2,153.19 crore, the outstanding recoveries which have been made in the last year. The EXIM Policy has been very good, which aims at one per cent of the global trade and which is a very good achievement.

The most important thing is the matter relating to fiscal consolidation. I would like to refer to the Annual Report of the Finance Ministry. When we think of fiscal consolidation. I would like to invite the attention of hon. Members to the public debt system wherein there is a market borrowing of a staggering nature. The Central Government has borrowed something like Rs. 95,859 crore. The State Governments have borrowed Rs. 17,276 crore; and the Central financial institutions and the State financial institutions have also been borrowing.

This year, the hon. Minister of Finance has taken several steps to ease the burden on the common man. While doing so, he has given certain concessions to the small-scale sector. All the same time, certain small-scale sector items have been de-reserved, which is likely to cause a very keen competition with the large-scale sector.

I really want to inform the hon. Minister of Finance that the de-reserved items are being manufactured very efficiently by the small-scale sector and that the small-scale sector consists of employment generating units. All said and done, the major employer in our country is the small-scale sector. The hon. Minister of Finance should take into consideration and excise concessions should be enhanced from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2 crore. This would keep the small-scale sector going and also enable this sector to withstand competition from the large-scale sector.

Today, we are bothered about the growth rate. The growth rate has been severely affected by drought conditions and production levels in the agriculture sector have dipped. When compared to the last four or five years, this year's production levels are the lowest. We have not witnessed this sort of an effect on the farming community earlier. The farming community, which represents the majority of the production, is really facing troubles today.

Today, the farming community is not getting any credit. When the hon. Prime Minister said in his statement that the interest on loans would be waived, everybody including myself thought that the interest on loans taken from various banks would be waived. However, they have waived only 20 per cent of the interest. This means, only a year's interest has been waived and they have deferred the balance interest that has accrued on the loans. As a result, the farming community is again getting into the debt trap. It is very difficult for them to get loans again. Which is really required by them in the coming season. This is a very serious problem. I want the hon. Minister of Finance to understand the feelings of the public and everyone else, including the feelings of hon. Members because everybody thought that the whole interest part had been waived. I shall request the hon. Minister of Finance to look into this matter.

Today, the farming community needs insurance. It has been given only for select crops and that too on a random basis. The hon. Minister of Finance has stated that a separate insurance body would be created. I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to take immediate steps to set up an insurance organisation at the national level to undertake crop insurance activity.

I now come to handloom and textiles. There are certain small powerlooms which manufacture certain branded items but they do not do it on a large scale and excise duty is being imposed on them now. I would like to urge upon the Government to exempt such units from excise duty. If the duty continues at the present level, those units would not be able to compete with the larger companies in the market. This would adversely affect the employment situation in this sector. This sector is already facing a crisis due to lack of marketing facilities and imposition of excise duty now would badly hit this sector. I request the hon. Minister of Finance to look into this.

I sincerely appreciate the steps that have been taken by the hon. Minister of Finance. I may also ask about the removal of dividend tax at the company level. But some companies can pay the dividend tax. I am very happy that he has removed the dividend tax at the level of investors. This will boost the investors. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Adhi Sankar, Kindly do not read whole the speech. You can quote some portions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : Sir, I will conclude within two or three minutes. . . .(Interruptions) As far as youth community is concerned, in the history of this House, it was the first time that the subject of youth affairs was listed for discussion in the House. Unfortunately, that did not take place.

What is the position of the youth in the country today? Unemployment is becoming acute day by day. I am sure the hon. Prime Minister is also aware of the situation. They speak of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. There are many proposals but no employment is being given. We can see that recruitment in public services has been more or less stopped because the Government is of the opinion that no further recruitment is needed. The State Government are also not filling even the posts that have fallen vacant as a result of retirements. The Central Government is also contemplating to reduce the employment opportunities for the youth. That is the position.

Through the process of disinvestment, almost all the public sector undertakings are being put up for privatisation. Youths are being thrown out of their jobs. If I am not wrong, there are about 40 crore youths awaiting employment in the country. It is a serious situation. Everyday we hear reports of criminals flourishing and the law being broken. All this is the result of our failure to provide employment for the youth. It is a very grave situation. The Budget has not addressed this serious problem. Without solving this problem, we cannot progress and we cannot claim ours to be a progressive nation. The youth in the country is discontented. Suicidal tendencies are being noticed among youths in the country. People are turning violent because they are not able to get employment.

The revenue mobilisation both for revenue and capital expenditure through the Finance Bill has to ultimately aim to fight poverty, protect the weakest and also to promote and flourish economic activity in the country to a greater height where I feel the Government has completely failed.

The Value Added Tax is a recommendation of the task force. It is considered that it has simplified the tax realisation method if so, then why is the trading community agitating? The taxation departments, both in the Centre and in the States, have failed to understand the infrastructural deficiency of the trading community. I am not opposed to the very concept of VAT *per se*. But what we are opposing from our Party is that you have got to rationalise the whole thing.

Good governance is your basic slogan. If in one project out of the 100 projects of India, in one sector your escalation is Rs. 20,000 crore, how do you take the Parliament into confidence that NDA's proclaimed agenda of governance is taking steps. If a small trader cannot pay the VAT in time, he will be booked by a police inspector but a company like ITC, Indian Tobacco has cheated the nation to the tune of Rs. 20,000 crore of excise duty.

As far as exemption of customs and all duties on metro are concerned, who is the beneficiary? The beneficiaries are the contractors. The Government must explain this while replying to the debate.

[Shri Adhi Sankar]

Regarding excise duty exemption on readymade garments. I would like to know as to what kind of mechanism you will have to see that small tailors and small groups, who buy the cloth and stitch them, are totally exempted from the tax? My appeal to the Government is that it may ask the Tax Department to give the figures before the 30th as to what percentage of the readymade garments manufactured throughout the country is under the brand-name or the trademark and what percentage of readymade garments is manufactured by the common people.

Finally, I would like to say something about Sethu Samudram Project in Tamil Nadu. It is a very long pending Project.

I request the hon. Minister of Finance to allocate some more funds for the Sethusamudram Project.

Sir, regarding the rural development programmes, not only in Tamil Nadu but I think in all the States, it is not properly implemented. Regarding the *Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana*, SGRY, wasteland development programme, watershed programmes etc. these projects are not properly implemented. The drought relief measures are also not properly monitored and maintained. I request the hon. Minister of Finance to kindly consider all these aspects.

With these words, I conclude and thank you very much.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me. I stand to oppose this Finance Bill. We had a discussion on the General Budget. Now, we are going to have a discussion on the Finance Bill. During the discussion on the General Budget, I expressed my reservation and I made a comment that it was anti-poor, anti-people and anti-farmer also.

The NDA Government has reiterated its total and unflinching commitment to their policies in regard to economic reforms. It has made loud declarations regarding the achievements expected from the wholesale reliance on

the Indian monopoly capital and the foreign financial capital and the working on the basis of unregulated market mechanism. This idea is the point of objection. This is the essence of the Budget. This Finance Bill is going to affect the financial proposals of the Central Government. That is why I oppose this Budget. It is evident that there has been a kind of total commitment to a set of instrumental and institutional policy variables as distinct from the policy goals and the social structure of our country.

In a democratic society like ours, it is very difficult to repudiate openly the responsibility to the social, economic structure, the responsibility to uplift the society as our policy goal. They have been routinely mouthed by the Government; but rarely given any operational, accountable and credible thrust nor the results obtained in the wholehearted pursuit of the proper trade policy instrument as compared and contrasted vis-à-vis these non-repudiated and non-operational socio-economic objects of our country.

While introducing the Finance Bill, the hon. Minister of Finance made some points regard to the VAT, US-64 and he has also made some points in regard to the textile industry. In regard to VAT the Government has made a gesture of compensating the losses to the States. But nothing is found in the Budget or in the Finance Bill. What is the reply of the Government in regard to VAT, regarding compensating the States? Seeds and agricultural commodities have been put within the ambit of VAT. They should be exempted. The life-saving drugs should also be exempted from VAT.

In the textile and garment sector, the small garment units throughout the country are facing serious difficulties on account of the withdrawal of SSI exemption on excise in the Union Budget on readymade garments.

So, my request to the Government is to restore the SSI excise exemption on readymade garments up to one crore of rupees.

Sir, we are talking about the banks. There are NPAs of around Rs. 120 lakh crore. All India Bank Employees Association has kindly disclosed the names of the defaulters. Now, our Government is going to denationalised

the banks and offering the shares to the defaulters who are responsible for the NPAs. I do not know what is the plan of this Government to take stringent action against these defaulters.

Sir, what about the black money? Nothing has been said in the Budget or in the Finance Bill itself in this regard. Now-a-days, black money has become a parallel economy in our country. The development of this unaccounted money is a danger to our nation, but nothing has been said about the black money. What measures the Government is going to take to recover black money from this country? Now-a-days, this should be given paramount importance.

About the customs duty and excise duty, it is evident and it is revealed that our Government has given some sort of commitment to the WTO and therefore, they have reduced the customs duty in pursuance of their commitment to the WTO. There are so many other countries which have joined WTO but they are protecting their own domestic small industries, but our Government would not. Our Government is so loyal to the WTO that beforehand, they are going to implement their conditionalities. They have given a commitment about foreign liquor to the WTO. So, they have reduced customs duty on foreign liquor from 182 per cent to 166 per cent. On the contrary, they have reduced excise duty on tyres, soft drinks, air-conditioners, motor cars etc. They have imposed duty on edible oil, vanaspati, black and white televisions, papers, and reduced rate of interest on provident fund and small savings.

I have seen in the newspaper that one task force has been set up to protect the sugarcane growers. I would request the Finance Minister, through you Sir, for getting remunerative prices for the paddy growers, the potato growers and the jute growers. A high-level committee should be set up.

I am coming to the problem of Public Distribution System, PDS. That should not be dismantled. Only targeted PDS should not be there. The PDS should be open for all people. For the persons below poverty line, the price should be less, but the other people, who are not below

poverty line, should at least get the chance to purchase foodgrains from the Government's shops. That is why, PDS should be there, and all persons, whether they are below poverty line or above poverty line, should get the opportunity to purchase commodities from the fair price shops. This sort of discrimination between persons above poverty line and persons below poverty line should not be there and Public Distribution System should not be confined only to people who are below poverty line.

Lastly, I would like to say that there was a recognition of it in the Budget Speech itself of the Finance Minister. He said : "We have to recognise the need to address reduction of not just our social but economic inequalities too."

But, Sir, finding any measures, which can really go to contribute to either social or economic equity, is like looking for a needle in a hay stack. On the contrary, the overall macro-effects of the Budget, this Finance Bill as well as the specific effects of most of the key and substantive proposals, are to widen the divide between the pampered rich and the sidelined poor. That is why, I oppose this Finance Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of Finance Bill presented by Shri Jaswant Singh. I think the targets set in this Bill reflect the NDA Government's commitment towards poverty alleviation and generation of employment, improvement in agricultural sector, small scale sector, and social sector and it would be successful in bringing about revolutionary changes. A mention of Antyodaya Yojana has been made in the Bill. This year Rs. 507 crore more have been provided under this scheme. It shows that the present Government is running largest PDS system in the world. In addition, people living below poverty line are provided wheat at Rs. 2/- per kg and rice at Rs. 3/- per kg, under this scheme thus benefitting crores of families in the country. Drastic changes have been brought in the Bill, such as import duty, custom duty, excise duty and other central taxes have been reduced. It would provide boost to our corporate sector. For the first time since Independence,

[Shri Rattan Lal Kataria]

our export has touched 51 billion US dollar. It has been possible because of hard efforts of our labour force employed in mainly crop industry, diamond industry, small-scale scientific industries and other labour intensive industries.

Before me, several hon. Members made a mention of role of small scale industries in this August House. I, too, would like to submit to hon. Minister that small scale industries in Haryana such as Panipat based, Handloom Industry, Jagadhari based utensils industry and Ambala based scientific industry, which is famous all over the world, should be granted tax relief and taxes proposed to be imposed there on should be withdrawn. Jagadhari based utensil industry is very old. I would like to say that brass sheets are heavily taxed. My submission is that this industry should be treated as small-scale industry and tax relief. Provided to small scale sector should be provided to it also. Card board industry flourishing in Yamunanagar is largest Card Board industry in Asia. It should also be provided tax relief. Several small items have been granted tax rebate. I would like to draw his attention towards a very small item. The Government have granted tax rebate on components of cycles. The representatives of cycle industry met me and told that though the Government have granted tax relief on components of cycle but 16 percent tax has been imposed on lotion used for rectifying the puncture in cycle tube. It would not only affect the common man, but the Members in the opposition including the Congress party and other political parties would find it as a pretext for propoganda and they may misuse it. They would say that tubes of luxury cars are not taxed whereas 16 percent tax on lotion has been imposed. Therefore, with a view to contain this type of propoganda, I urge the Government to withdraw tax on lotion. They are making funds of it.

Coming to Banking sector, I would like to say that the Government of India have provided credit to banks from CBI at very cheap rates but administrative cost is increasing rapidly. Consequently, loan to the last beneficiary becomes a costly affair. It is creating hardship to self-help Group (SFG) in the country.

Agriculture sector is also facing problems. Cooperative Banks get loan from RBI at the rate of 7% only, but when loan reaches the pocket of last beneficiary such as a farmer or a dalit the rate soars between 14 to 16 percent. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to simplify it. I would like to say that 500 years ago Sherhshah did a historic deed by getting GT Road constructed from Calcutta to Peshawar. And it is for the first time since independence that under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Finance Minister Shri Jaswant Singh has made a provision of Rs. 1,64,345 crore for upgradation of National Highways. Hon. Finance Minister has done a stupendous job by launching largest highway infrastructure in the world which is in progress under able supervision of hon. Prime Minister. It is indicative of the fact that the vision of NDA Government is crystal clear and that we want to bring revolution in this sector by connecting Indian cities and villages with metalled roads.

Reduction in custom duty will also boost our trade. I welcome rebate in custom duty on life saving drugs and equipments used in big hospitals. Power sector in our country is also undergoing reforms. I again welcome custom duty rebate on mega power projects.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : I have started just now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have spoken for 12 minutes.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Please give me only 10 minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you conclude.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : My motion has been left incomplete.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : His cycle got punctured.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : He is right. I was telling that status-quo has been maintained in this year's Budget in case of Standard Deductions, yet hon. Minister has provided relief i.e. 40 percent of the salary or upto Rs. 30,000 is tax-free. Similarly, rebate for Senior Citizens

has been increased from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000. Physically handicapped persons or women are included in this category.

As per 2001 census, SCs/STs constitute about 30 percent of our population. Several SCs/STs forums, even Parliamentary Forum in this regard has been demanding time and again that the rebate in the Budget should be provided in proportion to their Population. While allocating funds to various departments it should be borne in mind that persons of these categories should be able to avail full benefits of the schemes being implemented for their benefit. It is time when globalisation and reforms are taking place. No doubt certain areas, including telecommunications have progressed substantially. There are certain areas of employment generation, especially the Government sector, where SCs/STs were given appointment. But means of employment for them have been shrinking ever since private sectors role is increasing. Therefore, I would like it to be made mandatory for those private entrepreneurs who take loan of more than Rs. One crore from Government of India to set up their enterprise to provide jobs to educated persons of those classes in their enterprise.

