

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Fourteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



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(Vol. XXXVII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

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NEW DELHI**

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LOK SABHA DEBATE

LOK SABHA

...(Interruptions)

Friday, December 12, 2003/Agrahayana 21, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

REFERENCE BY SPEAKER

**Re: Second Anniversary of Terrorist
Attack on Parliament**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members may recall that two years ago, on 13th December, 2001, our Parliament was made the target of a cowardly terrorist attack. The attempts of the terrorists were brought to naught by the bravery displayed by the security personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force, Delhi Police, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the Parliament Watch and Ward staff. In their efforts to safeguard the precincts of Parliament and its occupants by keeping the terrorists at bay, five security staff of Delhi Police, one *Mahila* Constable of the Central Reserve Police Force and two Security Assistants of the Parliament Watch and Ward made the supreme sacrifice of laying down their lives. One gardener also lost his life in the attack. On the occasion of the second anniversary of the terrorist attack, we pay our tributes to those brave souls who sacrificed their lives while performing their duties. This occasion is also a reminder to all of us to be always alert to the dangers posed to our country by terrorists and their supporters. On this occasion, therefore, let us renew our resolve to fight the evil of terrorism and protect the unity, integrity and sovereignty of our country.

The House may stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the martyrs.

11.01 hrs.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while.)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to make a request. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can make after the Question Hour.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Haj pilgrims have been put to extreme inconvenience throughout the country and some conditions have been imposed on the Haj pilgrims. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You raise the matter during the Zero Hour.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of External Affairs is sitting here. This is a very important issue. New conditions have been imposed on them and nobody has been taken into confidence. Things have come to such a pass that a tax payer who lives in Uttar Pradesh will have to leave from Delhi while his parents and wife etc. will leave from Lucknow. It is utterly impractical. It is causing a lot of inconvenience to the Haj pilgrims. Nobody has been taken into confidence. ...(Interruptions) A delegation had also met the Minister of External Affairs. The Minister may assure the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are aware that a notice for calling Attention motion gets priority after the Question Hour but this being a serious matter, I will give two minutes time for this matter before the Calling Attention Motion. Now please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of External Affairs is sitting here. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I need not remind every day that the Question Hour will take place at its scheduled time and if you have to raise an issue, you can do it during the Zero Hour. Now please sit down. I shall function as per rules. Such things will not do.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I had met the hon. Minister of External Affairs. He has issued orders yesterday. ...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform you that he stated that all people can fly to Jeddah from any of the airports in the country. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have taken up the Question Hour. The hon. Members would like to put questions. Just now please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of External Affairs is sitting here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Rashid ji, this question is very important. That is why I have stated this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now Ramdas Athawaleji, now, what should I say to you?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know that after this, there is Calling Attention Motion for discussion, but since it is an important question and as I have promised you, I shall give you an opportunity to raise this point in the House before the discussion on the Calling Attention Motion starts. Therefore, you should also cooperate with me.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given in writing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Akhilesh ji, please take your seat. I have called for the Minister and he might be coming. Only after that I will be able to decide.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, As per my information the Government have taken a decision in this regard. I would like to request through you, Sir, that the Minister of External Affairs may himself come here and announce it.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question 161, Shri Mansinh Patel. He is not present. Shrimati Rajkumari Ratna Singh. She is also not here.

Now I go to the Question No.162. Shri Suresh Kurup.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Availability of Patented Drugs at Affordable Prices

[English]

162. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TRIPS agreement on public health made in the WTO meeting will make patented drugs available at affordable prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the future plans of the Government to make drugs available at low prices;

(d) whether the Government has also taken any measures to establish a National Patent regime which enable affordable access to the latest medical and therapeutic discoveries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The TRIPS Agreement of the WTO obliges Member countries to provide patent protection to all products and processes. The TRIPS Agreement also provides for flexibility in usage of compulsory license. The Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health recognized that the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent Members from taking measures to protect public health. It reaffirmed the right of WTO Members to use, to the full, the provisions in the TRIPS Agreement which provide flexibility for this purpose. The Declaration recognized that these facilities include the right of each Member to grant compulsory license and the freedom to determine the grounds upon which such license is granted, the right to determine what constitutes a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency and the freedom to establish its own regime for exhaustion of intellectual property rights.

Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration recognized difficulties of WTO Members with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector in making effective use of compulsory licensing under the TRIPS Agreement and instructed the Council for TRIPS to find an expeditious solution to this problem and the report to the General Council before the end of 2002.

The General Council of the WTO took a Decision on 30 August 2003 for implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha

Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. The Decision allows manufacture and export of patented pharmaceutical products under a compulsory license to countries with limited or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector. This decision would enable countries with limited or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector to import pharmaceutical products at affordable prices.

The Patents Act, 1970 was amended in year 2002 to make its provisions consistent with the TRIPS Agreement. The Patents Act, 1970 currently does not provide product patent protection to pharmaceutical and chemical products. India, as a developing country can delay the application of the provisions on product patent under the TRIPS Agreement up to 1.1.2005 to areas of technology not so protectable in India on 1.1.2000.

The Patents Act, 1970 contains provisions of grant of compulsory license and revocation of patents if the reasonable requirements of the public have not been satisfied or the patented invention is not available to the public at a reasonably affordable price.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, as per the Patents (Amendment) Act passed by this House, exclusive marketing rights will be given to those firms which apply for that. I would like to know till this date, how many applications have been received by the Government, in how many applications the rights have been granted rights and how many applications have been rejected. What are the reasons for rejection of the applications if it is there?

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, the position is this. With regard to the availability of medicines at affordable prices, so far as the TRIPS Agreement is concerned, there was clause 6 in the Doha Declaration that provided, if I may just read out that:

"We recognise the WTO Members with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector could face difficulties in making effective use of compulsory licensing under the TRIPS Agreement. We instruct the Council for TRIPS to find an expeditious solution to this problem and to report to the General Council before the end of 2002."

But unfortunately this did not happen by 2002. So, on the 30th August, 2003, a decision was taken to enable countries which had no manufacturing capacity or least manufacturing capacity to issue licences for the manufacturing of patented medicines as certain conditions have to be fulfilled before that can be done.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: I have asked how many applications have been received for exclusive marketing rights and how many have been granted rights and how many rejected, and the reasons for the rejection of those applicants who have applied for exclusive marketing rights.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: After the Doha Declaration, four applications have come.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Have you granted it to any applicant?

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: After 30th August, 2003, two EMRs have been granted.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there no supplementary?

SHRI SURESH KURUP: I have second supplementary question.

There is a widespread apprehension that after 2005, when the product patent regime is introduced, the patented drugs will be beyond the reach of the common people. So, I would like to know what steps does the Government intend to take for making patented drugs affordable to the common people after 2005. What is the plan of the Government?

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: So far as the deadline - 1st January, 2005 - is concerned, of course, we have not amended the Act to that extent. We still have time till the 1st of January, 2005.

So far as the price of medicines is concerned, it depends on a number of factors, for instance, the degree of competition, price of substitutes, price elasticity of demand or capacity of the market to absorb high price or paying capacity of the consumers.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: What steps have you taken about the patented drugs?

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: The monopoly granted by patents is an important determinant in prices. The Government has several measures which can be taken to control the price. For instance, the compulsory licence, Government use of Parallel Import of Patents Act 1970, Drug Price Control Order 1995, etc. could be used by the Government to check the prices of patented medicines.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, as per the reply given by the hon. Minister and as per the amendment made in our Patents Act of 1970 in the year 2002 in consonance with the TRIPS Agreement and WTO Negotiations, we have been doing

process patent in this country. Now, we have to go for the product patent. Ninety per cent of our medicines are on the basis of process patent and sudden introduction of product patent creates a lot of problems. Unless there is enough facility for R&D, simply passing of the law of product patent will only make it difficult for the medicines to be manufactured and also the common man will be in difficulty.

My question to the hon. Minister is, will the Government take immediate steps on the basis of the Act so that the product patent and research and development activities are speeded up and the common man gets necessary medicines at cheaper rates?

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, the Research and Development is a continuous process and so far as product patent is concerned, we have time till 1st January, 2005. In the meantime, appropriate legislation will be introduced in the Parliament to look after all these aspects.

DR. V. SAROJA: Hon. Speaker Sir, in the reply it is stated that the General Council of WTO took a decision on 30th August, 2003 for implementation of Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is India's stand on that specific issue. I want a categorical reply from the hon. Minister because the reply given here is very evasive. The House wants to know what exactly is the stand, which we took on that specific issue.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, this decision on the 30th of August, 2003 may enure to the benefit of India because there are many countries, which have no manufacturing capacity or have very little manufacturing capacity. If they issue licences, then we can manufacture the medicines and export. But certain conditions have to be fulfilled by the importing countries.

If I may just give one or two reasons for that, the proposed user has made efforts to obtain authorisation from the right holder on reasonable commercial terms and conditions and that such efforts have not been successful within a reasonable period of time. This requirement may be waived in case of national emergency or in circumstances of extreme emergency or in case of public non-commercial use. Such use shall be non-exclusive and non-assignable. Any such use shall be predominantly for supply in the domestic market and adequate remuneration shall be paid, subject to judicial review or other independent review by distinct higher authority.

When licences are issued to India, we can manufacture these medicines and export them to the countries concerned.

I hope that this will enure to the benefit of India because we are in a position to manufacture quality medicines at affordable prices which other countries cannot purchase because the prices are very high so far as America and other countries are concerned. So this might enure to the benefit of India ultimately if these licences are issued in favour of India.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask a question specifically on HIV-AIDS medicines. The Indian pharmaceutical companies have approached the Government of India and also various agencies at international level. They are in a position to export HIV-AIDS medicines to African countries. Will they be allowed to export the same because it is going to help bring down the prices of HIV-AIDS medicines in India also due to large level of production? I would like to know what is the status of this.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, Shri Kirit Somaiya is quite right and, in fact, up to now, no licences have been issued. But, if and when such licences are issued, we shall be in a position to manufacture the medicines and export them to the countries concerned subject to certain conditions which I have just pointed out.

PROF. A. K. PREMAJAM: Sir, thank you for this opportunity given to me. In the Statement laid on the Table, it is stated that the Patents Act of 1970 currently does not provide product patent protection to pharmaceutical and chemical products. India, as a developing country, can delay the application of the provisions on product patent under the TRIPS Agreement up to 1.1.2005.

Sir, this is only a little more than one year and the hon. Minister has stated that a legislation would be brought in. But, I feel that within one year bringing in a legislation will not actually bring out the desired results.

What are the plans of the Government to see that the common drugs are available to the Indian public at affordable prices?

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, it is always the endeavour of the Government to see that medicines are available at affordable prices to the people of the country. Research and Development is done mostly by the private sector, besides we also have certain research centres. But, then, it all depends on the various factors which determine the price of a medicine. Now, it is our endeavour to see that medicines are available at affordable prices to the common people.

And, so far as the Amendment is concerned, as I said, we shall be introducing the Amendment because we have time till the 1st of January, 2005.

New Items Under ISI Mark

*163. SHRI C. N. SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has brought some new items under compulsory certification of ISI Mark;
- (b) if so, the details thereof as on date;
- (c) whether the Government is considering including other items under ISI Mark;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which this is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Keeping in view the safety of consumers, Government of India has recently brought 24 new electrical products under Mandatory Certification. The notification in this regard has been issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, vide S.O. No.189(E) dated 17th February, 2003 titled "Electrical Wires, Cables, Appliances and Protection Devices and Accessories (Quality Control) Order 2003" under BIS Act. Similarly, various types of cement were brought under mandatory certification of BIS vide S.O.No.191(E) dated 17th February, 2003 issued by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

(c) to (e) Mandatory Certification on products is normally enforced to ensure safety of common consumers keeping in view the aspects such as public health and safety. The final decision to bring any product under Mandatory Certification is taken by the concerned Ministry/Department of the Govt. of India.

[Translation]

SHRI C. N. SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great concern that there is no dearth of packaged food and drinks in the market but no expiry date is mentioned on any of them. As such it is not known whether the item is time barred or not. Some items are imported also. The hon. Minister did a commendable job in banning non standard bottled water but for reasons unknown it was again permitted

after three days. I would like to know through you, from the hon. Minister whether any standard has been laid down for all the bottled water which is being sold in the country or not, whether expiry date is mentioned on the bottle or not, how much nutrition a bottle of water contains. How many months or years back a bottle was manufactured i.e. what is the date of bottling of that water? Water is the most essential requirement but a lot of irregularities are being committed even in this regard. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is formulating any policy in this regard or whether any standard has been laid for it?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what the hon. Member has asked about the laying down of standards of the packaged water. The matter had been forwarded from our department and has already been notified by the Ministry of Health. We are going to enforce the new standards from the end of December.

The second point you have raised is related to the adulteration in the food items etc. I am definitely of the view that there are many departments for checking the quality of 118 items which come under us and the rest are under various departments. I would like to add that 43 items are covered under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. There are five items of dairy products. We look after the packaged water. As per the Essential Commodities Act the Ministry of Industries takes care of Steel and Tubes while coal and mines are looked after by other Ministries. In this way there are many departments. There are numerous laws under which quality control is undertaken. Secondly, most of the implementation work rests with the State Governments and if at all there is any such thing in particular and is brought to my notice, we can pursue that and write to the State Government. We have a very limited number of items under us. The number of mandatory items with us is 118, out of which 24 items belonging to the category of electronic goods are under our control.

SHRI C. N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I specifically asked the question regarding water. Once again, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the procedure of issuing licence to them. My second question relates to ISI mark. So many goods are imported in this country. What restrictions are being imposed on the consumer goods being imported in the country as goods from foreign countries are flooding our market? Hon. Finance Minister is present here. You can go and see for yourself that the markets are full of such goods. Our consumer goods have failed to compete against them and our industries are being ruined.

I would like to know the criteria for issuing ISI mark? It has come to light that anyone can get ISI mark - whomsoever is ready to pay can get the mark. Many such unscrupulous people are in queue. What measures do you propose to take to make this procedure transparent?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has asked about the items which are being imported in the country. The Customs department checks the goods which are to be checked mandatorily before marketing in the country. The goods for which we issue ISI mark are under the control of Custom department. As you allege, no such goods are coming in the country through Custom department. They are coming through several other ways. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Are you telling?
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. N. SINGH: I want to draw the attention of hon'ble Finance Minister also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Let me respond to the issues raised by the hon. Member then I will come to your point. There is a proper list of goods which are being imported and which need to be certified mandatorily. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. N. SINGH: I am asking about consumer goods.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: The list is kept with the Customs Department. Certainly no fake item comes through customs. If such goods are being imported then please give us the information in this regard. We will take action. Hon. Finance Minister is present here. Goods are coming in the country through several ways particularly from the neighbouring countries. Those goods are being brought in the country through several routes. There are several ways of bringing such goods in the country and even at the place where you live. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. N. SINGH: This does not happen in my place.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, the Finance Minister is also here. It is highly objectionable. The Minister himself says that a lot of smuggling is going on. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI C. N. SINGH: Hon. Minister, I come from Machchlishahar. Nepal border is at a distance of 400 kilometres from there. Nepal is at a distance of 400 kilometres from my constituency. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: You live in Eastern Uttar Pradesh?

SHRI C. N. SINGH: I belong to Awadh. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Alright, that is not very far. You are aware that ISI mark is not required on many items and on them there is no need for certification. For ex. microphones in this House are without ISI mark. Similarly our clothes have not been certified. There are several things which are being used in the House e.g. the spectacles for which ISI mark is not necessary. We cannot impose inspector raj on all the things. It is necessary for certain things and for that there are proper arrangements. You can register your complaints, if any, with us in this regard.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is quite unfortunate that a great country like India does not have a unified agency to fix the norms and standards. There is one agency working under once Ministry. There are several other agencies in different Ministries - Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment - and there is no co-ordination among them. Ultimately it is affecting the very health of the common people in the country.

I would just like to know whether there is any proposal before the Government to co-ordinate these agencies with respect to the standard of our commodities and items.

Even in BIS, I would regrettably say that there are no facilities to make sure about the standard. It is a matter of fact that the laboratories in this country are not accredited. It has been revealed that very important laboratories of the Food Technology at Bangalore and Kolkata have not been accredited by the Government of India agency. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, it is also on record and the officers have said that if the matter is taken to the court, even the court will not take it for granted as it is don't accredited. So, this is the situation in the country. Why not BIS at least do some more work, some more arrangement to get these things to be certified taking into account the standards prescribed for each item? Also a co-ordinated agency be formed by the Government of India.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you ask such a lengthy question. You can ask a straight question. It will be easy for you also. Hon. Minister may please reply to one of the questions.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has not asked one question but he has asked several questions together. The original question is about quality but hon. Member has drifted to standards. I agree that there is shortage of staff in our BIS. Various departments have various items and they have enforcement machinery too. The Government is considering this issue. But we have in our technical Committee persons of several departments as members and there is coordination between them too. But I agree that the coordination is not as it should be. In today's scenario BIS is an institution which should be strengthened and made efficient. I have talked with hon. Finance Minister and hon. Prime Minister and have raised the issue of shortage of staff due to restrictions on filling posts lying vacant. In Department of Science and Technology there is no restriction. Due to this restriction we are not being able to deal with the issue effectively as we have paucity of staff. But I would like to mention one thing categorically that keeping in view the prevailing situation and our resources we are doing our work efficiently. You have mentioned about the laboratory - it is being upgraded and the rest of the things are also being upgraded. You must be aware that BIS dealt with the issue of packaged drinking water effectively. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister that as hon. Member Shri Ahamed has said how does the Ministry coordinate between the agencies which carry out works related to ISI in the Centre and States, is known to nobody. If somebody wants to get information about those entrusted with the implementation of the work relating to mark, he will not get any information. If people like us want to know about what is to be done, who will give information and which is the agency through which this work can be done properly, then whether your Ministry will make any effort in this direction and, if so, by when?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ISI marks are mandatory in some places and at others they are voluntary. If you have any information about substandard ISI marked goods in places where it is mandatory, I request you to give me the information and we will definitely take action and we keep on taking action, I do not have figures but you have raised the question that people who have ISI marks are misusing it but we keep on taking action in such matters. If you have any information about people using ISI mark and producing substandard goods then we can look into the matter and can take action. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: She is asking about co-ordination among the different organisations.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you her advocate?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need to reply to his question.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is a vast country, very well known for its variety of products being manufactured. We are manufacturing umpteen number of products. What is the total number of products manufactured in terms of quality and quantity? According to me, we are so good in quantity, but in quality, it is a big question mark. This is the way I observe. What is the total number of products we are manufacturing in terms of varieties? How much is being certified as ISI marked varieties? Is it one per cent or half per cent or negligible or nil? Regarding this ISI mark, I would like to know whether the Government has got a policy to give priority in terms of food products, safety and health products. According to me, the health products and the food products should assume top priority in deciding the question of quality. Mr. Minister, I need your specific answer please.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already submitted that ISI mark is mandatory for certain things and not mandatory for many things. But I want to tell the hon. Member that whatever is within the power of the Government regarding food products or rest of the products, is being dealt with efficiently. My department does not deal with many things, those things are within the purview of Food Department. The hon. Member has asked about the coordination. I would like to tell him that it is the responsibility of the Chief Secretary of the State to coordinate.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: How much is the percentage? Is it half percent or one percent. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I will send that information to you. I do not have the information right now.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, my question originates naturally from the hon. Ministers reply. The objective behind establishing Bureau of Indian Standard was to maintain the quality and standard of goods and control

adulteration or production of substandard things. It is natural that BIS checks the quality of goods for which ISI mark has been assigned and inquire about the quality periodically and to ensure that whether it is as per the set standard or not. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to the number of goods which have been accorded ISI mark by the BIS and which have been examined during the last three years, the number of cases where the quality of goods was not found according to set standards, the number of cases where legal action has been initiated and the result thereof?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: As the hon. Member has asked, during last three months, the goods that are ISI marked. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I want to know the details of the last three years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I do not have information for the last three years. I will send you the information in this regard and your question does not arise from the original one. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: The question arises, the question arises naturally. You go through the whole question. This question is related to ensure quality and it is the responsibility of BIS in this regard to inquire periodically that the prescribed norms are not being violated.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I am replying to the same. I do not have information for the last year. I would like to give information to you of one year. Recently, we have taken action in the matter of five electrical goods. Around 125 cases have been registered during the last one year. I will send the information for the last three years to you as you are asking about it. The action are taken. I agree with your point that the infrastructure in the BIS should be strong and powerful. We have to strengthen the enforcement mechanism of BIS. We are involved in strengthening it and efforts are on, for that we have talked to hon. Prime Minister and correspondence with the hon'ble Finance Minister has also been undertaken. Since it is necessity of time to upgrade and make BIS competent, we have to ensure about the way in which BIS has to function but we have only 5-7 persons with the enforcement machinery and I cannot tell you regarding the problems that we face.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Do not make statements. It is necessary to improve it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: If we will not understand the situation then we have to look to the ways we adopt and we are in the process to make it effective. I will provide the information about the cases of last three years which has been asked.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have got the information that ISI mark is put even on goods that are not having good quality and sometimes ISI mark is not put on genuine goods. Whether hon. Minister is having such information that in spite of being good products ISI marks are not labelled?

MR. SPEAKER: Whether you have such information?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: We have information, we will provide information. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Can you provide the information at this instant.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I will send.

MR. SPEAKER: Now you provide the information in national interest.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I will send the information. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Hon. Member is levelling allegation, it is not a good thing. If you are having any such information then you give it to me. We take stringent action on such cases. If you are having any information regarding give and take then you give that information to me. It should not be that you simply make a gossip here and go away. Such matters have not come in my knowledge. If they come, I will take appropriate action.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q.No.164 - Shri K.E. Krishnamurthy - he is not here.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Question number 164 has not been taken up but it has been mentioned in the House. So permission may be granted to ask supplementary question on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You are a senior Member of the House. It is not possible and you know the rules very well.

[English]

Coordination in Food Management

*165. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Government is facing problems due to lack of coordination among different organisations involved in food management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to plug the loopholes;

(d) whether the Government has set up any special task force for food safety;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the time likely to be taken for constitution and submission of its report?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Effective co-ordination exists amongst Central Government, the FCI, State Governments and its Agencies in the procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes.

(c) To ensure foodgrains reach the intended beneficiaries, the following steps, inter alia have been taken:-

(i) To maintain supplies and secure proper availability and distribution of foodgrains by the States, the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified.

(ii) The State Governments have been asked to involve the Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas in the identification of BPL and Antyodaya families.

(iii) Vigilance Committees have been constituted at various levels, including at the FPS level, for effective monitoring.

(d) Task Force Teams have been constituted to check irregularities and for inspection and monitoring of the TPDS and Antyodaya Anna Yojana, including checking of the quality of foodgrains supplied.

(e) and (f) Task Force Teams have already visited and submitted Reports in respect of the States of Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh,

Rajasthan, Bihar and NCT of Delhi. The shortcomings observed by the Task Force Teams have been sent to the State Governments for corrective action.

[English]

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to put one question to the hon. Minister. In the written answer he has stated that as notified in the PDS Control Order, 2001 in all the States and Union Territories the people who are below poverty line (BPL) and Antyodaya families are going to get their entitlement, that they are the genuine beneficiaries and that they would be checking all the ration cards and there would be no bogus reporting. I have report here that as per one sample survey, five per cent of our total population in the country sleeps without two square meals a day. That seems to be hunger amid plenty. The Targeted Public Distribution System which is actually to help the poorest of the poor, has been devised by the Government.

As enshrined in article 47 of the Constitution of India and as mentioned in the Directive Principles of State Policy, a person is supposed to get his nourishment and adequate food. If the intended beneficiaries do not get their entitlement as per the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, then those who do not do their job commit an offence.

My question is - have the provisions of this Act been followed and have they been invoked and if yes, have the officials down the line been dealt with under this and if no, what are the results.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the specific question.

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Sir, this information may kindly be given to the House. If the above is not done, then do the Government have plans to come down heavily on such officials so that food reaches the poorest of the poor? Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has desired to get almost all information of the department in his supplementary question. He has asked about the offtake during the last three years. I would like to tell him that major improvements have been seen regarding BPL scheme, Antyodaya Yojana and other schemes implemented under the Public Distribution System (PDS). The offtake during the year 2000-01 was 182 lakh metric tonnes which increased to 313 lakh metric tonnes during the year 2001-02. Similarly the offtake increased to 496 lakh metric tonnes during the year 2002-03. Offtake upto October, 2003 has been 292 lakh metric tonnes. The hon. Minister of Finance

is also sitting here. As we all know, the total coverage under Antyodaya Yojana is six and half crore families. Twenty five percent of these families are to be provided wheat at Rs. two per kg and rice at Rs. 3 per kg and therefore the number of such families which was one crore families earlier is now one and a half crore. If the honourable Members so desire, he can see official figures. I am happy to say that a very healthy offtake has been seen under the scheme which provides wheat at the rate of two rupees per kilo and rice at three rupees per kilo and in some States the offtake has been hundred percent.

The hon. Member has also desired to know, how vigilance and monitoring is being done by the officers. I would like to say that the Government of India has constituted a Task Force, wherein a panel comprising of 50 officers of FCI, the department of CWC has been included. Whenever any complaint from any place is received, or even in the absence of it, we send there a team comprising of two-three or four officers of the task force. Apart from the task force we also work with the State Government Officers. There are vigilance Committees at block level and at district level and even at fair price shop level wherein Gram Sewak, Sarpanch and Members of Panchayat Samiti are included and they ensure that the system works properly. In spite of the fact that it is a State subject, we work with them.