17.00 hrs.

In this regard I would not say that they should give any relaxation in age or educational qualification but only that it be made mandatory for such institutions to provide jobs to educated people of those classes. With all conviction and resolve, I would like to say that Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar has made the dalit society capable to an extent that children of dalits are now getting as high as 94-96 percent marks. It will give a wrong message if jobs are not provided to the kids of Safai Karmacharis and cobblers who have toiled hard to ensure that their children are educated. I have made request to the hon'ble Prime Minister in this regard and have invited him in many party meetings. I would also like to congratulate hon'ble Jatiya Saheb because he had, during his ministership, took steps to remove the economic difficulties being faced by the people of my society in consultation with hon'ble Finance Minister and hon'ble Prime Minister. I would like that the steps taken by the Government result in well being of the

people of my society.

Similarly, 72 percent population of our country lives in villages where small scale industry and agriculture are major occupations. Small scale units are functioning in the village in agriculture sector. If we have to fulfill the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and hon'ble Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee then we will have to improve the condition of villages. I would like to congratulate hon'ble Minister for increasing allocation in health sector, education, drinking water, tribal welfare and for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Allocation for women and child welfare has been increased by 13 percent. Under Jana Suraksha family health insurance scheme, one rupee per person will be paid as premium and the poor would get the benefit of upto Rs. 30,000 from it. Once again I would like to congratulate hon'ble Finance Minister for presenting such a Bill as would ensure progress of the nation I would also like to congratulate hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee whose clear vision has helped India in emerging as world power. Before this Government, whenever our leaders used to go abroad, their newspapers published cartoons that showed Indian leaders visiting the country with a sole motive of seeking and if not money, then grains. But now, our godowns are brimming with grains and our foreign exchange reserves have crossed \$ 86 billion. With these words, I support the Finance Bill, 2003 and conclude.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Finance Bill. I come from an North-Eastern area, an area about which the hon. Finance Minister is well aware because he was very much involved during the days of the agitation of AASU in Assam.

He visited for political reasons, and he contributed a lot for the development of North-Eastern region. Unfortunately, Sir, I think, today, without your knowledge something is going on in North-Eastern region. It is not sending a correct message in spite of the earnest desire of the hon. Prime Minister as well as your goodself. I will primarily try to deal with some of those subjects. I am glad you are here. I am sure you will give due consideration

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

about all these things. When you were sitting this side. I have heard myself, as a Minister sitting here, your speeches and you always spoke about North-Eastern region. So, I take this opportunity to speak about North-Eastern region before the Finance Minister to whom the North-Eastern region is very near and dear one. Now, I would like to draw your kind attention about the Gascracker Plant which was a part and parcel of the Assam Accord signed by Shri Rajiv Gandhi with AASU in 1985. Since then, it is 18 years and it has not taken shape any way. What is the reason? The first problem came because the natural gas was not available to the extent, it was needed. There was a dialogue between the various concerns, and after a long time it was solved. The Indian Oil Corporation agreed to supply LPG. When that problem was solved, the problem of the viability of the project came. It was because there was a difference in prices between the LPG and the natural gas. Naturally, the question of the viability of the scheme came. Now, this is the major hitch which is standing in the way. How can this project be made more viable? Who will fill up the gap, the gap between the price of natural gas and LPG? I do not know who will fill up it. But, since it is connected with the Assam Accord, it needs special consideration of the Government of India, particularly from the Finance Ministry and particularly because you are there. I will say something has to be thought very, very soon. It is because at one time it was declared by the Unit of the Assom Gana Parishad, and the BJP that some declaration will come from the hon. Prime Minister which has not yet come. There must be some basic problem. Still I feel that no further delay will be done. Something will be done to fulfil the desire of the youth of that area. It is because this will cater to the needs of the employment of the whole North-Eastern region. Hundreds of engineers, technocrats are sitting idle. They need employment. This is the one project which will give employment. Necessary provision of subsidy to make good the gap between the viability and non-viability of this project must be made in this Budget. This is my humble appeal. I am not complaining. It is because I know you are a very, very progressive Finance Minister, and you do take care of the genuine problem of the area.

The second is about the withdrawal of the tax incentives to the industries of the North-Eastern region. You know, for ten years, Special Industrial Policy was declared. We are glad to see that some outside agencies are starting their industries. If I understand well and if I know well, some cigarette companies misused the benefit which was given, namely, tax exemption and excise exemption for those who will start these industries. I fully agree with the Finance Minister when he said that this is not on. You punish that particular industry. But why is everyone punished? The Ministry has taken away this concession with retrospective effect.

This is more shocking for us. Betel nut is grown all over Assam. The Minister had come to Assam; he had been offered *tambul* and *pan*. Betel nut is grown and you will be shocked to know – we are also guilty as Congressmen – most of the betel nut used to go to Bangladesh due to smuggling. After the policy of the Government of India, some people went there and started *pan masala* business and chewing of *pan* and it went on very well. About 1700 boys had been employed. It had also started in Tripura and other North Eastern States. Now, suddenly the withdrawal of that concession, and more so, with retrospective effect, will definitely be a very deterring factor for us. I would humbly request you to do something.

I know that the hon. Minister is annoyed because they had gone to the High Court of Guwahati and got an injunction. His Ministry had gone to the Supreme Court on an appeal. In this Finance Bill one particular clause has been included so that it could regularise it. I would request you to consider this. Considering the employment potential, that should be reviewed because you should consider the backwardness, insurgency position of the North East and the need for its development as also the employment potential of our future generations.

Industry is one of the keys to any development. The motive with which it was given by the Central Government and particularly of the present Prime Minister, it is a very welcome one; it should be maintained and not taken away. If the words of the successive Prime Ministers are taken away, you will be doubted. The agents who are trying to

destabilise the North Eastern Region would then say that there was an example; the Prime Ministers come and go; they say many things; but their words are not backed by the successive Governments. So, I would say that with the mandate of the High Court, you should try to take this into consideration.

Again, Mr. Finance Minister, I would draw your attention to the withdrawal of excise concession from the refineries. For ten years, it was given; you have already allowed 50 per cent. The Numaligarh Refinery is also a bi-product of the Assam agitation. We ourselves were against this agitation, but we were happy when the agreement was signed by Shri Rajiv Gandhi with those boys; they had not only asked for political power; they wanted some economic package from the Government of India, the then Congress Government. A technical institution was sanctioned and it started functioning. Those boys are getting education now.

Now the refineries have been deprived of this excise concession. I do not know why it has been done. You may kindly reconsider it and it should continue. Otherwise, the proposal will be a suicidal one for our State.

I will go to the next point. I am putting all this is short because I do not want to take much time of the House. I just want to touch the point because all the issues are very well known to the Finance Minister. There is the problem of tea industry. I congratulate the Finance Minister because he has reduced the rate by one rupee. He did not do only that, but he has also formed a fund. I would request him not to be miser, and to have the other one also with that. It was done in the past; Shri Manmohan Singh did it when it was in trouble. A time will come for tea industry when it will pay Rs. 5 and give you precious foreign exchange also. Now in our State, in Kerala, and also in West Bengal, the tea industry is in a very bad shape. So, he has to reconsider the excise duties.

Secondly, I would also appeal to him on this. The godowns are full of rice and wheat. The management is supposed to give rice and wheat at subsidised rates. They cannot afford; they cannot pay provident fund; they cannot pay electricity bills; they cannot maintain hospitals. So, he

has to see that that should continue with at least the minimum ration supplies to labourers because it is a labour-oriented industry.

17.15 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

We have appealed to the Pime Minister, appealed to the then Commerce Minister, Shri Arun Shourie, to give PDS rates to the tea industry so that they can buy from it and need not buy at high price from FCI and suffer. About three million people are employed in the tea industry and they originally belong to UP, Bihar and Orissa but for generations they are in Assam. So, they are as good as Assamese but they are suffering very much. I would request you to consider this.

I would try to say a word about the Tenth Finance Commission award. Injustice was done to Assam. It is now agreed that it was a mistake. Smaller States like Nagaland, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh got Rs. 3536 crores. Rs. 11.211 crores and Rs. 4.549 crores respectively as non-Plan revenue grant but Assam got only Rs. 110 crores. We are glad to hear our Chief Minister saying yesterday that this year's Plan as well as non-Plan allocations to Assam are made in a better way and the Planning Commission has also appreciated the financial management of our Government. The Planning Commission has also taken into consideration the new Power Bill that has been introduced in Assam where they have securitised the backlog and have also introduced the Power Bill. I would request that Rs. 1000 crore which was not given to Assam should be given back so that we could overcome the overall financial crisis which we are facing. Our State Government is paying monthly salaries, is giving basic amenities to the people. We are utilising money, other than the Central Government help, on the development work that is going on DRDA. Hon. Prime Minister was kind enough to have discussed with the hon. Finance Minister and have allowed us to get money after paying 10 to 15 per cent as and when situation arises, which otherwise we are entitled to get after paying 25 per cent. It is a very welcome step. So, I would request you to consider this backlog which has not been given to us.

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

I now come to the mega railway projects which have been given to Kashmir and other States. We demanded Barrack Valley conversion of broad-gauge from Lamding to Silcher should be taken up. I had recently met the Prime Minister and had given a Memorandum also. We are happy that Brahmaputra Bridge is being developed. The Prime Minister had gone and inaugurated the work on it. He had assured that there is no dearth of fund. There is not a single Kilometre of electric line in Assam. I suggest the hon. Finance Minister, since he has a soft corner for the Northeast, to grant an electric train from Guwahati to Dibrugarh and we shall name it as Jaswant Singh Train. We would welcome it. Let us get that train. I understand that the Railway Minister has told that it is not at all costly because infrastructure is there and only electric line is to be laid. I sincerely request you to consider this.

I now come to the hydel projects. The Prime Minister is giving very-very serious consideration to it. Recently when he inaugurated a plant in Sikkim he had told that we are neglecting the hydel power. The world over the ratio of hydel to thermal power is 60:40 whereas it is just the reverse in our country. We are generating more thermal power than the hydel power though we have got the highest potential for hydel power in our country. Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir can contribute a lot and maximum can be contributed by the Northeast region.

The Tipaimukh Dam project in Manipur is in final stages. A Cabinet Note would soon go. The problems which this project is facing are: security cost, flood cost, and the diversion of National Highways cost. If these three costs are loaded in the project cost, the project becomes unviable. Now, the Ministry of Power is going to the respective Central Ministries with the request to bear this expenditure. I understand from the discussion with the Home Minister that they are considering to bear the security cost up to 50 per cent. But it should be cent per cent.

The flood management cost should also be given. Assam is a perennially flood-affected area. The river Brahmaputra is still a river of misery. During the last five

years, very minimum amount has been given for flood management to Assam. So, this is also creating problems. Therefore, you kindly consider it. I would request that when the Tipaimukh Dam project comes before yourself, it should be given all possible help.

As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Energy, I wrote a letter to you on 24th December, 2002 and suggested some measures to be taken in the Finance Bill. I am really very grateful that in your Budget for 2003-04, you have given concessions to mega power projects, both for generation and transmission. You have also declared cent per cent excise duty exemption. I congratulate you on behalf of the Standing Committee on Energy. When I toured all over the country as Chairman of the Standing Committee, I received those suggestions which I gave to you. You must have got a letter of congratulations. I also got a letter of congratulation for ventilating their cause before you. I thank you for doing this. I do not want to go into the details. I will give you a note.

I also wrote to you regarding review of Section 80-1A of the Income Tax Act. It needs a slight amendment. I also wrote to you about Section 115JB of the Income Tax Act, 1961 which needs to be corrected. These are small amendments by which SEBs would be able to go for modernisation of their plants. If it is done, they will be in a position to bring things from outside also. For example, if the private sector companies which are taking over in Delhi, bring something like machines from outside, they would get some tax concession on that. I will give you a copy of this so that you could have a look at it.

Sir, to promote power sector, hundred per cent depreciation should be allowed. One of the reasons why I am suggesting this is that, this was done in Mexico and they were very successful. That would give incentive to people to invest and banks will also be encouraged to finance. It is because sometimes due to the fact that depreciation is not allowed by the Income Tax Act, it becomes unviable.

In my letter, I also gave details regarding hedging cost and re-introduction of investment allowance. When you go back and have a dialogue with your officers, please ask

your officers to place before you my letter of 24th December, 2002. You had committed that these suggestions will also be considered. This is not my suggestion alone. This is the suggestion from Maharashtra, Karnataka and all over the country. Sir, you allowed me to tour and I toured 28 States. The Electricity Bill has been passed and if this is also done, the power sector will improve and this will be remembered for years to come. It is because power is the ingredient of the real development of the country.

Sir, with these words, I thank you for giving me the permission to speak. I hope the North-Eastern region will be in your mind always and you will do some justice to us.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I thank the hon. Finance Minister that while piloting the Finance Bill, he expressed his concern at the miserable plight of the powerloom industry and the readymade industry.

Sir, the Budgetary proposal levying Excise Duty on these industries came as a thunderbolt. It was and it is a fatal Excise Duty, breaking the back of these industries. It forced the various units to close down and the workers were driven to the verge of starvation. At that time I wrote to the hon. Finance Minister drawing his attention to the plight of those in these industries.

Sir, look at the situation today in these industries. There are 17 lakh powerloom industries in our country. More than four crore people drawn from weaker sections, especially the Minorities and Backward Classes depend upon these powerloom industry for their livelihood. In case of powerloom, the daily production is to the extent of Rs. 350 crore. The powerloom industry is an unorganised and decentralised sector. Those in this industry, as I said, are from the weaker sections, especially the Minorities, the Backward Classes and so on. These units are located in the dwelling houses. The one who is called the powerloom owner really works on his powerloom and is assisted by other family members. Nearly 90 per cent of those in this industry are not so literate or educated to be able to maintain complicated records. Under such a situation, this

Excise Duty, for the first time since Independence, has been levied upon such a vulnerable section of our society.

Sir, in the case of readymade garments industry also we find that more than three crore people, drawn again from, as I said, the weaker sections, the Minorities and the Backward Classes, depend upon this industry for their livelihood. Nearly 90 per cent of this readymade garments industry is in the unorganised and decentralised sector. We talk of brand names but it should be remembered that not more than two per cent of the producers of readymade garments bring out these brand articles.

The powerloom industry or the ready-made garments industry is located in the houses of the people and they work upon them. Illiterate and not much educated people who are not able to maintain those complicated records run them. I may point out that the powerloom industry or the ready-made garments industry is already under heavy Excise Duty levies. The Excise Duty is collected on the manufacture of yarn. At the processing level there is the Excise Duty is payable on dyeing, printing, bleaching, etc. This Excise Duty on the powerloom cloth or the ready-made garments is very merciless, fatal and devastating.