[English]

COL (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: The Central Government has launched many welfare schemes like Mid-Day meals, Annapoorna and food-for-work. There have been many training programmes also so that the system becomes well-oiled one with functional efficiency and result oriented approach, so that the system becomes accountable, participative and transparent, as brought out by the hon. Minister, which affords food security to the poor. Apart from the Task Force teams that have been given the task to ensure transparency and accountability of various agencies, what feedback system is in place? How are central surprise checks, if any, being organised for intervention and speedy implementation of the schemes?

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Mid-Day meal scheme, Wheat based nutrition programme, Annapurna Scheme, supply of foodgrains to poor people living in welfare institutions, food-for-work programme, Sampoorna Gramin scheme and nutrition for teenage girls under various welfare schemes are in operation in all the States and the Union territories.

Under these schemes complaints received are disposed

off by the Committees constituted at block level and district level. The complaints which we receive directly are addressed by forwarding those complaints to concerned officials and by working in close cooperation with the State Governments. We all know that the people facing drought in more than 300 districts of fifteen States have been distributed foodgrains amounting to about Rs. 100 crore. It is a living example of our whole hearted cooperation and the distribution and monitoring of such a large quantity of foodgrains in the country having population of 100 crores, is a big achievement in itself.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to say to the hon. Minister that the Public Distribution System and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana are very important schemes, but I have experience of my own village and I can say that the foodgrain distributed under these schemes in that village is not good so far as its quality is concerned and even the price list is not displayed there. Apart from this the foodgrain is not supplied there at reasonable price. Whether the Government propose to take any step to ensure supply of quality foodgrains to the public and to implement effectively the Public Distribution System and Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

Secondly, the task forces constituted for Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar have visited these places and submitted their reports. It is very unfortunate that the people of Maharashtra are not getting foodgrains. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the task force have also visited Maharashtra and have submitted its report?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised two-three points. Through you, I would like to submit that the duty of the Government of India is to purchase foodgrains at MSP and store it as per the requirement of the country. Various states of the country are being governed not by one, but different parties. I am in agreement with them over one point. It is not that their working is not proper at all, but it is not being carried out in the manner and devotion with which it should be. The impact of it is not reaching the grassroot level.

The mention of quality has been made, I would like to tell the hon. Member that so far as the quality is concerned the foodgrains are lifted only after the signatures and approval of the higher and competent officers of State Government and FCI has been obtained. At present we don't have stock of foodgrains which is more than two or three years old. Earlier we were having a stock of 630 lakh tonnes of foodgrains, which has now come down to 272 lakh tonnes. I would like to submit that now we don't have any complaint regarding quality

of foodgrains. If the hon. Member has any complaint of this type under his constituency, he may forward the same to us. But the main job of identification of poor people, issuance of ration cards and opening of FPS is the responsibility of the State Governments. Though we have prepared citizen's charter for this purpose, but to take that down to the grass root level effectively is in the hands of the State Government and not in ours. If there is any shortcoming in the things which are in our hands then definitely efforts will be made to bring about improvement therein.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Sir, the hon. Minister may explain the position with regard to departing the task force.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Sir, so far as the question of task force is concerned, it observes as to how situation could be improved. When its report is received, we neither make that report public, nor raise any controversy about it. Rather we keep the same in our custody and interact with the Chief Minister or the Minister of the concerned department of the State.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Whether any such report has been received regarding Maharashtra?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: No task force has visited Maharashtra. If there is any complaint, then the task force would visit that place. ...*(Interruptions)* It has visited Bihar. But as I told that the report of the task force is not supposed to be made public. The purpose of task force is to bring improvement in the system. It is not a plenipotent task force, nor has it any powers by which it can alter the distribution of work under law. Its function is only to provide information which we share and discuss with the State Governments and try to bring improvement in the system.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, by and large the Public Distribution System is running properly in Kerala. But a complaint has been received that FCI is going to close down some of its godowns in Kerala. Besides, complaints are also being received with regard to the quality of the rice and other items being despatched. By and large, the Public Distribution System has been running smoothly in Kerala, but if there are any shortcomings or loopholes are found; I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he is prepared to discuss it in detail and would take steps to plug the loopholes.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Chennithala is right. Action has been taken effectively on the complaint received from Kerala. There has been talks with the Chief Secretary of that State. Now, there is no such

complaint. I do agree that the public distribution system in Kerala has been running smoothly, but the Government of India is ready to assist with regard to quality and improvement in the system and also in regard to supply. There will not be any lacunae in that respect.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 166 - Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda - Not present.

Question No. 167 - Shri Nawal Kishore Rai - Not present

Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora - Not present

Question No. 168 - Shri Rattan Lal Kataria - Not present

Dr. Jaswant Singh Yadav - Not present

Question No. 169 - Shri Kirit Somaiya.

Sharp Rise in the Capital Market

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

(a) whether the Government has taken note of sharp rise in capital market in the last three months;

(b) if so, whether regulators, SEBI, RBI have studied the reasons;

(c) if so, whether due to sharp increase in speculative business the market value has gone up;

(d) if so, the details of real investment that has come in from Indian investors and from FII during the last six months; and

(e) the actions taken by regulators to safeguard capital market, small investors and to prevent any scam?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) According to SEBI, the recent rise in the stock market indices in India is attributable mainly to factors like the overall improvement in the global economy and liquidity, anticipated better GDP growth, good corporate earnings, low interest rates and increased FII inflows.

(d) The total market capitalization as on November 28, 2003 was Rs. 10,65,853 crore on Bombay Stock Exchange

(BSE) and Rs. 9,79,540 crore on National Stock Exchange (NSE) out of which Rs. 87721.2 crore is on account of net investment by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs). The net investment by FIIs during June 2003 - November 2003 was Rs. 22,340 crore.

(e) SEBI along with stock exchanges has taken the following steps to ensure safety, integrity and efficiency of the stock market and safeguard investors' interests:

- (1) moving to shorter settlement cycles;
- (2) holding weekly surveillance meetings with stock exchanges and depositories;
- (3) imposition of special/ad-hoc margins on select scrips to curb speculation;
- (4) transferring about 587 scrips by the BSE and 143 scrips by the NSE for trading and settlement on trade to trade basis as a surveillance measure;
- (5) requiring information from FII/sub-accounts about issue of all offshore derivative instruments on the underlying Indian securities;
- (6) reducing gross exposure limits for trading members by both BSE and NSE;
- (7) action against "dabba trading" and supercession of the Governing Boards of Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Pune and Calcutta stock exchanges.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank the Hon. Minister that he is paying attention towards the boom registered in the Capital market during the last two months. I would like to draw his attention that it is said that in market

[English]

the increase is due to the inflow from FIIs. I would like to draw your attention towards a unique system in our Indian capital market. With an inflow of Rs. 22,340 crore from FIIs, our market value has gone up from Rs. 7.0 lakh crore to Rs. 10.65 lakh crore. I think, this is not a healthy situation. Will the Finance Ministry consider this particular aspect to see that the market is made stronger, strengthened, healthy and wealthy? What are your observations?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very general observation. The Ministry of Finance and SEBI are

very mindful of the movement and the developments in the capital market. We do constantly monitor the inflow of Foreign Institutional Investors. The Foreign Institutional Investors bring in a certain degree of liquidity in the market. While that liquidity has to be maintained, the buoyancy of the market has to be maintained, the health of the market has to be maintained, the tendencies or mistakes of the past have to be avoided. In that category, both SEBI as also the Ministry of Finance have various mechanisms which are now born of the experience of the past.

I would like to inform the hon. Member, who takes a great deal of interest in the capital market because he represents the small investors' interests, that the capital market in the country today has demonstrated a buoyancy and a strength that is secular. It is not being exploited on anyone particular tendency. We have taken so many measures in the past that I am able to stand today in the House and say that the capital market buoyancy is on account of the overall strength of the economy and, therefore, the hon. Member should be well aware of that particular fact.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I thank you for that. My another suggestion is, "Can we link up the ceiling for derivatives or speculative trading of a broker with his net worth?" At present, the ceiling for a broker is fixed at Rs. 50 crore, whatever may be his net worth. In the past, it has affected the capital market. Therefore, for speculative trading, will the Finance Ministry and SEBI consider this suggestion of linking the maximum limit of a broker with his net worth? At present, the maximum limit in respect of a big broker, with a high net worth, is Rs. 50 crore and, equally, the maximum limit of a small broker, who has a licence, is also Rs. 50 crore. Will you consider this point?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to share with the hon. Member the principle within the ambit of which I am attempting to address my responsibility. We have put in place a number of regulatory mechanisms because it is my belief - and I have said this often - that free market is not a synonym for a free-for-all. The freer the market, the stronger ought to be the regulatory mechanism that the country establishes.

The Ministry of Finance does not believe in micro-management of the regulatory mechanism. SEBI is in position there. It is SEBI's job to do what is required to be done in the market. If the Ministry of Finance started micro-management of the situation - whether it be capital markets, or banking, or insurance - then I think the total functioning of the Ministry of Finance will be completely awry. The manner in which we have - certainly I have - attempted to address the Finance Minister or the Finance Ministry's responsibility is to ensure that the total economic management through the systems

established is good. We will not go into micro-management. Should the hon. Member have suggestions of this kind, he is entirely free to make such recommendations to the SEBI.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do appreciate the efforts made by the Finance Ministry in revitalising the capital markets. There is a phenomenal upsurge today. I compliment the Finance Minister for that. But one aberration has been that there is unhealthy domination by the foreign institutional investors, and there is practically no presence of the small investor who really is the king of the market.

Mr. Speaker, I draw attention to the fact that in the 1990s, on account of a collusion between dishonest company promoters and greedy merchant bankers, the small investors burnt their fingers and then disappeared from the market. So, unless the small investor comes back, the real market will not be achieved because a market to develop, requires hundreds and thousands of independent decision-makers to buy and sell. Only about eight or nine FIs and two or three financial institutions will not serve the purpose of reviving the market. So, what steps are being taken by the SEBI or the Ministry of Finance to bring back, to woo back, the small investor into the market?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would refute the hon. Member's contention about unhealthy absence or unhealthy presence. India of 1990 was markedly different to the India of 2003. I am sure he will recognise that aspect. There is a phenomenal change that has taken place. Certainly, we are all the wiser on account of the two earlier Joint Parliamentary Committees and we naturally have the benefit of the wisdom of those two Committees.

So far as the small investor coming back to the market is concerned, it is entirely a factor of confidence. Secondly, he must understand that uptill now this is the tendency, which I think is part of the societal behaviour of our countrymen, that most of the investors in the secondary market in stock exchanges are urbanities. So far as rural India is concerned, which is almost 80 per cent of India, operations on the stock market, because of various factors are still considered some kind of a *satta*. In the villages, in my village, there is nobody who operates except perhaps the *Mahajan*. But they say, *woh satoria hai*. There is this kind of approach to the markets in the country. This will not go away overnight. I agree with the hon. Member that the essential strength of the market has to be the small investor. That small investor has to come back to the market through a revival of confidence.

12.00 hrs.

There is a revival of confidence, and I appeal to you

and other hon Members to continue to feed that revival of confidence which will also contribute to the small investors coming back.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Recovery of Bank Loans

*161. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases relating to recovery of loans of public sector banks are pending in the courts for more than ten years;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for early disposal of these cases; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government in recovery of loans?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) In order to strengthen the recovery mechanism for early disposal of cases the recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 was enacted on 27th August 1993 to provide for establishment of Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) for expeditious adjudication and recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions. Presently, 29 Debt Recovery Tribunals are operating in the country. These DRTs have been provided with adequate infrastructure and staff for their smooth functioning. For DRT cases pecuniary limit of Rs. 10 lakh or above has been fixed. Lok Adalats are handling cases with pecuniary limit of Rs. 5 lakhs. Chief Justice of India has been requested to enhance the limit in case of Lok Adalat cases from existing Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs in order to bring more cases under the ambit of Lok Adalats.

(d) The total recovery by public sector banks increased by 33.22% from Rs. 14059.18 crores as on 31st March, 2002 to Rs. 18730.15 crores as on 31st March 2003.

Statement

*Number of Suit Filed Cases and Decreed Cases Pending for
Last 10 years and above as on March, 2003*

(Rupees in crores)

Bank Name	Number of suit filed		Decreed Accounts		
	Accounts	Amount	Number of cases	Amount	Amount recovered
1	2	3	4	5	6
Allahabad Bank	368	156.49	126	41.06	2.35
Andhra Bank	2885	127.98	1750	93.25	0.70
Bank of Baroda	2114	216.35	2595	90.82	9.31
Bank of India	4438	250.25	3465	45.72	9.86
Bank of Maharashtra	51	153.19	444	60.99	1.26
Canara Bank	1077	145.37	1842	15.81	0.00
Central Bank of India	1486	122.64	144	78.00	30.78
Corporation Bank	903	19.46	585	7.16	0.03
Dena Bank	818	109.89	432	44.60	0.09
Indian Bank	4466	320.67	305	193.72	13.88
Indian Overseas Bank	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Oriental Bank of Commerce	1136	0.69	734	0.15	0.86
Punjab & Sind Bank	1178	45.37	1720	27.08	0.00
Punjab National Bank	635	173.22	666	43.98	0.61
Syndicate Bank	793	75.04	2075	30.92	8.53
UCO Bank	6196	84.44	3431	22.41	4.19
Union Bank of India	1329	83.31	2347	22.89	14.49
United Bank of India	2209	57.88	0	0.00	0.00
Vijaya Bank	435	9.85	792	6.21	0.00
Total	32517	2152.09	23453	824.77	96.94
State Bank Group					
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	448	0.06	182	0.01	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
State Bank of Hyderabad	427	4.90	243	1.02	0.00
State Bank of India	42205	1736.42	13996	222.67	45.56
State Bank of Indore	93	7.86	146	1.94	0.04
State Bank of Mysore	408	1.17	226	1.64	0.00
State Bank of Patiala	355	34.81	239	5.60	0.56
State Bank of Saurashtra	974	7.71	376	2.78	0.17
State Bank of Travancore	4858	117.10	3356	68.05	2.71
Total	49768	1910.02	18764	303.71	49.04
Grand Total	82285	4062.12	42217	1128.48	145.98

[English]

Reduction of Subsidies on Foodgrains

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

(a) whether the World Bank has suggested that the Government reduce the heavy subsidies being given on foodgrains;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether steps are being taken by the Government to reduce subsidy on foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) In the recent Development Policy Review for India, the World Bank has stated that foodgrains and input subsidies have distorted cropping pattern and public investment in agriculture. It has further suggested that faster growth in agriculture can be achieved by diverting food & fertilizer subsidies towards development of rural infrastructure, irrigation and extension services in agriculture.

(b) to (d) The Government is aware of the problems of increase in various subsidies, including food subsidy as these put pressure on Government finances and consequent fiscal deficit. Major subsidies, including food subsidies are under continuous review by the Government.

Problems of Tobacco Growers

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

(a) whether the tobacco growers in the country, particularly in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, are facing acute problems on various fronts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any demand has been placed before the Union Government including biased attitude of the Tobacco Board in fixing the prices for tobacco; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the prices fixed by the Tobacco Board for tobacco grown in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATAMOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) All tobacco grown in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are being auctioned every year successfully. As such, no acute problem exists in marketing of tobacco. However, some problems often put forth by the farmers to the Tobacco Board include:

- (i) Regularization of unauthorised barns in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- (ii) Penalties associated with excess & unauthorized production.
- (iii) Allocation of low production quotas in Central Black Soil/Northern Black Soil areas of Andhra Pradesh.
- (iv) Shortage of power supply in Northern Light Soil areas of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The Tobacco Board does not fix prices for sale of tobacco. It only facilitates marketing of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco through auctions conducted at platforms managed by Tobacco Board.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Dividends drawn by foreign Institutional Investors

167. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Institutional Investors are earning dividends upto 13% on the investments made by them in the country;

(b) whether these institutional investors are allowed to draw the dividends out of the country;

(c) if so, the average dividend drawn by these institutions during the last three years; and

(d) the names of five countries which top the list in the matter of earning dividends from the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) registered with SEBI are permitted to repatriate dividends/ earnings as well as capital gains subject to applicable tax provisions.

Dividends are declared by Indian companies in conformity with law and based on their commercial considerations. It is not possible to quantify the average dividends earned by FIIs as these are declared by individual companies for all shareholders on a *pari passu* basis. Further, FIIs typically invest in a basket of shares and SEBI does not maintain record of dividends earned by individual investors.

[English]

Bank Loans For Agricultural Sector

168. SHRI HATTAN LAL KATARIA:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has prescribed the target of 18 per cent lending for banks to the agricultural sector;

(b) if so, whether this prescribed target has been achieved by the public sector as well as private sector banks;

(c) if not, the main reasons for not fulfilling the prescribed target by the RBI;

(d) the loan provided by each public sector bank to agricultural sector during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that all banks implement the directions of RBI?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Against a target of 18 percent of Net Bank Credit (NBC) stipulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for domestic public and private sector banks the lending to agriculture constituted 15.3 per cent and 10.8 per cent of their NBC respectively, as on the last reporting Friday of March 2003.

(c) The reasons for shortfall have been, inter-alia:

(i) Faster rate of growth of bank credit to other sectors;

(ii) Low capital formation in agriculture resulting in poor credit absorption capacity;

(iii) Drought in many States;

(iv) Crash in prices of agricultural commodities such as coffee, rubber etc., adversely affecting credit off-take;

(v) Write-off of non-performing assets in agriculture sector; and

(vi) Lack of infrastructure affecting rural credit delivery.

(d) Agricultural advances of each public sector banks for the last three years are shown in the enclosed statement.

(e) Important measures initiated by Government include, inter-alia:

(i) Advice to public sector banks to prepare Special Agriculture Plans (SACP) for augmenting credit flow to agriculture;

(ii) Coverage of all eligible farmers by March 31, 2004 under the Kisan Credit Card Scheme;

(iii) Refinance to banks at concessional rate of interest to enable them to increase credit flow to agriculture;

(iv) Reduction in rate of interest to 9 percent for crop loans up to Rs. 50,000/- by public sector banks; and

(v) Lower rates of interest to banks on contribution to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) as a penalty for shortfalls in agriculture credit.

Statement**Agricultural Advances of Public Sector Banks**

(Amount in Rs. crore)

S.No.	Name of the Bank	As on the last reporting Friday of March		
		2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad Bank	1,593.98	1,928.00	2,137.66
2.	Andhra Bank	1,048.89	1,389.07	1,628.19
3.	Bank of Baroda	3,032.81	3,561.09	4,069.33
4.	Bank of India	3,030.09	3,530.59	4,171.72
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	818.26	1,026.62	1,287.41
6.	Canara Bank	3,510.76	3,888.00	5,408.00
7.	Central Bank of India	2,544.91	3,056.84	3,797.26
8.	Corporation Bank	719.27	937.77	924.69
9.	Dena Bank	1,158.99	1,165.56	1,475.21
10.	Indian Bank	1,453.62	1,526.69	1,850.30
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	1,609.00	1,966.06	2,367.44
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1,669.88	1,972.62	2,232.34
13.	Punjab National Bank	3,849.64	5,127.70	7,059.52
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	849.99	943.15	1,137.12
15.	Syndicate Bank	1,750.00	1,945.00	2,175.55
16.	Union Bank of India	2,050.87	2,887.46	3,688.10
17.	United Bank of India	765.00	1,030.00	1,126.00
18.	UCO Bank	959.00	1,549.00	2,042.00
19.	Vijaya Bank	751.45	859.17	1,147.03
20.	State Bank of India	14,982.31	16,202.92	15,870.76
21.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	818.76	941.67	1,181.07
22.	State Bank of Hyderabad	1,214.30	1,408.39	1,521.40

1	2	3	4	5
23.	State Bank of Indore	609.19	768.45	952.49
24.	State Bank of Mysore	571.69	641.08	782.91
25.	State Bank of Patiala	1,136.00	1,380.00	1,785.00
26.	State Bank of Saurashtra	614.08	802.18	850.46
27.	State Bank of Travancore	572.62	647.91	838.10
All Public Sector Banks		53,685.36	63,082.99	73,507.06

Foreign Exchange Reserve

*170. SHRI J. S. BRAR:

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Chief Economist of International Monetary Fund at the annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF advised the emerging Asian economies that foreign exchange reserve beyond prudent norms is poor policy for the economy of the country and the World;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the Government propose to utilise the foreign exchange reserves beyond prudent norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to RBI India's approach to the management of Foreign Exchange Reserves duly reflects the changing composition of balance of payments and liquidity risks associated with different types of flows. India's foreign exchange reserves are at present comfortable and consistent with the rate of growth, share of the external sector in the economy and the size of risk adjusted flow.

(c) and (d) The policy for reserve management is judiciously built upon a host of identifiable factors and other contingencies which inter alia include size of the current account deficit; the size of short-term liabilities, the possible variability in portfolio investment and other types of capital flows, pressures on the balance of payments arising out of external shocks and movements in the repatriable foreign currency deposits of Non Resident Indians (NRIs).

[Translation]

**Loan/Advance given by
Union Government**

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

(a) the amount of loans and advances provided by the Union Government outstanding against various States as on November 30, 2003;

(b) the extent to which the outstanding amount under both the above heads has increased since March 31, 2003 till date, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to induce the States to make repayments of the amount so owed by them so as to bring about a steady decrease in such outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Union Government loans to the States primarily consist of loans provided by the Ministry of Finance as block loans and against Small Savings collection. The details regarding loans provided to the States and outstanding as on 31.03.2003 and 30.11.2003 are given in the enclosed statement.

Government of India has put in place a Debt Swap Scheme to enable the State Governments to pre-pay their high cost outstanding loans with current Small Savings Loans and Additional Open Market Borrowings bearing lower interest rates. Under this scheme, the States had been allowed to pre-pay high cost debt amounting to Rs.49724 crores till now.

Statement

*Outstanding loans of MOF against State Governments
as on 31-3-03 and 30-11-03*

(Rs in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of States	Outstanding Balances of Block Loans, Small savings Loans and Ways & means Advance as on 30-11-03	Outstanding balances of Block loans and small savings loans as on 31-03-03
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	17875.18	19096.91
2	Arunachal Pradesh	491.57	497.25
3	Assam	3139.42	3858.08
4	Bihar	10248.87	11505.22
5	Chhattisgarh	2777.10	3090.61
6	Goa	609.39	801.18

1	2	3	4
7	Gujarat	13702.93	16866.26
8	Haryana	3707.74	4824.87
9	Himachal Prdaesh	1889.41	2435.92
10	Jammu & Kashmir	2834.89	3275.42
11	Jharkhand	3133.19	3587.27
12	Karnataka	10780.51	11752.22
13	Kerala	5784.39	6421.51
14	Madhya Pradesh	8556.43	9258.34
15	Maharashtra	17082.86	22912.13
16	Manipur	775.19	468.86
17	Meghalaya	364.74	395.01
18	Mizoram	311.48	309.03
19	Nagaland	363.01	395.61
20	Orissa	8334.38	9,463.92
21	Punjab	5698.03	7864.24
22	Rajasthan	8341.28	10008.32
23	Sikkim	233.06	236.52
24	Tamil Nadu	9501.35	11314.63
25	Tripura	601.39	683.08
26	Uttar Pradesh	27413.77	31014.26
27	Uttaranchal	114.57	1211.44
28	West Bengal	18954	24353.19
Total		183620.13	216901.3

[English]

Indo-Russian Trade

172. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether poor market research has adversely affected the Indo-Russian trade expansion;

(b) if so, the factors which are responsible for adverse trade expansion;

(c) whether FICCI had sent a delegation to Russia in the second week of November, 2003 to sort out the problem;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether at present, the biggest impediment for improving bilateral trade is rupee-rouble trade; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken to convert rupee-rouble trade into a 'Free foreign exchange' trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The expansion of Indo-Russian bilateral trade has been affected not so much on account of market research, but due to certain other factors which inter-alia include inadequate inter-banking relations, transition of Russian economy from its centrally planned system to a market economy, lack of intensive business to business interactions, distance and language barriers.

(c) and (d) FICCI led a high powered delegation coinciding with the visit of Honourable PM to Moscow in November, 2003. During the visit, the delegation discussed various issues of mutual trade interest with their Russian counterparts and other organisations to enhance Indo-Russian economic cooperation.

(e) and (f) Indian imports from Russia are in freely convertible currency while exports to Russia can take place in freely convertible currency as well as in Indian rupees under the Debt Repayment Route. Keeping in view the declining annual repayment schedule of the rupee debt funds and with a view to ensuring expansion in trade, various steps have been initiated to encourage exports from India through normal commercial channels. These include extension of lines of credit to Russian banks, developing corresponding relationships between the banks and financial institutions, initiation of steps for opening of a Joint Venture bank by State Bank of India and Canara Bank, reactivation of Joint Business Councils, organisation of trade fairs/exhibitions etc.