At the time of piloting the Finance Bill, the Finance Minister expressed his concern at the situation and assured the House that necessary steps will be taken. Once again, I reiterate my appeal to withdraw this particular Excise levy and to take into consideration the miserable plight of the powerloom and the ready-made garments manufacturing people. I hope that the response of the Finance Minister at the time of the passage of the Bill will be adequate in the form of bringing about necessary amendments. I hope he would accept fully the demands, which are very legitimate ones, made by these industries. This is the question of their survival and it has to be understood very seriously.

Let me move on to some other matters. There is the Minority Financial Development Corporation. It was established a few years back. At the time of its inception, the nation was assured that it would have an equity capital of Rs. 500 crore. Years have rolled on; but the capital is barely to the extent of Rs. 200 crore or so. I strongly appeal

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

to the Finance Minister to see that this Minority Financial Development Corporation receives its full equity capital in order to be able to serve these vulnerable sections of our society.

The Planning Commission had a committee and this committee formulated certain proposals for the economic and educational development of the minorities. It is shocking to see that the proposals formulated by the very committee of the Planning Commission for the minorities finds no place in the final Tenth Five Year Plan. It is just thrown totally overboard and jettisoned. This is the attitude shown towards this proposal. I hope the Finance Minister will consider the matter seriously and take the necessary corrective steps.

I have to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to some of the problems being faced by Kerala. In Kerala, coconut, tea, coffee, rubber, pepper, ginger and so on, all these spicy products are facing serious crisis. I may say that coconut occupies a dominant position in the economy of Kerala.

Forty per cent of the cultivated area is under the cultivation of coconut and more than 3.5 million families drawn from marginal and small farmers depend upon it for their livelihood. It is necessary that the problems of coconut industry be understood. Not only is there the question of the serious and the sharp decline in their prices but there are also several other aspects to it. Nearly eighty lakh wilt root diseased palms are there in Kerala. Then, two per cent of the palms, that is nearly forty lakhs, are senile and old. The productivity of coconut in the case of Kerala is much less as compared to the other major coconut-growing States in our country. Therefore, we have to come forward with the necessary and adequate relief measures for this purpose.

The Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal of about Rs. 357.14 crore under the Technology Mission Programme of the Centre for the revival of the coconut economy. I appeal to the Government to see that it is expeditiously sanctioned.

Before I conclude, I must say that the Budget is replete with delusions. There is this talk about second Green Revolution, but there is no plan. Just Rs. 50 crore have been allocated for horticulture. There was one rupee per Kg. excise duty on tea. This has been changed to cess which will give the Government hardly Rs. 80 crore fund. For the development of tea, it is inadequate. In the case of Kerala and Bengal, for the development of tea, a lot of attention has to be paid.

In the social sector, given the grants given are not properly utilised. I, therefore, conclude by saying that the Budget is replete with delusions. I have my own apprehensions about the so talked about second Green Revolution and boosting of the rural economy. For the industrialisation of the rural economy, hardly Rs. 0.90 crore has been provided. Is that how the rural economy is to be boosted? Therefore, I would like to say that a greater practical attention has to be paid rather than have a Budget that deludes the entire nation.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi) : I have risen in support of Finance Bill. First of all, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. The budget of a country reflects the direction to which it is moving. Our intelligent Finance Minister, while presenting the budget reminded the people of this country that the poors have first claim to budget. Hon'ble Finance Minister has taken care of the weakest sections of the country. Thereafter hon'ble Minister has given his attention to enable the housewives to save through controlling their expenditure.

I thank him for giving his full attention to the poors, those living below poverty line. Decision to expand the scope of Antyodaya Yojana from 1st April was taken so that 50 lakh families could be brought under its ambit. Through the scheme, more than one fourth of the poor families were benefited. Additional provision of Rs. 507 crore has been made for that purpose. Through it, Government have showed its resolve to feed the poor and the attention paid by the hon'ble Minister towards the poor proves what he

think about them. Hon'ble Minister has presented the budget with good intention.

He has made a number of provisions in the budget to ensure that housewives have more money in their purse, which they call 'Tukia'. All of you are aware that he has proposed to reduce the excise duty from 16 to 8 percent on a number of items of common use. A number of other products have been exempted from tax.

Even during the discussion on previous year's budget I had submitted that cycle is the vehicle of the poor. Excise duty on cycle and its spare parts should be waived. Hon'ble Finance Minister did that. Tax on toys has also been waived. Taxes have either been waived or reduced on Kitchenware, spoons, knives etc. which has enabled housewives to save more thus encouraging them. Not only that, in the previous year's budget, we were concerned about salaried workers. Hon'ble Finance Minister should be thanked for giving relief to salaried workers. In budget, standard deduction on income upto Rs. 5 lakh has been increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000 or 40 percent, whichever is less.

I would like to thank hon'ble Finance Minister for providing income tax relief on an amount of upto Rs. 24000 that is spent on education of two children. When the Finance Minister of any country has to give so many concessions, then in order to provide balance to budget he has to take some hard steps, too. And the ruling party has the task of ascertaining the impact of such hard steps on people.

I would like to give a few suggestions to hon'ble Finance Minister. during last budget I had asked hon'ble Finance Minister either to make some arrangements of pension for senior citizens or to increase interest rate on their deposits so that they are able to spend rest of their lives well but he did not agree. I represent Kashi. Old persons from all over the country come to Kashi in search of salvation. They put whatever little money they have in banks and survive on the interest and such people come to Kashi to get salvation after death. Quoting this, I had requested hon'ble Finance Minister to increase interest rate for senior citizens. In place of increasing interest rate on this year's budget he has proposed an insurance

scheme which may provide some relief to them. I am thankful to hon'ble Finance Minister for that also. In society at large, a number of issues are discussed which we have to express here. I would like to ask hon'ble Minister to consider a new taxation system. Our Finance Minister is of innovative bent of mind and keep on implementing new ideas. When I asked for higher interest rate, he gave us an insurance scheme. Similarly, I suggest that there should be a tax system which has no place for corruption, inspector raj and tax evasion.

A Committee be formed to suggest measures for more revenue to States, less burden of direct tax on consumers and simplified procedure for traders to pay taxes, and this committee should consist of producers, traders, economists, Finance Ministers of various States, tax experts and representatives of consumers as its members. The committee should provide us such a taxation system which would result in more tax collection, less burden and liberation from inspector raj. There are some hardships for readymade garments. Earlier tax was imposed on yarn. Now taxes are imposed first on weaving of the cloths then on its washing and third time on its stitching. All these three taxes together are so high that it has become difficult for traders and employees to maintain record. So, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that he should certainly ponder over it and it would be better if tax rebate is given to traders who are doing this business.

Today, powerloom has become a controversial subject. I would like to submit that the hon'ble Minister of Finance has made announcement regarding the powerloom. He is going to reconsider it. Probably he wants to reduce the tax as it is being demanded from every quarter. However, I would like to submit that handloom industry is a very big industry. The Government have always been pondering over to provide maximum relief to the handloom industry and we are the followers of the principles of Shri Dinūdayal Upadhya. He said that the proper attention should be paid to the welfare of the society and so the present budget has been prepared keeping in view the interests of the poors of society. The first preference has been given to the weaker section of society under the Antayodaya scheme. Similarly, with a view to

[Shri Shankar Prasad Jaiswal]

promote handloom industry, some hints have been given regarding the review of the concession to the powerloom. You assured for providing rebate to this sector. However I would certainly like to submit that a definite initiatives be taken regarding the ongoing strike in powerloom sector. The talks should be held in this regard and the issue should be resolved. With these words, I would like to extend my thanks to you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : I am sorry that I could not come yesterday because of preoccupation in the *panchayat* elections in West Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER : Parliament must be given top priority and not the *panchayat* elections.

SHRI TRILCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur) : Neither he was present yesterday nor he was present doay since morning.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : First of all, I am expressing my satisfaction for a successful test of a new missile from Chandipur this morning. I express my deep concern about the decrease of interest rate from 6.25 per cent to 6 per cent just now announced by the Reserve Bank Governor on the savings of the poor employees. Of course, a sop has been announced that this will not further decrease within October this year. It may decrease after that but it will not decrease within October this year. Sir, experts say that deflation is a mechanism for massive centralisation of capital on world scale and, hence, much favoured by all the different segments of international finance capital.

Since international finance capital is the driving spirit behind the new liberalised economic policies imposed on the Third World, deflation is an inevitable feature for such a policy design. So, it was not at all surprising to me when the Government had drawn a deflationary Budget with reduction in the Government expenditure with deliberately creating losses in the public sector undertakings to generate pressure for privatisation.

It was also not suprising that the Government would allow the efficiency of the Government machinery and also that of the public sector undertakings slide down instead of upgrading them in keeing with the time and the need of the hour of this imperialist-driven global scenario. The capitalists and big landloards are under the cover of farmers which is a word often repeated in Parliament, but there are only farm owners, not peasants.

Since the capitalists and big landlords were in dire need of capital and infrastructural development which the Government of India has created for the last 50 years, it has to be just handed over to them. It is at their behest these were created and it is at their behest that these are being handed over to them. This is the law of capitalist development. As a Marxist, I am very much aware of this law, and that is why I am not surprised when the capitalists prescribe something and the Government follows it. But it pains me when we see the utter dishonesty of these capitalists, the rich people who not only evade taxes and misappropriate public funds, but also raise a bogey of work culture which they themselves do not practise at all. They do all these things only to cover up their inefficiency and incompetence as capitalists. On this account, I urge upon the Minister of Finance to disclose the details of tax evasion. I request him to disclose, for Heaven's sake, what is happening in the field of tax evasion. He should disclose the major players in creation of NPAs.

Sir, while presenting the deflationary Budget, the Finance Minister has chosen to hit the peasantry precisely at a time when they are already in a crisis. The fertiliser prices have been jacked up, light diesel oil used for running pump sets would now attract an additional duty of Rs. 1.50 per litre and this is in addition to the general hike in petrol and diesel prices. Then, a cess of 50 paise per litre of diesel has been levied and the cess of 50 paise per litre on domestic and imported crude oil has also been levied.

And also from some other funds some cess is there.

The national calamity contingency fund has been created. It is a practically political fund in the hands of the Government because for the same extent of calamity, for

the same nature of calamity happening in Gujarat, happening in Andhra Pradesh, happening in Assam or West Bengal or in other States, the criteria is different. Some States are discriminated against. I do not want to go into all these details at this moment.

However, peasantry being worst hit, the leading rate of agriculture has been hiked up by two per cent above the existing lending rate. I do not know why.

Now, I come to powerloom. Much has been said on that and I only add to it that I am also in support of what has been said in favour of powerloom by a lot of my friends here in this House. I would request that this should be exempted from taxation.

I would request that the real price and tax of crude oil, petrol, diesel, etc. be disclosed on the floor of the House. I fear that most of the amount collected by the Government of India by way of taxes is from various streams and a huge amount is being collected. Almost a third of the taxes is being collected from petro-products alone.

About tax reforms it has been said that :

"since it refers to the total savings by the States over the entire residual of the maturity period, on account of both interest payment. . ."

About restructuring and fiscal consolidation, it was said :

"that the deficit will be off-set partly by a shift from sales tax to VAT."

For that I want to add and conclude by saying that VAT is inevitable. That would be bounden on the system of taxation. The States and the Centre have to address themselves with more details of the modus operandi of the VAT system. While, I am urging upon the Government to do away with the Central sales tax, VAT has to be modified and the Government of India and the State Governments should come to an understanding and develop a modus operandi to operate in all the States. Partially, in a haste, if it is implemented in some parts of the country, it will bring about some disastrous results, I fear.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me time to speak on Finance Bill 2003. The Budget should be such that it should be easily comprehensible for the common people. Though the rate of literacy in our country is 60-65 percent.

18.00 hrs.

but fact is that only a few people are able to understand the language of the Budget. So there is a need to simplify the language of the Budget. The accounts of Budget should be transparent. This will lead to give boost the confidence of the people in the administration and the tax collection will be easy. The tax collection will increase and it will add momentum to the development. The financial jangons used in budget make it difficult for the common people to understand it. I believe that only 2-5 percent people understand the language of budget. So through you I would like to request the hon. Minister of Finance that whenever the Budget is presented, its language should be simple so that the common people of the country may understand it. The budget for the year 2003-2004 is of Rs. 4,38,795 crore and out of which non-plan expenditure is Rs. 317,821 crore and the plan expenditure is Rs. 1,30,974 crore.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I extend the time of the House with the consent of the House, upto 7 o'clock today.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Sir, the said amount is collected through taxes. It is irony that even after the expenditure of more than Rs. 4 lakh crore, there is no desired improvement in the condition of the country. The major hurdle in our way is budget deficit which is continuously increasing. The budget deficit in the year 2001-2002 was 1,40,000 crore. It increased to Rs. 1,45,000 in 2002-2003. In 2003-2004 it has increased to Rs. 1,53,000 crore. The increase in deficit is due to continuous increase in non-development expenditure, that

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

is non plan expenditure is continuously increasing. This expenditure was Rs. 2,89,000 crore in the year 2002-03 and in 2003-2004 non-plan expenditure is Rs. 3,17,821 crore. When non-plan expenditure increases, the tax is imposed or the money is borrowed by the Government. The fact is that we have crossed the limit of imposing the tax. It is on account of the apprehension of becoming unpopular, the Government borrow and the burden of borrowing of the country is continuously increasing. When the present Government was formed in March 1998 the total domestic market borrowing of the country was Rs. 3,89,000 crore which increased to Rs. 10,37,000 crore in December, 2002. As the borrowing increases, the interest on the amount will also go up. So through you, I would like to submit that the Government are burdening the common people of the country and are snatching their means of livelihood. The Minister of Petroleum has himself accepted in the House that there are 146 percent tax on petrol and 62 percent tax on diesel. The politician like Kautilya had said – 'the king should impose tax keeping in view the interest of the subjects as the black bee that takes honey from the flowers but flower neither fades nor is perished.' However, in our country there is continuous increase in tax and the tax burden on common people is heaping. This tax is collected not from the rich people rather it is being collected from the poor people. It is on account of the increase in the transportation charges that the price of petrol and diesel is increased and consequently the milk which is sold at the rate of Rs. 7 to 8 per litre in the village is sold at the rate of Rs. 18/- per litre to the poor consumers. Similarly the apple which is sold at the rate of Rs. 3-5 per kg in Himachal Pradesh is sold at Rs. 20-25 per kg in the cities like Mumbai and Calcutta because of the increase in the transportation charge involved in it. There are some families who cannot afford to purchase apple for the sick family members. The articles which are essential for common man are sold at higher rates and the price of petroleum products are continuously rising.

As far as the textile industry is concerned, taxes are imposed at various level of production of textile. First tax

is imposed at the time of spinning of yarn then on the process of preparation of yarn for weaving thereafter on wearing, knitting and processing and then lastly on preparing garments. Thus tax is imposed at six levels in textile production. It is not justified. As per my information 9.2 percent tax is imposed on the spinning of yarn, 12 percent on weaving and 12 percent on preparing garments, that is 34 percent tax is imposed on preparing garments.

Mr. Seaker, Sir, it is mentioned in the budget that subsidy is responsible for non-plan expenditure. Through you. I would like to submit that the Government make hue and cry on the subsidy given on LPG. Regarding LPG I would like to submit that the Government itself have accepted that the cost of production of petrol is Rs. 13 per litre. As I have said that 146 percent tax is imposed on petrol. The Government itself have accepted that the expenditure on transportation of LPG comes to Rs. 1.33 k.m. per metric ton. Thus the transportation charges of one kg. Of LPG to one thousand km comes to Rs. 1.33. There is very less difference between the production and demand of LPG in the country. The Government accepts that LPG have not been imported, however import price is taken as the basis for giving subsidy on it as the oil companies and the Ministry of Finance are benefitted by way of hiding the actual production cost of LPG. When the demand of LPG is met by the production LPG in the country then why the import price is being taken as the basis for this purpose.

Just now, Shri Banatwala ji was raising the question that I was wanting to raise in the morning. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is also related to you so we seek your protection. Since, large scale production of readymade garments take place in Mumbai also, this is a very serious issue. All the hon. Members of the House have raised this issue. Ten lakh small units are lying closed since 31 March and this sector gives employment to around two crore people. Recently, on 25th April, the hon. Prime Minister said that the Government have develop a new working procedure. It can be successful only when we would follow the old concept of service. It means that we should promote small and cottage industries. Sir, handloom and readymade garments industries need to be protected for, as many

children and women are engaged in this job. The future of crores of people depend on this service. I respect the chair, but your parliamentary constituency is also affected. Therefore, I would like that you should personally talk of Minister of Finance that excise duty imposed on readymade garments is not justified. It will add to starvation and unemployment, the common man will be deprived employment of opportunities and chaos would be created in the entire country. I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chandrakant Khaire, Khaireji, you are having five minutes.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : Sir, five minutes are not enough.

MR. SPEAKER : I am extending your time by two minutes, and given you seven minutes.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I followed your words.

MR. SPEAKER : Today, you cooperated so much, it is an exception to the rule.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. First of all I would like to thank the NDA Government for presenting a very good budget in the House. This budget is very beneficial for the proposal. There were two three objectionable things in it, I would like to thank the Government for the roll back in the proposed price hike of fertilizers on request of Shiv Sena and other Members to the Prime Minister. Secondly, the hon'ble Minister has given statement in regard to tax imposed on textile industry, garment industry and other small industries. In regard to the statement, I would like to say that tomorrow hon'ble Minister should confirm the same in his reply. It will please the small traders.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Maharashtra is affected by severe drought, due to which farmers over there are in a deplorable condition. Therefore through you, I would like to submit to the Minister of Finance to do whatever possible for farmers, otherwise all the farmers would be ruined.

There are many sugar mills in Maharashtra. The rate of imported sugar is low and due to higher production cost, the rate of sugar produced in the country is high. We have also lowered the price of sugarcane, due to which farmers are suffering a lot. The difference in sugar prices should also be borne by the Union Government and import of sugar should be banned. Similarly, the import of milk from Norway and other countries should be banned so that milk producers of the country may get benefit.

Indian Express has published a service which revealed that many people had taken crores of rupees from many banks. I requested the owner of Fateza industries for local employment, and he did it. After that he took 850 crores from bank for setting up Baluj plant. Similar plants are in Bhusari and Pune. He embezzled the money and fled after closing the factory.

MR. SPEAKER : Did you take up this matter with the hon. Minister of State. Ask him as to what happened?

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : I am asking the same thing to the hon. Minister of Finance.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister of Finance is present, but please ask it to the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance. He is of your party.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : I would also like to submit to the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, to conduct inquiry in regard to crores of rupees embezzled by big industrialists as per the report published in Indian Express. The hon'ble Minister is in charge of banking department, therefore without bothering the Finance Minister, he should conduct an inquiry in this regard, as a number of persons embezzled money taken from banks. 70 products of small scale industries in Maharashtra have been lessened, but no aid has been provided to them. Banks do not assist in sanctioning loan for small scale industries. Even the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance is unable to influence them and they want a large number of formalities to be fulfilled which hinders the process of getting Finance. I am surprised, if small scale industrialist do not get finance, then how come big industrialists get finance, what action have you taken

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

against those who pass NPA? CMD and EDs of companies have embezzled crores of rupees, as I cited the example of Fateja. I can cite many other examples, but as you allotted me less time, I would not be able to cite more examples.

MR. SPEAKER : No, please cite the examples.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Yes, thank you.
... (Interruptions)

Our Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance who is in charge of banking is present here. I would like to tell him that NPA of big industrialist have reached worth 65,000 crore rupees.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : NPA is increasing, but MPLAD is not increasing.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : I am mentioning that also, if hon'ble Minister of Finance does not increase the funds under MPLAD, we will not pass this bill tomorrow. The amount should be increased by one crore.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Not one crore, but two crores.

SHRI RAMDASH ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : It should be five crores.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Our hon'ble Minister had made announcement of increasing one crore, therefore the amount should be increased by one crore. What is the present number of NPAs. The number of NPAs is increasing, inquiry in this regard should be conducted. If Labour problem arises, industry is closed, sometimes it is due to difference between partners or director. Non availability of raw material affects production and subsequently sale too get affected. These are the causes that industries run in loss, this is true.

But losses are suffered because of the policy makers, CMDs and EDs of the companies. They do not deposit money and commit embezzlement. I had mentioned about API day before yesterday while mentioning about the

workers Bill. The Chairman of API, Shri A.C. Muthaiyya is also the Chairman of FICCI. One day hon. Prime Minister was going to attend a function but a statement was issued from his office that the FICCI Chairman is a bankrupt for Rs. Two and a half crore and even today he has not made payment to people of API which is in my constituency. People are starving to death there, but hon. Prime Minister is going in the function under the Chairmanship of such persons instead of giving something to those people. Thereafter many of the Members of FICCI invited the hon. Prime Minister for their sake and so he went. Perhaps hon. Minister of Finance did not go in the programme of FICCI but irony is that no action is taken against the Chairman of FICCI even if he is bankrupt.

Sir, the Chairman of FICCI should be removed of course, FICCI is a separate institution but we seek its advice. Their advisors visit us and we call FICCI advisors while making the Budget. I, therefore request that assistance should be provided to small scale industries. There is no benefit of helping the big people. There are many such issues, but I would like to raise one issue of Maharashtra Shiv Sena has started the work of linking rivers in Maharashtra. Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, and MP from my party, is sitting here. He has constituted different water councils in Maharashtra.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : Our hon. Speaker also belongs to his party.

MR. SPEAKER : Speaker does not belong to any party.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot of benefit is going to be garnered by our farmers of Maharashtra and the common people with this programme of linking the rivers. I would really be happy if the hon. Minister of Finance make an announcement during his reply to the discussion for allocating funds in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that Mumbai contributes 44 percent of revenue. The Union Government gets maximum of revenue from Mumbai as it is the financial capital of the country; but the Government do not give even rupees 100 crore to Mumbai. You yourself have also been the Mayor and Chief Minister of Mumbai and are now here

as Speaker, Lok Sabha. I request that if you make a kind effort, then Government can definitely give more funds for Mumbai.

Sir, there is one more logic for providing more funds to Mumbai that foreign groups visit Mumbai. Visit of foreigners to big cities effects the infrastructure of that city. So many problems pertaining to water, power, health services and accommodation come up. I therefore, request that the order of 01.01.1995 should be implemented in Mumbai. Still 300 families come to Mumbai everyday from outside. I, therefore request that funds should be given by the Central Government for slum improvement, SRI of those people who have migrated to Mumbai after 01.01.1995.

Sir, at the end, I would request that funds under local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) should be increased. Presnelty, an MP can get developmental works worth rupees two crore in his constituency in a year. I request that it should be atleast doubled. There are six MLAs in my constituency. Somewhere there are nine, MLAs and at some places, there are only four MLAs. There are many Parliamentary constituencies in Delhi which have four Legislative Assembly constituencies. It is almost everywhere. An MLA in Delhi gets around rupees one crore for development work in his constituency. We get only rupees two crore. In Maharashtra, one MLA gets around 85 lakhs under this scheme. As such the funds received by MPs under this scheme are meagre. I, through you request that the said amount may be doubled.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that the amount of Rs. two crore should be increased under this MPLAD Scheme. Each district gets around rupees four crores under the Gramin Sadak Yojana' of Department of Rural Development. I would like to submit that rupees two crore out of the said amount should be spent through the MPs. and for that purpose rules should be changed.

Sir, at the end, I would say that MP who are the Chairman of vigilance of the District of Monitoring agency should be appointed the Chairman of Centrally sponsored schemes, today there was a question on rural development they issued a circular that MP of the concerned area would

be the Chairman of the schemes and as a Chairman he would look after all the centrally sponsored schemes of rural development, be it health department, or Urban development or any other department, and such provision be made in the circular then the MP would have control on the funds which is released from the centre. With these words, I conclude and extend my thanks to you for giving an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : I have names of ten Members who are to speak. You know that I have to finish the debate at 7.00 o'clock, therefore, everyone would be given chance to speak only for five minutes. I request all the hon. Members to conclude their speech within these five minutes only.

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate.

I come from the North-Eastern Region. I will try to highlight the aspirations of the people of the North-Eastern Region. I represent most tea growing areas of the country. The tea industry is passing through a great difficulty and the tea industry has employed about three million people in the country. Many of the tea gardens in Kerala, in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have been closed down. In my State also, it is facing a very great problem and we have requested the hon. Minister of Finance to withdraw one rupee excise duty. He has kindly withdrawn one rupee and another one rupee remains. That was withdrawn when the tea industry was in difficult period.

18.22 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In the Eastern India, they supply the concessional rate of ration to the workers. If the Government decides to provide the BPL rate of ration to the tea garden workers, because the godowns are full, then that will be one of the reliefs to the tea industry. The Government has to take some steps in this regard. The tea industries are in backward and remote areas. The Government has to find

[Shri Prban Singh Ghatowar]

out some solution for the development and revival of the tea industry.

My second point is about the insurgency problem and high rate of unemployment problem, geographical isolation of the region from the main centres of trade and industry, inadequate physical infrastructure, smallness of the regional market and low assessibility to the market outside the region. The Government of India then declared a very well thought out Industrial Policy on 24th December, 1997 giving incentives in income tax exemption, Central Excise refund, Capital Investment Subsidy and Interest Subsidy because no industry is going to the North-Eastern Region. That has given a good ray of hope in the North-Eastern Region. It has become very difficult and it is agitating the minds of North-Eastern people regarding the entire matter of giving benefits and exemptions in July, 1999, then withdrawing the same in December, 1999, again restoring them back in January 2000, again withdrawing them in January/March 2001 and now through the Finance Bill 2003 legislation to negate the hon. High Court of Guwahati's order, when the matter is under the cosideration of the hon. Supreme Court, would indeed have a serious impact on the development of the North-Eastern region and their socio-political future.

For the misuse of the bñnfits by some of the units and for the administrative failure, the genuine entrepreneurs who had genuinely invested their hard-earned money in the North-Eastern region, in spite of the then prevailing insurgency problems and the difficult geographical conditions, should not be made to suffer due to the blanket withdrawal of the benefits. The investment decisions by the entrepreneurs are made by factoring in all the benefits available over a span of the policy package announced. If the benefits are withdrawn before the completion of the period of the package, the entrepreneurs will be left with nothing but sinking their entire investment. It will lead to the closure of the units which would mean stoppage of income and employment generation in the North-Easter region which has already been created in that region.

It is therefore, submitted before the hon. Minister of Finance for his kind consideration that the blanket retrospective withdrawal of the benefits in respect of certain products in the North-Eastern region should not be made through the Finance Bill, 2003. This is our humble request to the hon. Minister of Finance. We may, if necessary, amend the New Industrial Policy for the North-Eastern region of 1997 to plug the loopholés, if any, so as to eliminate the scope of misuse by anyone prospectively. To make the policy result in desired generation of income and employment in the North-Eastern region, we may further propose that the industrial units willing to avail the benefits of such concesisons in the North-Eastern region must ensure reinvestment of 50 per cent of their profits from the units in the State.

Sir, as you know, betel nut is grown in large scale in the region and thousands of people are in the betel nut cultivation in the North-Eastern region. If this industry is closed down, their market will also be gratefully affected. I wish to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister of Finance about the Award of the Eleventh Finance Commission which has done a great injustice to Assam. I simply request the hon. Minister of Finance to look into the matter that was well represented by our State Government and the Member from Assam to the hon. Minister of Finance. I request the hon. Minister to look into the matter and see as to how best Assam can be helped in this regard.

There is another matter of great concern. The hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made a policy declaration in Shillong on 20th January, 2000 in the presence of the then hon. Minister of Finance and the Chief Minister of the North-Eastern region and declared 100 per cent excise duty exemption to the Numaligarh Refinery Limited. He declared this for a period of ten years. That benefit was given for a period of one-and-a-half years and then suddenly it was withdrawn and that is also agitating the minds of the people and it is giving a wrong impression.

Flood is a perennial problem for the people of the North-Eastern region and the people there have demanded that the flood situation should be treated as a national

problem. The allocation made for the flood relief is less. Thousands of acres of cultivable land is eroded every year. The land is shrinking there. Some adequate financial help has also to be given.

The hon. Prime Minister has rightly decided that 10 per cent of the funds of all Ministries should go for the development of the North-Eastern region. This amount of 10 per cent to be correctly collected and given for the infrastructure development of the North-Eastern region. My earlier speaker, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev has rightly mentioned that there is not a single kilometer of railway line in the North-Eastern region which is electrified. I request that from this 10 per cent non-lapsable fund you may consider giving some funds for the electrification of railway lines in the North-Eastern region.

There is another difficulty with regard to my constituency. The then hon. Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone for the gas cracker project in my constituency. I do not know whether I am lucky in this regard or not.

For the last 15 years, this project is pending for consideration of subsidy. We have discussed it several times in the Standing Committee on Petroleum and we have given so many recommendations, but that gascracker project is not taking off. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to decide either way – to start the project or withdraw the national commitment of giving a gascracker project to the people of Assam.

Sir, the infrastructure is very poor in the North-Eastern region and the hon. Finance Minister is well-versed with the connectivity and accessibility of the North-Eastern region. He knows the difficulty of the North-Eastern region. I think, we have approached the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission – and we had discussed with the then Finance Minister also – to know what is the total amount of this 10 per cent non-lapsable fund for the development of infrastructure in the North-East, but nobody has told what is the total amount and what are the priorities going to be for infrastructure development from this 10 per cent non-lapsable fund. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into this matter and kindly consider about

not to negate the industrial policy he has declared with a very well-meaning idea of giving a fillip to the industrial development in the North-Eastern region.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri K. Francis George will speak. Since a large number of speakers are still there. I would request all the speakers to conclude their speeches within five minutes.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : Sir, what can we say within five minutes?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will ring the bell after four minutes and you take one more minute to conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, kindly extend time a bit more from seven o'clock. Please let me express my view. It is our subject how can we finish it in two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You were in the House so you might be knowing as to what the hon. Speaker had said.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Please extend the time to seven past thirty minutes from seven o'clock. So that we could put our problems.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Everyone would get five minutes. If you would also be given a chance to speak if your name is there.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, in the Budget, the hon. Finance Minister has spoken very eloquently about the agriculture sector – to introduce hi-tech horticulture and precision farming, use of fertilisers, biotech tools, green food production and hi-tech greenhouses. These are all very welcome steps. The hon. Minister has mentioned about precision farming technology which, of course, goes without saying, is the need of the hour. It will ensure judicious utilisation of resources, as the

[Shri K. Francis George]

hon. Minister has said, like land, water, sunlight etc., but we have millions of small and subsistence farmers also. How are we going to take care of them? .