[Translation]

Import of Edible Oils

*173. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

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

(a) the production of edible oils in the country during

each of the last three years, and during the current year variety-wise;

(b) whether there has been a decline in its production in recent months;

(c) if so, the details thereof including rise in prices;

(d) the import of edible oil under OGL as on date;

(e) whether increasing imports are likely to affect indigenous oil industry;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to protect and promote domestic oil industry;

(g) whether any cheaper source of edible oil has been identified; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The domestic production of edible oils during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Available information does not indicate decline in production in recent months. There is no appreciable increase in the wholesale prices of edible oils of mass consumption in the last one month.

(d) to (f) During April-June '03 the import of edible oils has been 14.94 lakh MTs only. Since imports are virtually stable there is no likelihood of adverse impact on the domestic industry.

(g) and (h) No, Sir.

Statement

Oil	(In lakh MT)		
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4
Groundnut	14.7	16.6	11.9
Rapeseed & Mustard	13.0	15.6	12.3
Soyabean	8.4	9.4	7.2
Sunflower	2.1	2.4	2.7
Sesame	1.6	2.3	1.3
Nigerseed	0.3	0.4	0.3

1	2	3	4
Safflower	0.6	0.7	0.5
Linseed	0.6	0.7	0.6
Coconut	5.6	5.5	5.5
Cottonseed	4.6	4.8	4.3
Rice-bran	4.8	5.5	6.0
Solvent Extracted Oils	2.0	2.8	2.0
Oils of Tree & Forest Origin	1.0	0.8	0.8

[English]

The Securitisation Act, 2002

*174. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks and financial institutions are taking action under the Securitisation Act, 2002;

(b) if so, bankwise and FI wise number of instances in which action under the Securitisation Act, 2002 has been taken and the total amount involved;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) whether difficulties are being faced by banks/FIs in taking action under the Act; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove these difficulties and bring Housing Finance Companies also under the jurisdiction of Act?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Information is furnished in the enclosed statements I and IIs.

(d) Several borrowers have obtained interim orders in their favour from Courts.

(e) Appropriate steps have been taken by Banks, Financial Institutions and Government for getting these interim orders vacated. Housing Finance Companies have Tier I Capital of Rs. 10 crore or more have already been brought under the jurisdiction of the Act.

Statement-I

Bank-wise Position of Action Taken and Recoveries Made under the Securitisation Act, 2002

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Bank	Notices issued	Amount outstanding	Recovered Cases	Amount Recovered
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Allahabad Bank	1547	487.33	603	20.45
2.	Andhra Bank	400	99.63	112	10.29
3.	Bank of India	1189	393.86	692	30.78
4.	Bank of Baroda	125	429.46	19	7.53
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	330	50.52	46	2.46
6.	Canara Bank	982	297.13	351	30.11
7.	Corporation Bank	202	121.61	70	17.76
8.	Central Bank of India	2607	1195.13	360	36.85
9.	Dena Bank	348	358.59	130	18.77
10.	Indian Bank	984	409.39	239	19.19
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	1857	507	711	28.42
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	2076	411.94	1099	38.26
13.	Punjab National Bank	2640	606.51	867	34.96
14.	Punjab and Sind Bank	1004	479.00	368	16.89
15.	Syndicate Bank	1223	155.64	478	16.11
16.	United Bank of India	143	13.98	53	1.81
17.	Union Bank of India	1487	542.28	409	15.58

1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	UCO Bank	1130	88.40	138	4.60	23.	State Bank of Indore	348	67.93	110	4.74
19.	Vijaya Bank	1921	231.29	603	20.07	24.	State Bank of Mysore	337	99.47	32	4.17
20.	State Bank of India	6618	3794	598	34.00	25.	State Bank of Patiala	789	120.73	203	4.01
21.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	568	108.14	202	3.58	26.	State Bank of Saurashtra	314	70.25	56	3.15
22.	State Bank of Hyderabad	827	282.53	102	9.75	27.	State Bank of Travancore	47	25.36	25	1.39

Statement-II

*Financial Institution-wise Position of Action Taken and Recoveries
Made under the Securitisation Act, 2002*

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No.	Name of Financial Institution	Notices issued (Cumulative)	Total Amount outstanding (Cumulative)	No. of Cases in which Amount was recovered (Cumulative)	Total Amount Recovered (Cumulative)
1.	Industrial Development Bank of India	49	3201	7	8.60
2.	Industrial Financial Corporation of India	62	3494.64	9	14.55
3.	Exim Bank	14	103.72	1	1.07
4.	Small Industries Development Bank of India	6	3.78	3	0.12
5.	Industrial Investment Bank of India Ltd.	11	72.11\$	Nil	Nil
6.	Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd.	18	*62.08	2	*14.50

\$ IBI has reported the claimed amount as Rs. 164.08 crores and loan outstanding as Rs. 72.11 crores.

* Principal only.

[Translation]

**Norms for Packaged Drinking/
Natural Mineral Water**

*175. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) the number of companies in the country which are supplying the packaged drinking/natural mineral water;

(b) the number of companies which are ISI approved and those which are not approved; and

(c) the grounds on which none ISI approved companies are permitted to sell the packaged drinking/natural mineral water?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The number of companies supplying bottled water in the country is not known to BIS. However, BIS has granted 997 licences for manufacturing packaged drinking water and 8

licences for packaged natural mineral water under its Certification Marks, Scheme.

(c) Packaged Natural Mineral Water and Packaged Drinking Water were brought under Mandatory Certification Scheme of the Bureau of Indian Standards through Gazette Notification No. GSR 759(E) and GSR 760 (E) with effect from 29th March, 2001 issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. According to the notifications, no person is authorized to manufacture, sell or exhibit for sale Packaged Natural Mineral Water and Packaged Drinking Water except under Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Marks. Hence, the sale of the Bottled Water by the manufacturers not having BIS Certification Marks Licence is illegal and unauthorized. The State Health Authorities are required to take appropriate action against such manufacturers under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Rules framed thereunder.

[English]

**Evasion of Service Tax by
Cable Operation**

*176. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the cable operators in the country are evading service tax to the tune of crore of rupees annually;

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

(c) whether as per recent survey conducted by the Central Board of Excise and Customs it has been found that cable operators in Delhi are paying meagre tax against an estimated Rs. 6 crore payable annually; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take against such operators who are evading service tax?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Cable operator service has been identified as one of the tax evasion prone services. Field formations have been alerted to take necessary action. Surveys were also conducted during the year by jurisdictional staff to identify unregistered cable operators. As a result of various efforts, the number of Cable operators registered have gone up from 16,458 as on 31.03.2003 to 26,410 as on 30.09.2003. The amount of Service Tax collected from Cable Operators during 2002-03 was Rs. 8.48 crores and during the first six months

of current financial year (2003-04) it was increased to Rs. 22.14 crores.

Action is being taken as per law to recover the service tax due, along with interest and penalty, in cases of evasion detected against any service provider.

Private Sector in Procurement and Storage

*177. DR. B. B. RAMAIAH:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to allow participation of private sector in procurement and storage of foodgrains for bringing about a sense of competitiveness in the system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely impact as a result thereof including employment in Food Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Under the present Government Policy on procurement of foodgrains, the private sector is also free to procure foodgrains from the farmers. The Government announces the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the farmers every crop year so as to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers, prevent distress sale and to have sufficient buffer stocks for a sound Public Distribution System (PDS). Farmers have the freedom to offer their produce to public or private agencies. Under the National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains announced by the Government during June, 2000, the private sector is being encouraged for creation of bulk handling, storage and transportation facilities for foodgrains at different locations in the country.

(c) Greater private participation in procurement, handling and storage of foodgrains is likely to promote competition, efficiency, and investments besides reducing establishment cost of the Food Corporation of India.

Foreign Exchange Inflow Through NRI

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

(a) whether NRI deposit inflow has gone down a month after the Reserve Bank of India has put curbs on interest rates on NRIs deposits;

(b) if so, the extent to which such NRI deposits have fallen; and

(c) the steps taken by the RBI to reduce the dependence on NRIs deposits for foreign exchange flows in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Inflows in NRI deposits have fallen from US \$ 643 million as on April, 2003 to US \$ (-) 53 million as on September, 2003.

(c) The Foreign Exchange reserves have shown an increase during the same period indicating that there has been no impact of these curbs.

MSP on Jute

*179. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems of the jute growers in Orissa, West Bengal and other Eastern States;

(b) whether the Jute growers are not getting remunerative prices of jute in the Eastern States particularly in Orissa and the Jute Corporation of India is not financially sound to provide support price to growers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to revise the Minimum Support Price to the jute growers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SYED SHAH-NAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India is aware of the problems of jute growers in Orissa, West Bengal and other Eastern States.

(b) Government of India has been declaring Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for jute/mesta for every jute season. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommends every year to the Government of India for fixing Minimum Support Price for TD-5 grades of raw jute Ex-Assam, keeping in view the emerging demand and supply situation, market prices, changes in input prices, cost of production, parity with other crops/jute products and other relevant factors. The recommendations of the CACP provide adequate returns over the cost of cultivation to the jute growers. The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has been entrusted with the task of purchase of raw jute from jute growers without any

limit. Thus the jute growers are able to get remunerative prices for their produce.

Government of India reimburses the entire losses to the JCI in its MSP operations in jute. Government is providing a Bank guarantee to JCI against which, it raises resources from the financial institutions. During the current Jute Season, Government of India has provided Bank Guarantee worth of Rs.33 crores to the JCI. The JCI, therefore, is financially equipped to carry out the MSP operations. The JCI has been procuring raw jute directly from the farmers through its 171 purchase centres, in addition to 82 Cooperative Societies, which act as agents of JCI in the jute growing states. Six purchase Centres of JCI are located in Orissa.

(c) It may be stated that the MSP price has undergone upward revision over the years. From 1997-98 to 2002-03 the MSP of jute (TD-5 Ex-Assam basis) has increased by Rs. 60, Rs. 80, Rs. 100, Rs.35, Rs. 25 and Rs. 40 per quintal respectively. The Minimum Support Price for TD-5 ex-Assam has been increased from Rs.850/- per quintal during 2002-03 to Rs.860/- per quintal during 2003-04.

Bank Loan Defaulters

*180. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has asked the banks to take immediate action against the defaulters in the payment of loan taken by them from the banks;

(b) if so, the number of defaulters identified by banks as on June, 2003 having outstanding amount of Rs. 1 crore or more;

(c) the number of defaulters against whom action has been taken so far;

(d) The amount of loan recovered from them; and

(e) the steps taken in respect of remaining defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India has been instructing banks from time to time to take action against loan defaulters.

(b) and (c) As on September 30, 2002 (latest available) there were 10322 defaulters to banks/Financial Institutions with outstanding balance of Rs.1 crore and above in accounts classified as "doubtful" or "loss". Suits have been filed in respect of 7946 such cases.

(d) The banks have recovered an amount of Rs.23,182 crores from NPA (Non-Performing Assets) accounts during 2002-2003.

(e) Banks resort to action, under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and/or try to persuade the borrower to agree to Compromise Settlement in cases where rehabilitation/ restructuring of the account is not possible.

[English]

Allocation for Software Exports

1616. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had requested the Union Government to amend the guidelines in the IT sector so as to enable the allocations to be made after taking into account export of services on the line of ASIDE;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has considered the views of the Karnataka State; and

(c) if so, the total allocations made in ASIDE for Software exports to Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The issue of inclusion of export of Software and IT enabled services was considered in the Department keeping in view its contribution to the economic development of the country. However, owing to difficulty in identifying the source of such services, it was not found feasible to include the same in export data for allocation of funds under ASIDE scheme. However, State Government can utilise the funds allocated to it for promoting exports of software from the State.

Blacklisted NGOs

1617. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NGOs black listed in the last two years till date, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for their being blacklisted;

(c) whether the Union Government has stopped their grant-in-aid; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Ministry had decided to blacklist nine Non-Governmental Organizations during the last two years till date. State-wise list of these NGOs is enclosed as statement.