What about the existing crops? Hon. Minister has mentioned about the plantation crops. He has very graciously withdrawn excise duty in the case of tea, but has announced a cess of one percent, of course, to help the plantation sector. This one percent cess adds up to only around Rs. 70 crore to Rs. 80 crore, but the problem that is being faced by the plantation sector in the country could not be solved with this amount. The problem is very acute in Kerala and probably, throughout the country. That problem is very acute, particularly, in my constituency. As you all know, the plantation industry is more concentrated in Idukki district of Kerala. In the Permid taluk of Idukki district of Kerala, about 18 estates have closed down and more than 13,000 workers are without jobs. If you add their family members also, about 50,000 people are in very critical condition now. They are really in dire straits. The workers are not receiving salaries for the past two years and all their benefits have been cut down. Their Provident Fund has not been paid by the management and a lot of problems are there.

The Government has announced a Price Stabilisation Fund. But, this Price Stabilisation Fund, in its actual operation, – Plantation Industry plus the Small Growers and all concerned say – is not going to benefit the farmers. So, a very thorough, detailed discussion and interaction with the stakeholders is required about the actual implementation of the Price Stabilisation Fund. Due to paucity of time I am not going into the details.

Next, I would like to talk about the import of various agricultural products, like tea plus cash crops like pepper, etc. Under the WTO regime, we have the lowest of import duty in our country. And with the Indo-Sri Lanka special bilateral trade agreement, now we have a zero duty regime as far as this particular agreement is concerned. Now, almost all the cash crops that are being produced in excess in our country could be imported from Sri Lanka under this agreement. How are the millions of farmers in

our country, especially, the cash crop cultivating farmers going to survive? Of course, the Commerce Ministry also comes in place, but at the Government level – since the Finance Ministry is the nodal agency – the initiative has to be taken by the hon. Minister. That is what I want to make request here.

Sir, all other measures, namely, the *Antyodaya Anna Yojana*; the nationalisation of the rural development schemes; the life time concerns – housing, education, games and sports – are all very good schemes. All the measures that have been announced by the Finance Minister are welcome.

Especially, I want to put in a word about sports and games in our country. Sir, in the recently concluded Asian Games, Kumari K. M. Beenamol – she hails from my constituency, and she belongs to a *Panchayat* where there is no facility at all – won three gold medal in the last Asian Games. What would have been the result had we provided enough facilities to our youngster\$ at *Panchayat* level itself! Even without any facility at all, she could win three gold medals. Of course, she belongs to the Railways now, and she is getting all required facilities. But in the beginning she had absolutely no facilities at all.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Likewise, now you look at all the basic amenities, as the hon. Finance Minister has very well put it in his Budget. It will take a long way in promoting all these sectors.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Shri Francis, please conclude.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : I have to conclude. One more word about rural roads, about infrastructural development of rural roads. The Prime Minister's *Gram Sadak Yojana* (PMGSY) was discussed in the morning itself. Sir, there has to be some parity between the contribution of the States, and the funds that are being allotted to the States.

Let me cite an example of Kerala. According to the records. from 2000 to 2003, Kerala has paid about Rs. 900

crore to this pool by way of cess on diesel and petrol. But, what have we got back? We have got back only Rs. 67 crore for the last three years. It is not that Kerala is fully connected, especially, in the high range. You know it very well, Sir. We have the same connectivity problem like any other State in the country. But, we have got very little compared to our contribution. So, at least in this particular programme, which is a very good programme, the hon. Minister and the Government should ensure that States get their due, at least, to a certain extent, according to the contribution to this particular fund.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, I am concluding. I would request the hon. Minister to give a thought to what little I have said, and I congratulate the hon. Minister for all the good proposals that he has put forth in his maiden Budget.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, if hon. Members want to lay their speeches on the Table, I am permitting them to do so. Instead of making a speech for 4-5 minutes, if they want to get it in the record here they can lay their speeches.

*SHRI S. MURUGESAN (Tenkasi) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this year's Finance Bill. During this debate, esteemed senior colleagues of this august House have already spoken extensively analyzing the Bill threadbare. More than 70% of the people of our total population are dependent on agriculture. They get job opportunities to earn their livelihood only for about 150 to 200 days in a year. 80% of their earnings go for procuring food for themselves and they have to manage everything else with the 20% of their earnings and must strive to improve their living standards.

In most of the rural areas of the country, the poor the downtrodden, the underprivileged, especially the Scheduled Castes people are forced to remain as agricultural labourers or marginal farmers. Agriculture alone is their occupation and pre-occupation.

Due to consecutive monsoon failure in several parts of the country, the ground water level has gone down further. As the water table had depleted the situation is very bleak. Such of the farmers and labourers are finding it difficult to make both ends meet.

I would like to focus on to the Ganga-Cauvery link canal scheme thereby creating a peninsular river grid which alone can rescue the poor farmers of the country. As early as in 1984, our leader and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi and laid stress on this Ganga-Cauvery link scheme as a viable one and urged upon the Government to take it up as a priority project. She had registered her points then in the upper house of the Parliament. I urge upon the Union Government to accord top priority and evolve a plan to complete this project at the earliest as a time bound project.

Central has evolved several employment generation programmes in the rural areas. Some are carried with grants and some with loan assistance. In order to benefit the rural poor loan assistance schemes are there. There are schemes to encourage youth from SC and ST communities to go for self-employment ventures. They are assured of loan assistance for self-employment through programmes like TADCO. Eligible entrepreneurs are identified by the nodal agencies to get the loan assistance provided through these schemes. But the pity is such youth found eligible for loan assistance are not provided with loan by the nationalized banks and even by the cooperative banks. They are denied of promised assistance. I urge upon the Union Finance Minister to take serious note of this.

I request the Finance Minister through you Sir, to form a committee to monitor these irregularities and to give proper direction to all nationalised banks and other banks to give loans and to grant subsidy from TADCO and other institutions.

I would like to touch upon the plight of handloom weavers next. Already many of our colleagues have expressed their views drawing your attention on to this. About a lakh of weavers in my constituency alone are severely hit hard by the value added tax levied by the Centre.

*...*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri S. Murugesan]

I would urge upon the Government to withdraw the CENVAT immediately in the interest of weavers.

In Tamil Nadu, under the able leadership of our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi several rural development and welfare schemes are carried on. Under one such scheme, the girl students hailing from the rural areas are provided with bicycles free of cost to enable them to go to their schools and pursue their education. We strive to create jobs, provide jobs and also enable people to be eligible for seeking jobs. Such of the schemes are affected by the financial crunch. I urge upon the Centre to be liberal in allocating funds to Tamil Nadu.

The Tamil Nadu Government earlier demanded one time grant of Rs. 3,000 crore to meet the financial contingency in the State but unfortunately the State Government did not get the grant. I would urge upon the Government to immediately give a grant of Rs. 3,000 crore.*

Tax structure should be simplified to ensure that even an ordinary citizen is in a position to comprehend it easily. Hundred per cent grant should be given to the Mid-Day Meal Scheme and other schemes in Tamil Nadu.

*SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Sir, I rise to support the Finance Bill introduced by Hon. Finance Minister. Sir, very well known and much reputed – “The Hindu” daily has stated in its editorial, this Budget as a ‘cautious Budget’ and the another well known daily ‘The Tribune’ has described it as ‘an innovative Budget’ and the Pioneer’ as visionary as people friendly’.

Sir, I have heard the Opposition Members who have criticised this Budget. But, Sir, I fail to understand that what crime Finance Minister has committed when he has taken care in his Budget for middle class, salaried class, poor people and people living below poverty line.

Sir, for the first time in the history of our democracy this Government under dynamic leadership of Hon. Prime

Minister, Hon. Finance Minister has made provision for poor by expanding ‘Antoyodaya Anna Yojana’ from April 2003 to cover an additional 50 lakh families, raising the total coverage to more than a quarter of all below poverty line families, during the year 2003-2004. The additional Budgetary expenditure on this account will be Rs. 507 crore.

Sir, I congratulate Hon. Finance Minister for rationalising all rural development, rural industries and artisans and poverty alleviation in urban areas, and other similar schemes. He has proposed a committee headed by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to examine all schemes having a bearing on poverty alleviation and rural development, and recommend their practical convergence.

Sir, I think for the first time, proper care has been taken for poor people and people living below poverty line in the history of democracy. Finance Minister deserves congratulation on crores of such people for making health insurance scheme for them in this Budget.

Finance Minister has stated in his Budget that for large majority of our less advantaged citizens for whom easy access to good health service is just a dream. To this type of situation. Hon. Finance Minister has envisaged scheme by encouraging public sector general insurance companies to design community based universal health insurance scheme during 2003-04. Sir, under this scheme what would be premium rates?

- (a) Rs. 1/- per day (Rs. 365 per year) per individual;
 - (b) Rs. 1.50 per day for a family of five; and
 - (c) Rs. 2/- per day for a family of seven/which will entitle them.
- (a) to get reimbursement of medical expenses upto Rs. 30,000 towards hospitalisation;
 - (b) to cover for death due to accident Rs. 25000/- and
 - (c) compensation due to the loss of earning at the rate of Rs. 50/- per day upto maximum of 15 days.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Hon. Finance Minister has also made this scheme more affordable to below poverty line families. For them he declared in Budget that in such cases Government would contribute Rs. 100/- per year towards their annual premium.

Sir, Hon. Finance Minister has also taken care for disabled and handicapped persons by declaring deduction of Rs. 50,000/- and Rs. 75,000/- for severally disabled from income tax.

Further, he has declared to reduce the customs duty on hearing aids, crutches, wheel chairs, walking frames, tricycles, brailers, and artificial limbs to only 5% without special additional duty (SAD).

Sir, Hon. Finance Minister has also taken care of our about 76 million senior citizens and pensioners who are expected to increase (because expectancy of life in India is increased) to 100 million in 2013 by providing tax rebate of Rs. 20,000/- As a result of their income upto Rs. 1.53 lakh will henceforth become fully exempt, over and above, they will also get relief of the tax rebate under Section 88.

Sir, I congratulate Hon. Finance Minister for introducing insurance pension scheme, viz. For pensioner or for any citizen above 55 years of age, could on payment of lumpsum amount, get benefits calculated at 9% per annum.

Sir, over and above all these schemes, Hon. Finance Minister has introduced number of other schemes for :

- (a) Ex-servicemen, our veterans,
- (b) For burden of education for children by providing education expenses upto Rs. 12,000/- per child for two children, will be made eligible for rebate U/s 88 of Income Tax Act.
- (c) For games and sports, and
- (d) For housing.

Sir, now I will make few suggestions to Hon. Finance Minister which I request him to consider while giving his reply.

Sir, I congratulate Hon. Finance Minister for introducing 'desert Pasturage Development', a special programme 'Maru Gaucher Yojana' proposed to be taken up for desert districts of Rajasthan.

Sir, my request to Hon. Finance Minister to extend this yojana to my constituency, i.e. Kutch which is a desert district of Gujarat.

Sir, half area of Kutch is a desert and it is the victim of almost all kind of natural calamities, two worst cyclones in 1998-1999 and lastly world's worst killer earthquake which has destroyed whole economy of Kutch District.

I, therefore, request the Hon. Finance Minister to include desert district Kutch in this Maru Gauchar Yojana.

Secondly, Sir, Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayeeji during his visit to earthquake devastative Kutch on 03.06.2001 has assured for excise duty exempted to the entire production occurring in Kutch, but, Sir, notification issued by the department did not translate the spirit the announcement made by Hon. Prime Minister.

Tax Holiday Notification No. 39/2001, dated 31.07.2001 for Kutch is at variance from the declared intent of Hon. Prime Minister.

Notification does not provide for excise duty relief to industries which were in pipeline at the time of earthquake.

Secondly, it also discriminates between the investment on industries less than and more than Rs. 20 crore.

Sir, this discrimination may please be removed.

Thirdly, Sir, request for extension for starting production before 31.07.2004 may please be extended for further period of one year as many industries require more time for their gestation period.

Fourthly, Sir, in Kutch Tax Holiday exemption is only for the period of five years, which also requires to be extended for further period of five years that means it should be totally for 10 years.

Sir, now I request Hon. Finance Minister to extend the deal line of utilisation of the donation for relief and

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

rehabilitation for earthquake victims in Gujarat, which expires on 31.03.2003, be extended for further period of two years, i.e. upto 31.03.2005 as construction of new houses in four cities in Kutch Bhuj, Anjar, Bhachau and Rapar, where permission for starting construction work under town planning scheme has been accorded only before two to three months that means it is not possible to complete rehabilitation work of more than about one lakh houses before 31.03.2003.

Sir, my few suggestions about avoiding unnecessary hardships to citizens that limit of Rs. 20,000/- for payment of deposits, receipts, acceptance etc. should be only be cheques in business transaction. This limit be enhanced at least to the limit of rupees one lakh for such payments. Advocate or chartered accountant be allowed to remain present at the time of raid, search or seizure from any assessee U/s 132 of Income Tax Act and discretionary powers of income tax officials be curtailed and they may be directed to have fair behaviour.

Sir, specific and special provision of advance ruling or correct advance interpretation on some ambiguous question relating to act notification etc. be made so as to avoid further inconvenience and litigation to be faced by so perplexed assessee. This would avoid and curtail the wrong exercise of powers on the part of income tax officers and further avoidable long litigation for assessee as well as department.

Sir, I appreciate that farmers of our country are the backbone of our economy and their income from agriculture should not attract income tax or other taxation. But at the same time, Sir, those farmers, who are possessing agricultural land more than 10 acres within the vicinity of our metropolitan cities and market price of which is above 25 lakh rupees should pay taxation to the nation and for that appropriate amendment be made in Income Tax Act.

Sir, I would like to submit that in our country organized service class or employees forms only 3 to 4 per cent of our population. Sir, this class is very much vigilant and

always cautious about their perks and rights, but experience of all of us is that they are not similarly vigilant or cautious for their duties.

Sir, we do not mind even if this class are paid still more pay and other perks but at the same time if they found negligent in their duties should be terminated by summary proceedings and not after years and years of long period of trial. In short, for such class the policy of 'hire and fire' requires to be adopted and for that necessary amendment requires to be made.

Sir, I request Hon. Finance Minister to review the levy of 8% excise duty on labelled and branded edible oil, which has created heavy burden on middle class and people living below poverty line. This duty may please be removed and Government of Gujarat be allowed to import palmolen oil without duty for distribution to below poverty line families.

Sir, one proposal from Government of Gujarat is pending with the Government of India for seeking clearance to assistance from Japan Bank for international cooperation to the Government of Gujarat, for its Gujarat forestry development project for protection and conservation of forest in Gujarat. Sir, this proposal is pending since 14.02.2000 and last reminder was also sent to F.M. on 11.06.2002.

Sir, as you know that large number of semi-skilled and unskilled self-employment persons are earning their livelihood from powerloom sector, textile processing units and readymade garments manufacturing units.

In our country as per one estimate, there are more than 18 lakh powerlooms and more than 6.7 crore workers are earning their livelihood from this sector.

Sir, due to withdrawal of exemption from excise duty to S.S.I. units below rupee one crore, these all self-employed persons and workers associated with powerlooms – textile processing and readymade garment manufacturing units were compelled to close down their production and have become jobless. Many of such people have expressed their protest by observing bundh-hartal etc.

I urgently request Hon. Finance Minister to restore the withdrawal of these exemptions which were enjoyed by these small self employed persons involved in powerlooms – textile pressing units and readymade garment manufacturing units.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill 2003-2004. A Sidhahasta fair is scheduled to take place in the Tirambakeshwar of district Nasik in July. The Government of India has promised to provide hundred percent financial assistance for the organisation of the fair. 50 percent of the amount has been paid and I demand that the Government should immediately release the remaining amount.

Sir, the sugarcane farmers are in crisis throughout the country. The Government should seriously ponder over it and provide financial assistance to them. Hon. Minister had announced that the interest component on the loans taken from the co-operative banks will be waived off. This should be done at the earliest. Similarly the crop insurance scheme has not been implemented in my constituency. The farmers are not being benefitted from the scheme and they are on fast. I demand from the Union Government that the farmers of my constituency should also be covered under the crop insurance scheme at the earliest.

A lot of discussion on powerloom has taken place in the House. The tax imposed on this industry be withdrawn. The population of aboriginals and the people belonging to backward sector of society is 12 percent. However not even a one percent budgetary allocation has been made for them. I request that budgetary allocation of 12 percent be made for these people. The Government should also withdraw the duty imposed on readymade clothes.

Maharashtra is facing a severe drought. The economic condition of the State is also not healthy. I request the center to provide maximum financial assistance to the State Government so that the famine situation could be tackled properly. There is Narpar scheme for my

constituency. If the Union Government provide funds for the scheme, 12 tehsils of constituency can be provided with the irrigation facility and drinking water.

Union Government provides funds to the State Governments for several schemes but some contribution is also to be made by the State Governments. However, several States can not provide their share of funds due to their poor financial condition. Due to it the funds provided by the center remain unutilised and are returned back. Hence I request that the center should provide cent percent assistance. Ten percent tax is charged from the tribals under the Narpanipurvatha scheme. I request that this tax be abolished.

[English]

*SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Budget should address broad macroeconomic issues. But in all democracies, different types of pressures reduce it to mostly clerical microeconomic exercises targeting minute sections.

It is said that Budget-making is like driving a cart with a bullock on one side and a buffalo on the other; the bullock pulls towards dry land, and the buffalo towards wet patches. If we are serious of raising the growth rate to 8 per cent, we should initiate yet another paradigm change. We should stop propping up failures and start rewarding the competent.

Too many artificial impediments rather than two few resources are the cause of retarded progress. For example, we are sitting on a mountain of grain, and yet many villages are going hungry only because they cannot find jobs, they do not have the capacity to purchase.

Similarly, at the not too extravagant standards of New York, we will need barely 0.2 per cent of the land area of the country. Yet most of our urban dwellers are forced to live in appalling slums that are ten-twenty times more congested than New York, even because they cannot find jobs in small towns, which alone offer affordable housing.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

Likewise, our banks are flush with money – both rupees and foreign exchange – but they have no takers because entrepreneurs find it difficult to start new enterprises. Further, though we have an army of civil servants, the service the citizens get is poor. These are all flaws in resource allocation. The existing paradigm not only retards economic progress, it angers the people too. Unless there is a willingness to change the prevailing culture of finance and administration, we cannot realize the dream of 8 per cent growth. Prevailing flaws are the result of wrong policies.

Current Rozgar Yojanas do not create jobs, they merely waste money. Subsidising slums does not create more housing; it ends up by making housing worse, and more expensive.

Rigid labour laws do not guarantee job security they merely lead to less employment. Increasing the number of Government employees does not help citizens; they only slow down growth. There are flaws within the provenance of the Finance Minister to correct, if not entirely, at least significantly.

Now, I deal with certain few points in short detail for the consideration of Mr. Finance Minister.

My first point is on Employment. For instance, instead of offering subsidies to job seekers, if we provide subsidy to employers; it has two advantages :

One, unlike various Rozgar Yojanas, which offer subsidies before a job is found, this subsidy comes into effect only after a job is created. Hence it is less likely to be misused.

Two, this subsidy will function better than the exercise rebates that are currently provided as a sop to small industries. Excise rebate condemns small businesses to remain small. Tax subsidies based on employment encourages them to grow without limit so long as wages are not extravagant. Even if wages start to rise, the tax benefit diminishes slowly; it does not cut off abruptly the way excise rebate does.

My second point is on Housing. Next, problem of urban housing. It is now common knowledge that the acquisition of a house changes both economic habits and psychological behaviour for the better. Housing industry has large employment potential even for unskilled workers. Hence, it a well-ordered polity, housing should be a thrust area. We have choked the housing industry by virtually concentrating economic growth in expensive cities. In this case, employees enjoy so many positive externalities in congested cities that they will not shift to socially superior locations. Congestion tax is the answer. Congestion tax on cars be used to reduce traffic.

A deterrent tax be levied on buildings with high floor space ratios.

My third and most important point is labour. Politically, it is impossible to review the near absolute security that our labour enjoys.

Unwanted labour is so large in numbers that we cannot afford unemployment insurance. As the economy is growing quite fast, the problem is not absence of new employment but the unemployment of redundant labour in new areas of growth.

The correct solution is for the Government to make it attractive for labour to keep abreast of new skills and opt for jobs on contract.

For instance, entire savings may be made tax deductible only for those who are on temporary jobs but not for those who are in permanent ones. The Government may also offer employment insurance for those that acquire new skills. With such workers, even if their current jobs becomes obsolete, their skills will not. They will remain employable. Unemployment insurance for such people alone will be affordable. The present system treats both the timorous and the adventurous alike; this scheme will help both, but in different ways.

The timorous can opt for permanent employment and get security but at a small take home pay (or less savings) static skills and static opportunities.

The adventurous opt for risky contract appointments but will always have valuable dynamic skills, which offer opportunities to progress rapidly.

They will also have the benefits of subsidized unemployment insurance.

Now I deal with credit. Of all anomalies that are afflicting our economy, the strange situation of unwanted credit is the saddest one. That is due to the reluctance of entrepreneurs to start new ventures. Here, poor governance is the real impediment. Currently, all Government establishments operate on the principle of deficit financing by which the Government underwrites to meet, in full, all expenses in excess of income. Because it guarantees to meet all expenses, anticipated and unanticipated, the Finance Ministry appropriates to itself whatever income is earned.

Deficit financing is spoon-feeding. It discourages Government establishments from generating new revenue because the whole all that will be taken away. It does not encourage economy either because, all expenditure, both good or bad, is underwritten.

Better alternative is block grant. We need a paradigm change to get at 8 per cent growth – particularly a change in the way we budget subsidies and taxes. By themselves, subsidies are not a problem. Ill designed, wrongly targeted, dishonestly implemented subsidies are the problem.

For instance, rural employment subsidies target those have failed. Excise rebate for small business reward merely being small. Instead, subsidies to employers based on numbers employed reward thrift and ability to create jobs.

Unemployment insurance rewards failures to retain jobs. Training subsidies and insurance for those who accept jobs on contract reward conscientiousness and risk taking. Similarly, congestion tax penalises social irresponsibility.

Now I come to the most vexed part. That is VAT. I would congratulate the Finance Minister for being candid in

elucidating the virtues of the value-added tax (VAT) while making the Finance Bill.

VAT was to have been ushered in April 1, but could not be because of the failure of the State Governments, the implementing agency, in doing the spadework for putting VAT is an important initiative and a progressive piece of modern tax.

Hence, when he says that trade and industry should not end up thinking that the VAT is a “vexation added tax” just because the States do not do their homework properly, one should lend him all ears. The decision of the Government to go slow on the follow up with the State Governments on the issue of implementing the VAT regime seems to be the result of the din and dust kicked up by the protesting trading community. VAT, adopted by more than a hundred countries of the world, is a system where tax is levied at each value addition stage and collected and remitted to the Government by all those who are responsible for collecting.

This way, it is different from the present sales tax, which is levied, collected and remitted at a single point.

While the Government claims that the VAT regime would widen the tax net and simplify the procedure, the agitating traders are of the opinion that VAT is a complicated system not suitable for a large country like ours.

Besides, as we are struggling to dismantle the licence-quota-permit raj, there is another bothersome arm of the administration, the inspector-raj, from which the traders and the manufactures really want freedom. The VAT system they fear would end up strengthening the inspector raj, as the number of collection centres increases.

Though the legislative resolve has been united the implementation and execution has been sodden and disjointed. The roll out of an important economic legislation – has been unfortunately singularly influenced by the prevailing political situation in the respective States. Long term prudence has been sacrificed for short-term electoral gains thus depriving the nation of a vital and much needed structural rectification in our economy.

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

A thoroughly good content has been derailed by a patently bad intent, influenced by vested interests, who are bound to be adversely affected by the new tax regime, due to its uniformity, simplicity and transparency.

Unsurprisingly the most aggrieved and vocal are the tax evasive traders for whom tax evasion is a permanent way of life.

A united and forceful effort is needed on the part of the Centre and the States, or else the traders will continue to switch the Government and the consumers as well.

Before I conclude, I should also mention that the Union Cabinet is likely to clear poverty scheme today.

Additional expenditure of Rs. 509.97 crores every year for poverty alleviation under PM Antodaya Anna Yojana.

Extendedly the benefits under the Antodaya Scheme to another 50 lakh destitutes. Taking the number of families covered by it to 12.5 million.

The scheme started since 9th December 25, 2000, identifies families below poverty line. These families qualify to get 25 kg of foodgrains under PDS at a subsidized rates of Rs. 3 per kg for rice and Rs. 2 per kg for wheat. This scheme be given full support. I conclude by saying that on behalf of my party, I extent full support to the Finance Bill of 2003.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Finance Bill. But I am afraid that the hon. Finance Minister's Finance Bill gives the most unkindest cut to the North-Eastern Region despite the resolve of the Government to put this historically neglected region on a fast track development.

At the initiatives of the three successive Prime Ministers, namely, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, Shri I.K. Gujral and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a series of proposals and concrete steps were formulated for rapid development of the North-Eastern Region.

The Industrial Policy of 1997 for the North-East is a path-breaking, and unique, in the sense that it was

exclusively for the North-East considering its near inaccessibility communication-wise and distance, from the national and international markets. This uniqueness is now removed by this Finance Bill.

Sir, we do not grudge when similar benefits are extended to a few other backward States like Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal. But at the same time, in respect of the North-East, adequate thinking and precaution should have been given to cushion and hedge these special incentives already granted, with thoughtful safeguards and further incentives, so that the flow of investment converging towards the North-East is protected. Once, these exclusive incentives are given to the regions which are communication-wise better off and located near the international and national market centres, no investors will be there in the North-East! So, the North-East is back to square one, triggering a trail of frustration, loss of hope and faith, and loss of time and opportunities, and loss of promises and possibilities.

Sir, my second point is about the excise duty. The excise duty benefit extended to Bongaigaon Petrochemicals and PSF business *vide* clause No. 146(1) read with Schedule 9 to the Bill has been withdrawn. But it is not known as to how and why the full excise duty benefit granted on 3rd January, 2003 has been withdrawn, within the course of just three months. All steps of reviving the petrochemical and PSF business, the operation of which was suspended since October 2001; all initial investments and preparations are now nipped in the bud, giving a rude shock and jolt to the popular aspiration.

Sir, same is the case with the Numaligarh Refinery Limited. At the behest of the hon. Prime Minister, as a special case, cent per cent central excise duty was exempted in June 1999, so that a 'stand alone' refinery can survive and thrive. But then, without any valid reason, 50 per cent of full central excise duty benefit was slashed in the course of 18 months. We expected to hear from this hon. Finance Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh that this 50 per cent which was slashed would now be restored. But it appears now that 'the Prime Minister proposes and the Finance Minister disposes!'

Sir, now I come to my last point. What is surprising is that where the Government sympathy is most wanted – I mean on Tea – no serious thought has been given to save the crisis-hidden industry. Assam's economy depends on tea. Nothing has been proposed to revive this industry. Nothing has been done for helping out over 30,000 young small tea growers with more than a lakh of families depending on them. This is the third crisis year for the industry where nothing has been done.

So, Sir, unless immediate redressal measures are taken in the form of restoration of the *status quo* by scrapping these new proposals, the hon. Finance Minister, instead of putting food in the stomach of the hungry – as he set forth as the objective of the Budget "putting food in the stomach of the hungry, and more money in the welfare of the tax proposals" – I am afraid, he would rather only give lusty kicks to the hungry stomach of the North-Easterners.

But I hope, the hon. Minister would reconsider all these things and do justice to the people of the North-East. With these few words, I conclude.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while congratulating the hon. Finance Minister for trying to strengthening the economy with least problem for the commo man, I would like to state a few points for the kind consideration of the hon. Finance Minister. I would just make two to three points.

One is regarding debt relief to the poor. Already, some schemes have been declared. Up to Rs. 25,000, as a one-time settlement, there is a complete waiver of interest. That is a very good step. Similarly, for farmers, up to Rs. 50,000, it has been declared. Now, a large chunk of small farmers, especially in my State of Kerala, have gone to the cooperative banks. So, my submission is that, just as the hon. Minister has done in the case of nationalised as well as scheduled banks, some kind of fund or some thing must be done so that the cooperative banks are also brought on par. We cannot just ask the cooperative banks to waive the whole interest because they are all small loans or small deposits by small farmers there, and they cannot sustain.

So, some kind of help from NABARD or some other agencies by which the hon. Finance Minister may be pleased to enlarge this facility to the cooperative banks. to the loanees, should be given.

The second point is regarding Service Tax which has been imposed on Parish halls of churches. We call *oottupura* of temples. It is a small hall. It is mainly used for religious purposes, sometimes for small parties like marriages. It is also used for community purposes as a community hall. It is also used for *madarsas*. They have small halls. These are not to be taken as profit-making ones. In no way, they should come under taxation. But, unfortunately, notices have been issued by the income-tax officials, stating that this comes under the Service Tax net. Therefore, I have already brought the matter to the notice of the hon. Minister. This may be considered, and I pray that this may be clarified, and if necessary, withdrawn.