(b) The performance of these organizations has not been found satisfactory during the inspection.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Organisation	Name of the Project	Reason for Blacklisting
1	2	3	4
1.	Arundhati Educational Society, H.No.10-5- 779/34, Venkat Nagar, Tukaram Gate, North Lallaguda, Secunderabad, A.P.	Educational Complex	During the inspection the performance of the organisation has not been found satisfactory.
2.	Rural Education & Development Society, Door N. 32-35-22, Zamindar Street, Machavaram, Vijayawada-4, A.P.	Mobile Dispensary	-do-
3.	SAM Society for Social Justice, 96, HC Colony, Opposite Deer Park, Rangareddy Distt. A.P.	Educational Complex	-do-

1	2	3	4
4.	Rural and Urban Programme Society, H.No.1/6/39, Near Inspection Bangla, PO & Mandal 0 Sadashivapet, Dist. Medak, A.P.	Educational Complex	During the inspection the performance of the organisation has not been found satisfactory.
5.	Little Flower Society, Plot No.96 High Court Colony, Vanastipuram, RR District, A.P.	Educational Complex	-do-
6.	Sri Venkateswara Mahila Mandali, D.No.5-8-11 /3/2/7, Brodiepat, Guntur, A.P.	Educational Complex	-do-
7.	Gramin Mahila Silari Kadhai Bunai Prashikshan Kendra, Gram Mustafabad, Post Gunjanpur, Azamgarh U.P.	Educational Complex & Residential School	-do-
8.	Dr. Ambedkar Sarvodaya Vikas Parisad, 10, Iqbal Colony, Bhopal, M.P.	Educational Complex	-do-
9.	Hindu Muslim Ekta Avam Kalyan Samiti, 82/75, Guru Gobind Marg, Lal Kuwan, Lucknow, U.P.	Educational Complex & Residential School	-do-

Pay Scales of LIC Employees

1618. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and the General Insurance have been demanding revision in their pay scales as a part of their fresh agreement for the period 2000-2007;

(b) if so, the details of the demand put forward by the employees and whether any negotiations have been held with the employees for an agreed settlement of their demands; and

(c) if so, the details of the agreement finalized in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Wage revision for the period 2002-2007 in the insurance industry is due from August 2002. The demands have been submitted by the employees' unions to the managements of Life Insurance Corporation of India and the General Insurance Companies. They have held negotiations with the employees' unions and specific recommendations, once finalised, would be forwarded to the Central Government for approval.

Varishtha Bima Yojana

1619. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Varishtha Bima Pension Yojna;

(b) since when it is being implemented; and

(c) the response of the public to Yojna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Salient features of the Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) It has been launched all over India on 14th July, 2003.

(c) The response of the public to this Yojana is overwhelming. Total business procured upto 6th December, 2003 under this Yojana is as follows:

No of Policies	-	2,02,460
Premium received (in lacs)	-	Rs.3,82,506.63

Statement

Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana - Salient Features

The scheme is being implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and provides for pension at the return of 9%. The salient features of the scheme are given below:-

Eligibility :

- Indian citizens aged 55 years and above are eligible.
- One person from a family can apply. The family comprises of spouse, minor children and dependants.
- Any valid age proof would be accepted by LIC.

Benefits:

- Pension during the life-time of the pensioner
- In the event of death of the pensioner, purchase price will be returned to the nominee.
- Minimum pension Rs.250/- per month and maximum pension Rs. 2,000/- per month.
- Mode of payment of pension - Monthly, Quarterly, Half-yearly or Yearly as opted.

Premium: For monthly pension single premium payable in lump sum - minimum Rs.33,335/- and maximum Rs.2,66,665/-.

Exit Option: After 15 years, the pensioner has the option to

withdraw from the scheme. In that event, the entire purchase price would be returned to him.

Loan: Upto 75% of the total deposited premium will be allowed in the form of a loan after the policy has completed 3 years. The rate of interest on the loan will be determined by the LIC from time to time.

Japanese Aid for Construction of Projects

1620. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Japan has provided loan to India for the construction of projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, project-wise; and

(c) the names of the States, where these projects have been set up/likely to be commissioned in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Project approved during the Financial Year	Project Implementing Agency	State	Loan Amount (In Yen Million)
1	2	3	4	5
2000-2001				
1	Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project-II	National Thermal Power Corpn. Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	12194
2	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project-II	Delhi Metro Rail Corpn. Ltd.	NCT of Delhi	6732
2001-2002				
3	Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project-III	National Thermal Power Corpn. Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	27473
4	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project-III	Delhi Metro Rail Corpn. Ltd.	NCT of Delhi	28659
2002-2003				
5	Simhadri & Vizag Transmission System Project-II	Transmission Corpn. of Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	6400

1	2	3	4	5
6	West Bengal Transmission System Project-II	West Bengal Power Development Corpn. Ltd.	West Bengal	3127
7	Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project-IV	National Thermal Power Corpn. Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	5684
8	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project-IV	Delhi Metro Rail Corpn. Ltd.	NCT of Delhi	34012
9	Punjab Afforestation Project (II)	Govt. of Punjab	Punjab	5054
10	Bakreswar Thermal Power Station Units Ext. Project	West Bengal Power Development Corpn. Ltd.	West Bengal	36771
11	Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project	Govt. of Rajasthan		9054
12	Yamuna Action Plan Project (II)	Ministry of Environment and Forests	Delhi, U.P., Haryana	13333
13	Ajanta-Ellora Conservation & Tourism Dev. Project	Ministry of Tourism and Culture	Maharashtra	7331

Losses in STC

1621. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Trading Corporation (STC) has incurred losses during the last three years;

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

(c) the action taken against those found responsible for such losses; and

(d) the manner in which Government would make up the said loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The profit (after tax)/loss of STC during the last three years are as under:-

Year	Rs. in Crore
2000-01	2.84
2001-02	(-) 40.34
2002-03	(-) 83.97

The losses were mainly because of the Corporation had to make certain provisions in its Book of Accounts for the year 2001-02 & 2002-03 such as the following:-

- Diminution in the value of investments made in US-64 Units: Rs. 19.31 crore during each of the years 2001-02 and 2002-03
- Amortisation of expenses relating to Voluntary Retirement Scheme of the earlier years: Rs. 5.32 crore in 2001-02 and Rs. 24.55 crore in 2002-03
- Write-off on account of shortfall in the recovery of old dues from the Government Rs. 19.36 crore during 2002-03

Besides the above, lower rental and interest income also contributed to the losses during the last two years. The large part of the loss was not directly related to the performance of the Corporation in these years.

(c) In general, the losses above were not attributable to malafides on the part of any officer.

(d) As a result of the losses, the reserves of the Corporation have come down from Rs. 417 crore (as on 31.3.2001) to Rs. 243 crore (as on 31.3.2003). During the current year i.e. 2003-04, the Corporation has been able to stage a turnaround thereby reversing the trend. Based on current projection, it is expected that during the current financial year STC may end up with positive results and profits.

Government does not propose to give any budgetary support to STC to cover its losses for the years 2001-02 and 2002-03.

[Translation]

Training Centres of ICAI

1622. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) have decided to set up its training centres all over India;

(b) if so, the number of such centres which are proposed to be set up and the locations thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the said training centres are likely to become operational?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Decision of WTO Dispute Settlement Panel on Agriculture Policy

1623. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dispute Settlement Panel of WTO has given its ruling against India on its Agriculture Policy;

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

(c) whether an appeal has been preferred by India with WTO over the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Merger of BIS with National Test House

1624. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to merge the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) with National Test House (NTH);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the purpose it is likely to serve?

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

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

Economic Reconstruction in J and K

1625. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn any strategy for economic reconstruction in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the broad features of the strategy; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to implement this strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government's strategy for economic reconstruction in Jammu and Kashmir was announced by the Prime Minister during his three visits to J and K on 23.5.2002, 19.4.2003 and 29.8.2003.

(b) and (c) Broad features of the strategy include Rs.6000 crore for "employment, rail and road development, relief and security"; creation of at least one lakh employment and self-employment opportunities in J and K over the next two years, revival of tourism, completion of power projects, construction of Basholi Bridge, drinking water project for Kandi area, setting up of Community Information Centres etc.; grant of Rs.30 crores for University of Jammu, release of additional amount of Rs.20 crores for drinking water supply in Kandi area, laying of transmission line from Srinagar to Leh, release of one time grant of Rs.45 crores for construction of building of 10 Kendriya Vidyalayas, to be implemented as Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Central Assistance to the State as well as non-plan assistance.

Fast Track Courts

1626. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for setting up of fast track courts;

(b) the FTCs opened during each of the last three years;

(c) the specific facilities provided in the fast track courts; and

(d) the number of FTCs proposed to be opened during 2003-2004, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) Keeping in view the huge pendency of cases in subordinate judiciary, the Eleventh Finance Commission recommended setting up of 1734 fast track courts primarily to dispose of sessions cases pending for more than two years and above.

(b) A Statement showing the number of fast track courts opened in last three years is enclosed.

(c) The fast track courts have been conceived as additional courts with all facilities to try the pending sessions cases at the district level.

(d) The Eleventh Finance Commission had recommended to set up 1734 fast track courts in the country. Out of this, 1401 courts have been notified and 1136 have been made functional. All the state governments have been advised to set up the remaining fast track courts by 31st December, 2003 as directed by the Supreme Court.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	From 1.4.2001 to 31.12.2001	From 1.1.2002 to 30.11.2002	From 1.12.2002 to 30.11.2003
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	24	14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	0	0
3.	Assam	15	0	5
4.	Bihar	37	73	2
5.	Chhattisgarh	11	12	8
6.	Goa	1	0	0
7.	Gujarat	36	0	25
8.	Haryana	5	1	6
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	9*	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	20	55	14
12.	Karnataka	8	2	25
13.	Kerala	1	21	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	30	10	3
15.	Maharashtra	103	0	0
16.	Manipur	2	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	2	1
18.	Mizoram	0	3	0

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Nagaland	0	0	2
20.	Orissa	17	9	5
21.	Punjab	7	0	9
22.	Rajasthan	40	43	0
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	30	19	0
25.	Tripura	2	1	0
26.	Uttaranchal	30	2	9
27.	Uttar Pradesh	150	56	36
28.	West Bengal	13	12	30
	Total	592	345	199

* Jammu & Kashmir has set up additional 31 FTCs out of their own resources.

O.M. of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions

1627. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry was requested by Ministry of Personnel, P.G. and Pensions vide their OM No.51016/2/90-ESH(C) dated September 10, 1993 to bring the Scheme (regarding grant of temporary status and regularisation of casual workers in pursuance of judgement of CAT, Principal Bench, New Delhi) to the notice of appointing authorities under his administrative control; and

(b) if so, action taken by his Ministry to implement in the Scheme in true spirit as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Edible Oil

1628. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the action on the report of the "Technology Mission" for oilseeds of 1986 had recorded a spectacular increase in production and the country became edible oil exporter instead of importer as at present;

(b) whether World Bank dictates regarding liberalisations is responsible to policy shift; and

(c) the steps are underway to control the damage done due to policy shift?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) After the introduction of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) by the Technology Mission on Oilseeds set up during the year 1986, the production of oilseeds has increased from 10.83 million tonnes in 1985-86 to the level of 24.75 million tonnes in 1998-99.

As per the first advance estimate, the oilseeds production in Kharif 2003-04 has been estimated to be 150.8 lakh MT as compared to the production of 92.2 lakh MT during 2002-03. The oilseed production prospects for Rabi 2003-04 are also much better. The increase in oilseeds production will result in an increase in the vegetable oil production leading to a likely reduction in the edible oil imports during the current year. However, India will continue to be a net importer of edible oil.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Engineering Goods

1629. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has a proposal to increase the exports of engineering goods;
- (b) if so, the achievement made in this regard in 2002-03;
- (c) the target set for the year 2003-04; and
- (d) the achievement made thereon as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Promotion of exports from India, including the exports from the Engineering goods sector has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Exports of engineering goods during the year 2002-03 stood at US\$ 7750.55 million achieving a growth rate of 33.82% over the exports in the year 2001-02.

(c) and (d) Export target of US \$ 8300 million has been fixed for the year 2003-04 in respect of the engineering sector. The export performance of this sector during April-June 2003 has been to the tune of US\$ 2370 million which accounts for 28.5% of the target.

[Translation]

Facilities to Senior Citizens by Bank and FI's

1630. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the special facilities announced for senior citizens and retired people by Banks and financial institutions;
- (b) whether these facilities have also been made available by Unit Trust of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are aware that many unit holder including senior citizens have not been issued bonds by UTI even after lapse of five months; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Employees in the Ministry

1631. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 739 on July 25, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in collecting the information; and

(d) the time by which information is likely to be collected and tabled on the floor of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Due to non-receipt of complete information, by the due date for answering of the Question, an assurance had been given in response to the Unstarred Question No. 739 of 25th July, 2002, referred to in the instant Question No. 1631. This assurance was subsequently fulfilled on 19.10.2003 (copy enclosed herewith).

13th Session, 2003 of 13th Lok Sabha
Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Deptt. of Commerce)
Date of Fulfilment - 19-10-2003

Q.No. Date & Name of M.P. (s)	Subject	Promise Made	How fulfilled	Reason for delay
1	2	3	4	5
USQ No. 739 Dt. 25-7-2003 By Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan	Employees in the Ministry (a) the number of personnel working in group 'A', 'B' 'C' and 'D' in different departments and undertakings under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;	(a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House	(a) to (c) Details sought are contained in the statement	Information had to be collect from various offices under the Ministry.

1

2

3

4

5

(b) the number of personnel belonging to other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, separately, out of total number of personnel; and

(c) the group-wise number of personnel belonging to OBCs, STs and SCs?