My penultimate point is regarding your constituency. Coconut is grown in the beautiful constituency of Lakshadweep, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and other parts of our country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He does not want to come to Lakshadweep.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Farmers can be helped by merely publicising the good aspects of coconuts. With a lot of fighting, now Indian Airlines and others are now serving tender coconut water. This can be done in trains, stations and everywhere. You can do so by publicising the good aspects of coconut. There is a saying that out of one coconut, 56 industries can be set up. This is not a simple statement. For 56 industries, the Coconut Development Board has got the facility to finance, and also to give technical aid.

Lastly, I do not have to add anything more, as Shri Francis George has already mentioned enough about pepper. But, I would clarify only one thing. As far as pepper is concerned, one problem is with regard to import duty. Of course, it comes under the Ministry of Commerce. But the other thing is that it comes under the guise of the bilateral agreement with the SAARC countries. From Sri Lanka,

[Shri P.C. Thomas]

pepper can be imported without duty, whereas 70 per cent of the duty has to be paid otherwise. So, Vietnam and some other countries are taking their low quality pepper there, and they are bringing them here. This is actually smuggling. So, if the Finance Ministry and Revenue Intelligence is put to task. I am sure, this can be stopped. This is true not only for pepper but this is true in the case of cardamom which is coming from Nepal, and through Kolkata, from Guatemala. So, that is an additional point.

The other point which he has already mentioned is with regard to plantations which are especially found in Kerala. I also associate myself with this.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am requesting you in advance to give me grace time and allow me to complete my speech without ringing the bell. I make this request knowing full well that there is paucity of time. So, I will restrict myself to a few suggestions.

My first suggestion is about my Department where I worked for 37 years, that is, the Income Tax Department. My second suggestion is about my constituency, that is patan, in North Gujarat. My third suggestion is about my State, that is Gujarat. My fourth suggestion is about my people, that is the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Finally, I will have a few suggestions about the Central Excise. VAT and CENVAT, levied by the hon. Finance Minister this year. I am sure he will consider my request and suggestions very patiently.

19.00 hrs.

The hon. Finance Minister, while presenting the Budget, quoted Mr. Edmund Burke. That quotation was as old as 1773; that is, more than 200 years old. I am quoting the India Human Development Report, prepared by the National Council of Applied Economic Research. That was given after a study of four years. The report says and I quote :

"The goal of all development effort is to raise the level of well being of all the citizens of a country.

Traditionally, per capita income was regarded as the key summary indicator of economic welfare. This has been increasingly questioned in recent years."

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, time be extended for it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes. We have two more hon. Members to speak. We will sit for another 15 minutes to finish this. Is it the pleasure of the House that we extend the time of the House of another 15 minutes?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, we may extend it up to 7.30 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Okay. We will extend it up to 7.30 p.m. You may continue now.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, the report further says :

"India is a country of diversities in the social and economic spheres.

Among social groups, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have the lowest levels of income and human development in rural India. National policies and programmes during the last half a century have not helped the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes to emerge from the perennial poverty trap. Level of village development has a clear influence on income and human development."

The report also suggests to the Government that something should be done in the area of literacy and schooling, health and longevity, employment and wage security and access to public programmes.

My Constituency, Patan was declared as a border district four years ago. We all know the importance of a border district. It does not have good roads; it does not have Railways; there would be no social facilities, etc. The border is exposed near Rann of Kutch; and anybody from

this side can go to Pakistan and anybody from Pakistan can come to this side.

I had requested the Deputy Prime Minister and the Home Minister of this country to provide adequate facilities, but it is not being done because there is no fund. I request the hon. Finance Minister to at least provide Rs. 10 crore to the border district of Patan which is important from the level of protection of the border.

There is another problem. VAT is to be imposed at the rate of 12.5 per cent on milk products, at the rate of four per cent on cattle feed, and at the rate of four per cent on milk powder. When there is no VAT on milk, how can there be VAT on milk powder? Milk powder is dried milk only. Somehow, this mistake is committed. Milk powder cannot be taxed, as we are not taxing milk. In milk products, we are taxing ghee. Who is using ghee in this country? I can imagine imposing VAT on Cadbury's Chocolates, butter, cheese, which are fashionable things for city dwellers, but I cannot imagine imposition of VAT on ghee which is consumed by rural India. According to one statistics, 65 per cent of consumption of ghee is only in the villages, and we are going to levy 12.5 per cent VAT on ghee. I am inviting the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the memorandum dated 26th March 2003 from the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Limited, where they had rightly pointed out that 12.5 per cent VAT on milk productions should be reduced to four per cent. There is no question of levying VAT on cattle feed and milk powder. I will request the hon. Finance Minister to do something in that respect.

Shri P.S. Gadhavi, Shri Haribhai Chaudhary are sitting here; they also know that entire Patan, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Mehsana areas and other districts of Saurashtra are dependent on the income of dairy only. Who are employed in the dairy industry? They are womenfolk with 2-4 buffaloes; they supply it to them. I have received thousands of letters from the small cooperative dairies. They are all worried.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : Let me clarify it for a minute. The hon. Member is referring to the possible

application of a rate upon VAT being introduced. At present there is no VAT, therefore, there is no tax. Therefore, this fear is totally unfounded because there is no tax of this nature.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : I now come to the specific issues of the State of Gujarat.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Reshrapal ji, you have already taken six minutes.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : In the Budget the Government has provided a scheme for infrastructure. I am sorry to say that in our country, be it this Finance Minister or the Finance Ministers of the earlier Governments, when the Government thinks of providing infrastructure, it thinks only of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and other big metro cities. For the development of airports, you have selected only Mumbai and Delhi. For the development of seaports, you have selected only Mumbai and Chennai. So, Mumbai has been selected for the development of both airport and seaport. I request the hon. Finance Minister to select Surat as an airport which can be developed into an international airport. This will reduce the burden on Mumbai. Why can Surat airport not be developed? I would also like to know why Bhavnagar port, which has got 120 years' old lock gate which was the first in whole of Asia, cannot be developed. In our country Bhavnagar is the only port where we have got the lock gate. A steamer once it goes on the other side, it can wait for 15 days there. Even then there is no trial. The Government is not worried to develop minor ports but to develop only those ports which are already developed. I have no opposition to it but my only request is that Gujarat may also be given an opportunity to develop Bhavnagar Seaport and Surat Airport. At the same time, in the Railways, broad gauge conversion project have not been given fund, as a result, a lot of gauge conversions is pending in Gujarat.

There was an Office of National Saving Organisation in Ahmadabad. Recently that Office at Ahmadabad has been cancelled. The Government has provided four offices in Northern India, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Delhi and Lucknow and the Office at Ahmadabad has been cancelled. What is the role of Gujarat in national Saving Organisation? I

[Shri Pravin Rashtrapal]

have got the official figure. We are always second or third in NSO but the Office at Ahmadabad has been cancelled. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to start an office of NSO at Ahmadabad.

I would also like to request the hon. Finance Minister to provide adequate funds to the Government of Gujarat for the construction of Narmada Dam. To meet the drought situation, the Government of Gujarat has requested for Rs. 850 crore. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Rashtrapal ji, you will have to conclude now.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : This is a very serious matter. I am very sorry that my Party has given my name in the last. I feel sorry for that. I am raising certain important issues. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry, I cannot give you more time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : I am not shy in telling that. I will also give a complaint to my Party President.

The Gujarat Government had requested for Rs. 850 crore assistance but the Central Government has given only Rs. 150 crore. You may ask the MPs from Gujarat. Almost 50 per cent of the State is covered with drought. Cattle are dying without grass and drinking water. People are dying in Banaskantha due to contaminated drinking water. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to give adequate funds to the Government of Gujarat to meet the drought situation as also for the construction of dam. As far as Narmada Dam is concerned, for the last two years we have not been able to do anything.

There is one more request from the Government of Gujarat. Here, I am not asking for funds and I will give proof also subsequently. The Government of Gujarat has requested the Reserve Bank of India to remove the norms of Irrigation and water projects. Certain percentages have been fixed for taking foreign loan. This request of the

Government of Gujarat is not attended to by the Reserve Bank of India for the last three years. So, I would request you to please look into this matter.

I now come to the problems of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. According to the latest figures, the SC/ST population in our country is about 30 crore, which is 30 per cent of the total population. Out of these 30 crore, 80 per cent resides in rural India. But what is the fund given by the Central Government for Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan? I do not want to go into the figures. These figures are very much there in the Budget.

In fact, I requested the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment to take up the matter with the Government that this SCP of Rs. 370 crore will not serve any purpose of the SCP, Tribal Sub-Plan, and even of the Ministry. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to allot SCP and TSP on the basis of population of the people. I have got one figure which I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister. This is the most important statistics which I want to give you. It is the composition of public spending ratio for other social sector, namely, SCs, STs, and OBCs. The population of OBCs is 40 per cent, SCs – 16 per cent, and STs-9 per cent. They comprise 50 per cent of the Indian population. What is the ratio of expenditure to the total expenditure by the Central Government? These are the Planning Commission figures of 1998-99. The expenditure is only 1.40 per cent by the Government of India for this sector. As regards States, in Madhya Pradesh, it is 10 per cent, Delhi – 8 per cent, Tamil Nadu – 7.22 per cent, Karnataka – 6.19 per cent, Tripura – 6.95 per cent, Andhra Pradesh – 6.98 per cent, Maharashtra – 5.52 per cent, and Gujarat – 4.09 per cent. The average spending by all States put together is 5.38 per cent. Our population is 50 per cent but the amount spent for our people is only five per cent or six per cent.

Last but not least, I come to the Department of Income Tax. The posts of Commissioners were restructured and sanctioned on the basis of files which is one lakh files per Commissioner. I do not want to give you the figures. You may verify it from Delhi as to what is the total number of files in the Salary Section and whether adequate number of Commissioners are working over there. Why do the

Commissioners want to work in the Companies Circle and the Assessment Circle and not in the Salary Circle? I want that more Commissioners and senior officers may be posted in salary and refund circles. My further request is that let refunds be issued in time. Sir, I consider even now the Income Tax Department as my Department. The image of our Department is trashed only because of delay in giving refunds. Let there be a *pucca time limit*.

Sir, I have been requested by the employees to inform you that they are against out sourcing of the works. Please conclud the Income Tax Employees Federation and the Federation of the Gazette Officers before out sourcing the work of a Central Government Department which is the most sensitive Department. I have written you a letter asking for an appointment along with the representatives of the Federation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, I am concluding. As regards MPLAD Scheme, my suggestion is that Members of Parliament elected from rural India may be given more funds It is because there are Members of Parliament who have to take care of more than 1000 villages. Kindly take the case of the Members of Parliament from rural India and Members of Parliament of big constituencies. I am told that my friend, Shri Paranjpe's Constituency has around 27 lakh voters. Something has to be done. We want more amount so that we can do more and more work for the people.

With these few suggestions. I am sure the hon. Finance Minister would do us some favour.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak. I rise to support the Finance Bill. I would like to heartily thank the hon. Finance Minister for the various provisions inserted in financial Bill to tackle the problem of rising prices and unemployment, creating new employment opportunities and for allocation of funds under the Antyodya Yojana. Several reforms in sector of excise duty were introduced by the former Finance Minister and have

also been made by the present Finance Minister because the problems being faced in paying excise have been most discouraging for the small traders and the entrepreneurs even today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to say that the traders of the entire country have been affected due to the imposition of excise duty on powerlooms, readymade garment, hosiery goods and the blankets made with rags in Panipat. The powerloom industry, garment industry, hosiery industry and the woolen blanket industry have been closed since 1st April. This long closure compels one to think as to what are the reasons for closure. It is being alleged that some people set up banami powerlooms. If it is really the case then it should be investigated. It is not fair to punish all for the fault of some persons. If the benami powerlooms have been set up then the loan facilities from banks be stopped and also their power connections be disconnected and those officers who have given permission for setting up such benami powerlooms also be dismissed. Sir, who is the consumer of the cloth manufactured in the powerloom? It is the poor who use it. The rich won't use the cloth from such powerlooms even for night suits. However the poor person like the rickshawpullers, workers and beggars put in these cloths at the their important occasions including attending of marriage parties and visiting in laws. Hence the powerloom industry should be completely exempted from any excise duty. Same is the condition of garment industry and hosiery industry.

There are two types of hosiery items. One is produced in big industries e.g. T.T. etc. These companies spend a lot in advertisement and publicity and as their finished products are imported imposition of excise duty on them can be held justifiable to an extent. However I am talking about small hosiery comprising of 10 workers and running in their homes which sell the undergarments at a very small price. Their products are used by rickshawpullers. While the 'baniyan' of the established hosiery brand is sold at Rs. 40 per piece and only well to do people use them and it is exported also. Hence the three stage tax on hosiery i.e. at weaving stage, bleaching or washing stage and on at the stage of cutting and stitching should be exempted upto the limit of one crore of turnover. Rags

[Shri Shyam Bihari Mishra]

called sheddy yarn from abroad in Panipat Jalandhar and Amritsar are used for manufacturing blankets which are sold from Rs. 30 to Rs. 150 per square metre. Earlier there was total exemption on these blanket because there were distributed among the poors and those hit by natural calamities. Earlier excise duty was not imposed but now excise duty has been imposed on them. I would like to request that excise duty may be imposed on the blanket manufacturing companies but the blankets produced from sheddy yarn and sold at price of Rs. 30 to Rs. 150 per square meter should be totally exempted from paying excise duty.

Sir, as there is shortage to time I would conclude to add one more thing. Efforts are being made to implement VAT system in the country. The traders of the country have not been happy with the sales tax regime in vogue for the last 50 years. They had been demanding to do away with the sales tax and for imposing only the excise duty. Congress mentioned it in the 1980 elections manifesto and BJP also mentioned in their election manifesto that the sales tax will be done away with after imposing an additional excise duty and the process of withdrawing the sales tax on cloths, tobacco and sugar is still on going on. VAT system is being claimed as extremely rational. I fail to understand was to how it is rational. It is being argued that it would bring uniformity in sales tax regime. I have the statistics of the 11 States in regard to VAT. I have studied them. A VAT model has been created which has been drawn by a committee and not by the Union Government. Neither Union Government nor Lok Sabha nor any legislative assembly contributed in constituting the committee but the name of the Union Government is being maligned in this regard. How will it do this way? This VAT act is the creation of a committee and its chairman belongs to West Bengal. The enacted by West Bengal Government is not in consonance with the model and it is being claimed that a uniform sales tax regime will be created. I am ready to lay this paper on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You lay it on the Table.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : The VAT regime of 11 States are not uniform. Sir, how can it be uniform then? Double tax is being imposed on foodgrains through VAT system, it should not be so. Double taxation which is contrary to the basic principle of VAT system should not be allowed.'

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mishraji, now you conclude.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am concluding very quickly and I am speaking in very brief. You have given me seven minutes to speak. Please let me speak for these seven minutes at least.

Sir, VAT system is not a rational system sales tax be done away with by imposing an additional excise duty.