Statement

The group-wise number of personnel and personnel belonging to OBCs/STs/SCs out of total number of personnel

Group	Total No. of Personnel	OBC	ST	SC
A	1769	48	76	307
B	3071	136	131	463
C	5419	273	320	1015
D	2729	263	155	974
Total	12988	720	682	2759

[English]

Lending Through Banks in KBK Districts

1632. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of various nationalised banks set up in KBK districts in Orissa; and

(b) the performance of those branches in lending to priority sector, small scale sector and self-help groups during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As on 31-03-2003, the number of branches of Nationalized Banks and State Bank and its Associates are as follows:-

S. No.	District	Branches of Nationalized banks.	Branches of SBI and Its Associates.
1	Koraput	12	15
2	Bolangir	12	14
3	Kalahandi	11	24
	Total	35	53

(b) A statement indicating the details of the performance of these branches, district-wise, in lending to priority sector and small scale sector during the last three years is annexed. RBI database does not presently generate information on lending to self-help groups.

Statement

Lending by Nationalised Bank's Branches in KBK District in Orissa

(In Rs. lakhs)

Year	Koraput		Bolangir		Kalahandi	
	Priority Sector	Small Scale Sector	Priority Sector	Small Scale Sector	Priority Sector	Small Scale Sector
2000-01	2102.80	14.62	1071.82	184.26	1916.57	156.14
2001-02	2114.02	202.12	1456.08	90.69	3254.40	204.56
2002-03	1747.59	61.20	1431.29	158.72	3969.17	748.81

Internal Asset Reconstruction Fund

1633. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India has decided to set up an Internal Asset Reconstruction Fund (ARF);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its terms of reference; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the Net Asset Value (NAV) of various schemes of UTI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Administrator of Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India has intimated that the objective of Internal Asset Reconstruction Fund is to acquire Non Performing Assets from various schemes of UTI MF and Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India. ARF takes focused steps to recover dues from defaulting companies. The amount recovered is distributed in the ratio of 90:10 between the schemes who have transferred NPAs and ARF after deducting the expenses, if any, incurred by ARF.

(c) Managing the assets for improving NAVs of schemes is a continuous core function of UTI AMC.

Free Legal Aid to Poor

1634. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to raise the limit of free legal aid to poor for litigation in Supreme Court, from the existing ceiling of Rs.50,000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely amount to which the ceiling would be hiked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Smuggled Goods/Currency Seized by Customs

1635. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of smuggled goods and foreign currency seized by the Custom officials from January 1 to till date State-wise;

(b) the number of Indian and foreign nationals apprehended in each case of smuggling of goods and currency separately;

(c) the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken to check the smuggling of goods and foreign currency into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The information

is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) 323 Indian nationals and 36 foreign nationals have been apprehended for smuggling of goods whereas 52 Indian nationals and 15 foreign nationals have been apprehended for smuggling of foreign currency.

(c) Action as per law is being taken in respect of goods and persons under the Customs Act, 1962 and allied laws.

(d) Customs field formations, including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, are vigilant and alert to prevent and detect smuggling of contraband goods including foreign currency.

Statement

The quantum of smuggled goods and foreign currency seized by custom officials from January 1, 2003 till date, State-wise is as under:-

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Quantum of Smuggled Goods (Rs. in crore)	Quantum of Foreign Currency (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	88.2904	4.3445
Gujarat	142.6500	0.0451
Maharashtra	113.8120	3.5860
Karnataka	17.4410	-
Assam & other North Eastern States	19.5153	1.8255
Kerala	12.6002	0.3563
Uttar Pradesh	9.8681	0.1300
Bihar	23.6870	0.0800
Orissa	0.0005	-
Delhi	44.3508	5.0387
West Bengal	50.6100	1.6400
Andhra Pradesh	2.9032	1.7693
Rajasthan	0.3247	-
Punjab	1.6355	0.1289

1	2	3
Jammu & Kashmir	0.1648	-
Himachal Pradesh	0.0010	-
Goa	1.1846	0.1200
Pondicherry	0.0055	-
Total	529.0446	19.0643

Investigative Unit of Income Tax

1636. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

SHRI AMBAREESHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to reduce the staff strength in investigative units of the Income-Tax Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the reduction in strength would adversely affected the time taken in processing income tax evasion cases; and

(e) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Government is considering to reduce the manpower at different levels presently deployed for search & seizure activities of the Income Tax Department. Extent of such downsizing is being worked out. The manpower so released will be utilized for other productive activities.

(d) and (e) Officers of the Investigation Wing of the Income Tax Department have been directed to mainly carry out searches in cases involving substantial tax evasion. Cases involving lower amounts of tax evasion are dealt with by way of surveys, enquiry, scrutiny of returns of income. The process of matching of information to be collected through Annual Information Return is also likely to become an important tool to curb tax evasion.

Corruption in Judiciary

1637. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Judicial corruption in the country is on the increase;

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

(c) whether some Judicial experts stressed the need to check such corrupt practices in judiciary; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Allegations of deviant behaviour involving acts of corruption and moral turpitude against some members of Judicial Service of the States and some Judges of High Courts have come to the notice of the Government. However, it may not be appropriate to say that judicial corruption in the country is on the increase.

(c) and (d) Various suggestions from different quarters are received from time to time regarding corruption and malpractices in Judiciary. Even the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution has recommended that a permanent Judicial Committee, comprising the Chief Justice of India and two senior most Judges of the Supreme Court of India, be empowered to examine complaints of deviant judicial behaviour of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Taking these into account, the Constitution (Ninety-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2003, has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 9.5.2003 for setting up of National Judicial Commission which would inter-alia draw up a Code of Ethics for the higher judicial echelon. The Commission shall also inquire into, suo-moto or on a complaint or reference, cases of misconduct or such deviant behaviour of a Judge, other than those calling for his removal, and advise the Chief Justice of India or the Chief Justice of the High Court appropriately after such inquiry.

As regards the Subordinate Judiciary, under article 235

of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of Subordinate Judicial Service vests with the concerned High Court. Therefore, the disciplinary control in respect of judicial officers of District/Sessions Courts lies with the concerned High Court. The Central Government does not maintain any statistical data on this.

**Issue of Export Obligation
Discharge Certificate**

1638. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of EODC (Export Obligation Discharge Certificate) of EPCG licenses, which have not been issued due to delay in receiving nexus by Central Licensing Authority of DGFT;

(b) whether DGFT, Central Licensing Authority, New Delhi is justified in its action in the matter; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Export Obligation Discharge Certificates (EODC) are issued by the concerned licensing authorities on the completion of export obligation imposed as part of the conditions of grant of EPCG licence. Before grant of such certificates, the licensing authorities concerned have to verify fulfilment of export obligation through export in conformity with the nexus of the product with the machinery imported under the Scheme.

Prior to 1-4-2003, the Exim Policy had fixed a time limit of six months for certification for nexus under the said scheme. This has since been reduced to two months. In addition, the power for deciding nexus have been delegated to the regional licensing authorities for all EPCG licences involving duty saved amount upto to Rs. 50 crores vide Public Notice No. 26 dated 30-9-2003 in order to ensure quick disposal of such cases.

Disposal of applications for grant of EODC is an on going process. While all efforts are made for quick disposal of such applications, disposal is dependent on submission of all relevant data and documentation in support of fulfilment of export obligation.

Assistance to Silk Weavers

1639. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several silk weaving families leading a miserable life and some cases of hunger deaths have occurred during the month of August/September, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to rehabilitate the poor weavers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there enough demand for their products abroad but no credit facility is available to them; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No report has been received in this Ministry regarding hunger deaths or miserable condition of silk weavers.

(c) and (d) The Ministry is implementing a number of schemes for the overall development of handloom sector and the welfare of handloom weavers including those in the silk sector. These include Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Design Development and Training Programme, Marketing Promotion Programme, Mill, Gate Price Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Weavers Welfare Schemes, Handloom Export Scheme, and implementation of Handloom (Reservation) Act. An amount of Rs. 130.83 crores was spent in 2002-03 under the above Plan schemes.

(e) and (f) There is a great deal of demand for Indian hand woven silk products in the international market including the market of USA and European Union. In general, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) Organization of Buyer-Seller-Meets in important markets abroad and participation in leading International fairs and exhibitions;
- (ii) Development and diversification of the product range by upgradation of looms and imparting of technical know-how;
- (iii) Dissemination of market intelligence and trade information through the Handloom Export Promotion Council;
- (iv) Availability of incentives to exporters under the different export promotion schemes such as Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme/Duty Drawback Scheme etc.

As regards credit facility to the weavers, it is stated that

NABARD is providing refinance credit facility to the handloom weavers at a concessional rate of interest, besides the loan assistance provided by the National Minority Commission, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Commissions and the National Backward Class Commission to the targeted beneficiaries among the handloom weavers.

Contribution Regulatory Authority

1640. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Govt. has decided to set-up a Contribution Regulatory Authority (CRA) to monitor foreign funds or items collected in kind from foreign organizations and individuals residing abroad;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether in the past funds or items received for distribution in natural calamities and war like situations have not reached beneficiaries; and

(d) if so, to what extent the CRA will be benefited and helpful in collecting and distributing cash and items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) There is no such proposal. Under the provision of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, an association having a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious or social programme can accept foreign contribution after it registers itself with the Central Govt. or obtains its prior permission to accept foreign contribution. An organization of political nature, not being a political party, notified as such by the Central Govt. cannot accept foreign contribution except with the prior permission of the Central Govt. Reports about the misutilisation of foreign contribution by voluntary associations, whenever received are enquired into and action taken against the concerned associations under the relevant provisions of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976.

PPF Scheme

1641. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to phase out the PPF Scheme gradually in order to provide the pension sector with the necessary critical mass to make the new structure viable; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to phase out the Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme under consideration of the Government.

Schemes for Weavers

1642. SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the weaving industry in the State of Andhra Pradesh is in dire state and most of the weavers are migrating to other States;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has formulated any schemes for protection of the weaving industry and development of the weavers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Ministry of Textiles has not received any report from the State Government about the dire state of the weaving industry and their migration to other States.

(b) Government of India is implementing a number of Schemes for the overall development of handloom sector and the welfare of the handloom weavers throughout the country, including in Andhra Pradesh, which include:

- (1) Design Development & Training Programme
- (2) Marketing Promotion Programme
- (3) Mill Gate Price Scheme
- (4) Deen Dayal Hathkarga Prothsaahan Yojana
- (5) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme
- (6) Weavers Welfare Scheme
- (7) Handloom Export Scheme
- (8) Implementation of Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985
- (9) Scheme for Reimbursement of CENVAT on Hank Yarn.

(c) Several initiatives taken to facilitate growth in the powerloom industry include the following:

- (i) Central Government has announced a powerloom package in the Union Budget 2003-04 for

- modernization of powerloom industry by enlarging the scope of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, providing Group Insurance Scheme for powerloom workers and assistance for Group Workshed for powerlooms to create a better working environment and obtain high productivity. The package has been made fully operational.
- (ii) Government has taken up modernisation and strengthening of powerloom service centres, which have been set up to provide technical services of training, testing, project preparation etc.
- (iii) Computer Aided Design Centres have been set up to enable small powerloom units to access new designs and upgrade fabric by product development inputs.
- (iv) A programme for induction of 50,000 shuttleless and for 2.50 lakh semi automatic and automatic looms in the decentralised powerloom sector has been announced.
- (v) Incentives have been made available under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) whereby the powerloom owner can reduce the cost of borrowing capital either by availing 20% upfront Capital Linked Subsidy or by obtaining 5% interest reimbursement of on the loan availed.
- (vi) Import duty on shuttleless looms has been reduced and excise duty exemption has been given to

indigenous automatic looms. Accelerated depreciation benefits at the rate of 50% have been extended on the weaving machinery installed under TUFS.

- (vii) Powerloom Export Entitlement (PEE) quota has been provided to encourage powerloom exports.

[Translation]

Subsidy Given to Various Sector

1643. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of subsidy provided to various sectors in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether this subsidy actually reached the people for whom it was meant;

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

(d) the extent of subsidy proposed to be given for various sectors during the year 2003-04;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (d) The extent of subsidy provided to various sectors during each of the last three years and Budget Estimates for the same during the current financial year is given below:

Major Subsidies of the Central Government

		(Rs. crore)			
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (R.E.)	2003-04 (B.E.)
		1	2	3	4
A	Major Subsidies	25860	30447	41774	48930
1	Food subsidy	12060	17499	24200	27800
2	Indigenous (Urea) fertilisers	9480	8044	7499	7555
3	Imported (Urea) fertilisers	1	47	10	709
4	Sale of decontrolled fertilizers with concession to farmers	4319	4504	3500	4456
5	Petroleum subsidy	-	-	6265	8116

	1	2	3	4
6 Grants to NAFED for MIS/PPS	-	353	300	294
B Other Subsidies	978	760	2844	977
7 Import/export of Sugar				
Edible Oils etc.	40	8	-	-
8 Interest subsidies	111	210	765	179
9 Debt Relief to Farmers	-	-	-	-
10 Others Subsidies	827	542	2079	798
Total-Subsidies	26838	31207	44618	49907

(b) and (c) Budgetary subsidies are designed to achieve national objectives and are periodically evaluated for their impact. Based on the feed back, Policy corrections are made. The food subsidy has been targeted to Below Poverty Line (BPL) population. Fertiliser subsidies have been revamped on the suggestions of Expenditure Reforms Commission.