I request you that the Union Government should not shirk from its responsibility by terming the matter as State subject even though it is a State subject because the new system which will be in vogue in future is certainly bound to affect the economy of the country. The tax evasion of several other practices are coming to an end. Hon. Finance Minister should pay attention towards it because it is not one year's budget only which can accommodate the negligence of a particular year to be modified next year. The new tax regime is being prepared for the next 100 year. The new tax regime will remain operational for the next 100 years. That will also affect the economy of the country. Hence I request the Union Government to constitute a committee under the Chairmanship of hon. Finance Minister comprising of the economists, tax experts, representatives of entrepreneur traders and also of the consumers. They should study it, pay attention to safeguard the interests of the targetted groups and bring the new tax regime after thoroughly and meticulously considering over its various aspects. The Committee which formulated new VAT system did neither have the economists nor the representatives of various Communities as its members though they should have been included as its Members. Hence I request that the implementation of the VAT be deferred till 1 April 2005 and a Committee be constituted in this regard to analyse it and a new regime be introduced. The existing VAT system is contrary to the basic spirit of taxation.

Sir, all these things be paid attention in the new tax system. I would like to tell that the sugarcane tax is in vogue in eight States of the entire country. However the tax is being imposed in the entire country through the imposition of VAT system. There is not tax on foodgrains and pulses in Maharashtra. A 9 percent tax is being imposed in every article with the introduction of this new system. A rich person only consumes two chapatis but poor person like rickshawpullar, vendor or worker consumes 400 grammes foodgrains. This way even the prices of flour and pulses are being raised. At present there is no tax on pulses and flour in Delhi, Gujarat, Calcutta and Karnataka but it is being levied in all the States under the new taxation system. The Government is still claiming that there will not be any adverse impact on the consumers but it is totally wrong. The things being propogated in regard to VAT are not true. Hence I request that a committee be constituted under the chairpersonship of hon. Finance Minister to critically analyse various aspects of taxation system and implement a new and better taxation system. Do the countries on the basis of which new model of tax regime is being created have federal character vis à vis India and also whether their population is even equal to the population of the Uttar Pradesh alone. Is the comparison of these countries fair with a country having a population of 108 crore.

Sir, I don't want to take much time and in the end I would like to request that the powerloom, readymade garments and hosiery industry be exempted of the turn over of upto one crore rupees as was the case earlier. Similarly the blanket costing Rs. 30 per square meter be totally exempted from tax as there was not tax on it earlier. Similarly foodgrains also be exempted from any tax. Similarly SINVET system on the basis of which 8 percent tax was imposed be withdrawn and it be compensated by increasing the customs and excise duty. It will generate more revenue.

With these words I would like to say one more thing and it is concerned with the potato farmers. Today potato farmers are in a very pathetic condition in the country. There is a need to pay attention towards them. Today the

potato farmer is dying. The potato is being sold at Rs. 50 per quintal. Not even the cost of it is being realised. I heartily welome this Finance Bill subject to the amendments suggested by me in regard thereto.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Finance Bill 2003-2004. Our new Finance Minister has introduced this with much fanfare. The salient feature of this Finance Bill is that no slogan of poverty eradication has been given in this Bill. Prior to it Shri Yaswant Sinhaji introduced the budget for four years but he couldn't remove poverty. Hence hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee made Shri Jaswant Singh new Finance Minister in place of Shri Yashwant Sinha. Jaswant Singh ji has a military background. He is a strong man. Hence we felt that the budget of the country will also be healthy and poverty will be eradicated Hon. Finance Minister is a strong man but this hope does not seem to be fulfilled. Jaswant Singh ji, you have given the slogan of poverty eradication in the budget of 2003-2004 and the poors of the entire country has awakened, hence, if the slogan to remove poverty in one and a half year does not meet success. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Athawaleji, you throw some light on the Finance Bill.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, finance is needed to remove poverty. Jaswant Singh ji if your slogan of poverty eradication does not become a success story in a year and a half, you and Atalji will face music in the forthcoming elections. I mean to say that though you have given this slogan of removal of poverty eradication, the ideology and issues which are necessary to be adopted for the same are not being brought into practice. If the Government really want to remove poverty then Zamindari system should be abolished. If poverty is to be removed then the economic condition of the people from the lower state of society should be improved. You budget only widens the gulf between rich and the poor. Though the Government talk of poverty eradication in the country but we are showing 26 percent of our population below poverty line while the actual figure thereof comes around is more than 50 percent.

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

Jaswant Singh ji, I appeal to you and I fail to understand as to how you have joined them despite being good Ministers. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : You had also praised Shri Yashwant Singhji that he was a good Minister. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Paranjpey, how have you started intervening?

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Sir, he says the something to all. Four years ago he used to praise Shri Yashwant Singhji by terming him very good and now he is saying the same thing about Jaswantji. One does not know as to what his policy is. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDASH ATHAWALE : If you are made the Minister, Same thing will be said about you also. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : It means that whosoever becomes Minister will be branded as good by you. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : However you are not being made a Minister.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : I don't intend to be a Minister.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : How it is that you do not want to be a Minister, if Balasaheb directs you to do so, won't you accept it. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Athawaleji, you need not address them you address the Chair.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I am addressing you only because it is of no use to address them. . . .(Interruptions)
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to suggest that if the Government want to remove poverty everybody should have land. The landless farmers be provided land to undertake cultivation. There should a provision in this year's budget which may impose a ceiling on the property of the big

handlords and industrialists e.g. there should be a ceiling on the property of the big corporate groups or individuals like Reliance Group whose worth is 70 thousand crore rupees. Babasaheb Ambedkar wanted that the upper limit as regards to individual's property be fixed. He had also expressed his views in the constituent assembly in this regard but he could not muster enough support. Hence I am of the view that if poverty is to removed in true sense then a ceiling be fixed in regard to the property a person should have. One person owns 50 acres of land, another owns 200 or 400 acres of land and another one owns then 10 vehicels whereas several others do not even own a bicycle. Hence there is a need to make a provision to bring an end to this inequality. We have not been able to bring the economic equality as envisaged in our constitution for the last 55 years. Hence I want that this good work be accomplished by you. The population of the people belonging to SC and ST in the country is at least 31 percent at present, hence there is a need to think in direction of providing 31 percent reservation to them. There is a need to make an allocation of at least one lakh ten thousand crore rupees out of the total budgetary allocation of 4 lakhs 38 thousand and 795 crore rupees for the development of the people belonging to SC and ST section of society. Hence you must take one or the other initiative in this regard. If you do a work of this kind you are likely to remain in power longer.

Even if you do such a good work, you will need to take a firm decision. Our second demand is that you need to increase the MPLAD fund to find crore rupees if the Government intend to complete its full term of five years. You have enough funds at your disposal which is approximately 4.38 lakh crore. I would like to give out two suggestions to you. You can augment your financial sources by tapping the black money which is approximately 4 lakh crores in the country, if you want to mobilise more funds. This money should be transferred to the Government account. If the Government tap this amount of four thousand crore rupees in its hands then you can provide us more funds. Hence you have to check the tendency of growing black money in the country which is a proving a big hurdle in the development of the country.

Second issue which I want to raise is that Baba Saheb Ambedkar being founding father of our constitution, his memorial should be established in Mumbai. Union Government should provide assistance for this purpose. You have recently installed a statue of Shivaji Maharaj in the Parliament. The statues of Shri Visheswarji, Mahatama Gandhi are also in the Parliament. Hence I demand that statue of Gautam Budha be also installed in the Parliamentary premises. Gautam Budha is the epitome of peace and he spread the message of peace in the world. There is a need to install a big statue of Tathagat Gautam Budha here and you need to provide financial assistance for the same.

Our friend Chandrakant Khaireji was telling that 44 percent of the total revenue is raised from the Mumbai city alone. Hence an amount of two thousand crore be provided to Mumbai for 20 years in order to undertake its development. My second demand is that as Delhi is capital of the country, in the same way there is a need to provide the status of sub-capital to Mumbai. A parliamentary session be also held there. If the Government gets a major portion its revenue earnings from Mumbai, what is the problem in holding a session here? Hence I am of the view that if a session of Parliament is held in Mumbai, it will further improve the revenue earnings from there. Hence there is a need to provide the status of sub capital to Mumbai. There is also a need to construct a very big sports complex at Kandivali in Mumbai.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whatever is left, should be valid.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : What is the use of laying?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You should lay your remaining speech.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : This will yield nothing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Then conclude.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I will conclude in 1-2 minutes.

My second demand is that there is a need to make more allocation under slum development programme for

all cities be it Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkatta, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad or Lucknow. There is also a need to work more in this direction.

Second thing is that 65 percent of the total 18 lakhs powerlooms in the country are situated in Bhivandi, Malegaon, Delhi, Itchlkarnji and Nagpur in Maharashtra out of which 80 percent are the small powerloom bases. You have discussed also about them. You have shown the sympathy to them and this alone is not enough.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have noted all.

[English]

Shri Ramdas Athawale, please conclude now. You have taken so much of time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I want that some decision be taken in regard to reduce the excise duty by 10 percent. There is a need to develop a airport at Shirdi. Presently it is in Pandharpur. A stadium should also be constructed in Pandherpur and there is also a need to survey the BPL. Besides there is a need to amend the labour laws also. You should do this work also. Hon. Minister also need time to reply else only we will keep on speaking and he will not get any time to speak. Hence there is need to spare time for him also.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If any hon. Member wants to lay his speech on the table of the House, he can do so.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, allots time to us and you have kept money for us. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ramdasji, now you need to conclude your speech.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : At least, I would like to say this much only that :-

"Jaswant Singh Saheb, Marani Hai laal
 Tu Janta ki Peeth par laal maro
 Unke pet per laal
 Marne ka pap mat karo
 Agar apake pas dene ke liye
 Kutch Nahin ho to mat dijiye
 Magar garibon se lene ki
 Koshish mat karo
 Desh ka karna hai hai
 To vikas karo
 Desh ko barbad karana ki
 Koshish mat karo
 Yahi hum apase umeed karate hain.

At last I would like to say this only that this budget is anti-poor and one that will increase unemployment. This budget will not bring economic and social equality, hence there is a need to amend it.

With these words, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Any hon. Member who wants to lay his speech may please lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : I lay my speech on the Table of the House.

*Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to kindly respond to the following points in his reply to this debate on the Finance Bill :

The proposal for the retrospective withdrawal of excise concessions on cigarettes allowed in the North-East by the Government notification of July, 1999 should be withdrawn primarily on the ground that retrospective legislation is contrary to the principles of natural justice and good governance. The prospective withdrawal of this concession from the current fiscal year onwards would be

perfectly in order but undertaking such an exercise retrospectively amounts to penalizing the industry for the mistakes of the Government. Moreover, investor confidence in a sensitive, investment-starved areas like the North-East has been badly shaken by repeated policy changes on the fiscal and financial fronts; such inconsistency and vulnerability to lobbies also shakes domestic investor confidence everywhere in the economy. Finally, it leads to foreign investors shying away from an uncertain and volatile policy framework. The issue is, therefore, larger than the specifics of this excise duty concession: the withdrawal of such retrospective legislation would be to the benefit of the economy as a whole.

The imposition of 10 percent excise duty on mill cloth when the entire textile industry in the country as a whole and in Tamil Nadu, in particular, is bleeding to death, is yet another body blow to a dying industry whose revival is crucial to realizing the positive gains of the WTO Agreements. The excise duty proposal in this regard may please, therefore, be withdrawn.

While there are many problems with VAT in general, in the sector of textiles, the proposal to impose VAT appears to violate the provisions of The Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act 1957 which had been legislated precisely with a view to avoiding Sales Tax in a sector where it would prove impossible in practice to collect taxes from numerous traders spread through the length and breadth of the country. This consideration applies as much to VAT as to any other system of Sales Tax.

With regard to Central Excise notification no. 7/2003, read with notifications no. 6 and 14 of 2002, in so far as these apply to yarn dyeing, winding, warping and weaving, the Hon'ble Finance Minister is requested to recognize that this is a key economic activity employing, after agriculture, the largest number of persons in the unorganized sector. In a situation where non-farm rural employment has been growing much slower than other forms of employment and is estimated to have turned negative in the last financial year, the withdrawal of these notifications is crucial to reviving the domestic industry and gearing it up to face both the challenges and opportunities of the globalization of the textiles trade.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Manufacturers of Mosquito Net fabric, especially those in the business of making HDPE Monofilament Knitted Round Mesh Mosquito Net fabric covered under sub-heading 6002.53 need to be protected from the deleterious consequences of the proposed excise duty at 8 per cent plus 2 per cent AFD. In keeping with the exemption from Central Excise hitherto enjoyed by the industry under 68. A item no 14, the proposed excise duty may please be withdrawn.

I endorse the representation made to the Hon'ble Finance Minister by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and other party leaders for the withdrawal of CENVAT duty on the powerloom weaving industry. At the same time, I urge a holistic approach to the handloom industry in the silk, cotton and synthetic/mixed fabric sectors because silk handlooms, in particular, are being squeezed between the remunerative prices paid to raw silk manufacturers and the advantages accorded to the silk powerloom industry. The Hon'ble Finance Minister may please note that whereas there are large private sector manufacturers in the silk powerlooms industry, the silk handlooms industry is largely the preserve of cottage industry and a dynamic cooperative sector, both of which need more encouragement than large-scale manufacturers. Relative to cotton handlooms, silk handlooms constitute a smaller and less widespread segment of the economy, concentrated in certain parts of the country, including my Tamil Nadu Constituency of Mayiladuturai. Key centres of production in the constituency include Pattiswaram, Darasuram, Kumbakonam and Thirubhuvanam in Thanjavur district besides Mayiladuturai and other centres in Nagapattinam district. A solution to the problems of silk handloom weavers should be integral to the revival of the handloom and powerloom sectors in the country as a whole, bearing in mind, *inter alia*, the immensely important employment and export potential of all types of textiles.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has proposed to withdraw the SEI exemption limit on the manufacture of ready-made garments although 98% of manufacturers are in the cottage and tiny industry category. While there may be justification for imposing excise duty on branded garments, there can be no such justification for those in

the readymade garments industry who are manufacturing garments as wage-goods catering to the mass consumption demand of the poor. One estimate is that the escalation of the excise duty on cloth from the yarn stage to the calendring, is already upward of 30 per cent, and the imposition of a further 8 per cent, taking the total to around 40 per cent, will hurt poor consumers and at the same time jeopardize the livelihood of about 40 lakh of our fellow-Indians who make out a living manufacturing ready made garments.

It is disturbing to discover that the Hon'ble Finance Minister is, in effect, discriminating against manufacturers of sweetmeats and namkeen, who constitute a key segment of the country's food processing industry, in favour of Imported alternatives. The proposed Central Excise duty on these items of virtually household manufacture should be withdrawn.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH (Shillong) : Sir, may I speak for two minutes?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, you may please lay your speech.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : I do not have the written speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can prepare your speech and lay it tomorrow. I will give you permission.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : I am finish it in two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will not be able to finish it in two minutes. Shri Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan is also there. He is also waiting. Therefore, I think it would be better to prepare your speech and lay it tomorrow. The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

19.38 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Wednesday, April 30, 2003/
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