[English]

ATM of Banks

1644. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether taking a serious note of non-availability of cash at ATM, RBI has asked the banks to keep adequate cash in these machines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases which came to the notice of RBI for shortage of currency in ATM machines during last six months, bank-wise; and

(d) the guidelines issued to the banks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. RBI has instructed all the banks to ensure that adequate quantity of notes is available in their ATMs.

(c) No instance of shortage of currency came to the notice of RBI during the last six months.

(d) ATM maintaining banks are required to ensure that there is no shortage of cash by taking preventive

measures including opening of sufficient number of currency chests.

Import of Corn

1645. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and value of corn imported by China from India during each of the last three years;

(b) whether China has expressed its desire to reduce the corn import from 2004-05;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The total quantity and value of corn imported by China from India during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
2000-01	377	24
2001-02	-	-
2002-03	-	-

(Source: DGCI and S. Calcutta)

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

Pending Industrial Licence applications

1646. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of industrial licence applications of various States pending with the Union Government for approval alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(b) the cost of each industrial project;

(c) whether additional information has been sought from the State Governments in respect of some projects;

(d) if so, whether the State Governments have re-submitted those projects with modifications;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which pending projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Receipt and disposal of Industrial Licence application from various applicants is a continuous process. A list showing Statewise position of industrial licence applications under consideration along with proposed investment as on 1.12.2003 is enclosed as statement.

(c) to (f) Industrial Licence applications are received from entrepreneurs. All steps are taken for speedy disposal of applications. Actual disposal of applications depends on the sectoral policy adopted by the Administrative Ministries concerned, their recommendations on specific cases and also furnishing of required information by the applicant together with the recommendations of the concerned State Government wherever required.

Statement

Statewise position of Industrial Licence Applications under Consideration along with Proposed Investment (As on 1.12.2003)

Name of the State	No. of Applications	Proposed Investment (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	23	81.00
Assam	16	765.74

	1	2	3
Chhattisgarh		8	22.50
Gujarat		1	4.16
Jharkhand		5	6.88
Karnataka		1	1.16
Madhya Pradesh		4	13.59
Maharashtra		7	47.01
Orissa		5	16.12
Pondicherry		1	3.54
Rajasthan		1	1.34
Tamil Nadu		8	11.35
Tripura		4	361.29
Uttar Pradesh		3	59.12
West Bengal		2	2.25
Location in More than One State		5	11.80
Total		94	1408.85

Financial Support to Cooperative Banks

1647. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:

SHRI A. NARENDRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the cooperative banks are either closed down or are on the verge of closure in the country particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the Reserve Bank of India has conducted an investigation in the matter; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government to provide capital support to such cooperative banks which are facing resource crunch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) It is not correct to state that Co-operative banks in the country, especially in Gujarat, are facing closure. However, Reserve

Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled/rejected the licence applications of 21 urban cooperative banks including 7 banks in Gujarat and 4 District Central Co-operative Banks during 2003. In addition, Panchmahals District Central Co-operative Bank (DCCB) Ltd., Gujarat was facing a liquidity crisis and had decided to voluntarily withdraw from the clearing house operations. On RBI's requisition, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Gujarat had superseded the Board of Directors of the bank.

(b) and (c) RBI conducts periodic inspection/scrutiny of the books of accounts of urban co-operative banks under provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Co-operative Societies). Cancellation of licence of a bank is resorted to only after exploring all other possible avenues like merger, amalgamation, etc. In so far as rural co-operative banks, NABARD conducts scrutiny of their books and quick studies and recommends to RBI for issue of licence/ rejection of applications of banks based on the inspection findings. There is no provision in the statute to provide any capital support to any co-operative bank which is facing resources crunch.

National Company Law Tribunal

1648. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up National Company Law Tribunal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 2002 provides for the setting up of a National Company Law Tribunal and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal. The National Company Law Tribunal will replace the existing Company Law Board, the Board of Financial and Industrial Reconstruction [after repeal of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985] and the jurisdiction of High Courts in so far as the Companies Act, 1956 is concerned.

(c) The matter being subjudice a time frame for final decision is subject to judicial processes.

"World Bank Report on Socio-Economic Reforms"

1649. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank in its latest report has warned that India will not be able to reduce poverty and improve human development by 2015 if socio-economic reforms are not speeded up;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the steps now the Government propose to take to speed up socio-economic reforms to achieve the goal by the year 2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Recent World Bank paper titled "Supporting Sound Policies with Adequate and Appropriate Financing: Implementing the Monterrey Consensus at the Country Level" mentions about India's prospects of reducing poverty and improving human development by 2015. As per the paper, under current trends, India is likely to achieve Millennium Development Goals in income and food poverty, and access to safe drinking water.

(c) and (d) The development objectives, goals and strategies are identified in the country's successive Five Year Plans and sector specific policies, which consistently aim at speeding up socio-economic reforms.

Export of Iron Ore

1650. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the countries which are importing iron ore from India;
- (b) the quantum of iron ore exported to those countries during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether any country particularly China wants to buy more iron ore from India;
- (d) if so, the details of the proposal received from China; and
- (e) the other countries to which iron ore export is proposed to be increased in 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The major countries which are importing Iron Ore from India and the quantum of Iron Ore exported to them during the last three years are as follows:

(Quantity : Million Tonnes)

Country	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
China	14.10	19.22	26.27
Japan	16.77	15.62	15.75
South Korea	2.31	3.00	2.41
Taiwan	0.90	0.43	0.58
Europe	1.48	1.81	2.04
Others (including Pakistan and Middle-East countries)	1.93	1.56	1.00
Total	37.49	41.64	48.02

(Source: MMTC)

(c) and (d) Sir, China has, of late, become a major importer of Indian iron ores. Indian iron ore export to China has gone up from 7.45 million tonnes in 1998-99 to 26.27 million tonnes in 2002-03. In fact, the growth in Indian iron ore export during the last five years has been possible with the increased exports to China. The Chinese demand for increased iron ore exports from India continues for the present also. As against export of 12.64 million tonnes during April-October, 2002, a quantity of 15.98 million tonnes has been exported during the same period of Financial Year, 2003, thereby registering an increase of 26.42%. This indicates the increased demand by China for Indian iron ore. This is likely to continue in the year 2003-04 and subsequent years also.

(e) MMTC, the designated State Trading Enterprise (STE) for export of high grade iron ore has so far not received any request from other countries to increase the Iron Ore exports in 2003-2004. However, the export of iron ore to China which is currently at the level of 26-27 million tonnes is likely to continue in the year 2003-04 also. Besides this, the traditional importers of Indian iron ore viz. Japan and South Korea will maintain their off-take at the current level of 15-16 million tonnes and 2-3 million tonnes respectively, as the supply is guided by the Long Term Contracts.

Export of Marine Products

1651. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of having long sea shores the export of marine products from India is very negligible in global market;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to boost the exports of marine products;

(c) whether the Government are planning to allow mechanical fishing on a large scale by taking assistance of foreign countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) India is one of the leading exporters of marine products to the global export market. India occupied 16th position among the top exporting countries of the world during 2001 as per statistics published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation. In order to further increase the exports, Government have taken several steps, which include schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry; steps to upgrade processing facilities to meet international standards of hygiene and quality; expansion of aquaculture; imparting training to aquaculture farmers to adopt sound management practices to prevent outbreak of diseases; assistance to produce value added products for exports; participation by the Marine Products Export Development Authority in international fairs; conducting overseas market surveys etc.

(c) and (d) The Government have issued guidelines for operation of Indian owned deep sea fishing vessels in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on 1-11-2002. The guidelines allow import of deep sea fishing vessels by Indian companies for operation in the Indian EEZ for boosting our production mainly directed to exports.

Bank Lending in Kerala

1652. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total deposits in the branches of nationalized banks in Kerala, bank-wise as on date; and

(b) the total amount of loan distributed in Kerala by these banks during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) A statement indicating Bank-wise details of deposits and advances during the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 in the State of Kerala is enclosed.

Statement

Aggregate Deposit and Gross Bank Credit of Nationalised Banks in Kerala 2001 to 2003

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Bank Name	As on 31st March					
		Aggregate Deposits			Gross Credit		
		2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	State Bank of India	465064	574470	647637	232539	245430	259345
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	2781	2743	3130	1238	1396	1455
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	3114	4223	5854	3585	3293	3912
4.	State Bank of Mysore	11090	7730	8027	5439	5473	4930
5.	State Bank of Saurashtra	993	1233	1213	1333	1801	2053
6.	State Bank of Travancore	983935	1138551	1287402	425711	494143	591795
7.	State Bank of Baroda	94281	106033	116991	32179	33098	35202
8.	Allahabad Bank	2161	2284	2595	2229	2348	4422
9.	Bank of India	52885	58169	63869	28831	32434	37882
10.	Bank of Maharashtra	5073	8446	7305	2078	12026	2524
11.	Canara Bank	465902	536852	604008	168627	223866	274119
12.	Dena Bank	13719	10563	11171	5737	6584	6389
13.	Indian Bank	126368	141076	162721	44720	42277	51969
14.	Indian Overseas Bank	197987	217247	236621	54576	65187	76670
15.	Central Bank of India	88837	98893	108727	32867	34296	38317
16.	Union Bank of India	176450	195755	229164	77775	97284	123274
17.	Punjab National Bank	13755	17748	19769	18380	21838	24474
18.	United Bank of India	1428	1598	1815	977	1289	1968
19.	UCO Bank	14466	18410	22922	10018	13435	18578

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Syndicate Bank	133485	135030	159222	44578	46571	54950
21.	Andhra Bank	8816	8566	9727	4265	5311	9080
22.	Corporation Bank	53291	58604	67186	18885	21688	27189
23.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	6815	7134	9223	6145	7138	7296
24.	Punjab and Sind Bank	3959	3935	1772	1116	1079	1332
25.	Vijaya Bank	56399	63926	73001	20904	22485	29149
Total		2983054	3419219	3861072	1244732	1441770	1688274

Source: Basic Statistical Returns - 7

Import of Spices

1653. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India imports a large quantity of spices;
- (b) if so, the details of such spices;
- (c) the value of imports in dollars of spices during 2002-03;
- (d) whether any efforts have been made to grow such spices in India;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Major spices imported by India are Pepper, Garlic, Cloves, Cassia, Cardamom (Large) and Cumin.

(c) During 2002-03, the value of imports of spices was 118.94 million US\$.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) It is constant endeavour of the Government / Spices Board to encourage and support farmers/growers to grow spices in the country. Major programmes implemented by the Government / Spices Board include production of quality

planting material and its distribution, area expansion under various spices, replanting of uneconomic and diseased gardens, adoption / promotion of integrated pest, disease and nutrient management practices, irrigation and land development and transfer of technology through field demonstrations.

(f) Does not arise.

Movement of Indian Professionals

1654. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether opening up the labour/service market and movement of people under WTO Agreement is far from being realised;

(b) whether the EU countries refuse to recognise the educational qualifications from Third World countries;

(c) if so, the extent to which this decision would affect the prospects of the aspiring Indian professionals;

(d) whether the Government has taken up for negotiation in the WTO Forum regarding these anomalies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The General Agreement on Trade in Services establishes a multilateral framework of principles and rules for trade in services and for grant of market

access and national treatment commitments on a sectoral basis by each country, including on temporary movement of natural persons for supply of services. In this context, the commitments taken by most countries during the Uruguay Round are linked to commercial presence and are subject to a number of limitations and administrative hurdles.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The European Community has in its commitments, offered access for temporary movement of service providers in various categories subject to evaluation of the education and professional qualifications of the persons seeking access.

(d) and (e) In keeping with the understanding that developed countries have taken very minimal commitments with regard to the movement of natural persons, India had submitted a proposal on liberalization of such movement at the WTO, identifying the barriers faced and suggesting strategies to achieve meaningful liberalization. Furthermore, requests have also been made to important trading partners in individual service sectors seeking the removal of barriers to access. These aspects are being addressed in the context of the ongoing mandated negotiations for achieving progressive liberalization of trade in services.

Export of Cars and Two Wheelers

1655. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India made cars and two wheelers are popular in overseas markets and it is necessary to boost the exports of these items;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in their exports during the last one year; and

(c) the names of countries where these items are being exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Indian exports of cars and two wheelers are doing well in the overseas markets as the following figures for the last two years would show:

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Item:	2001-2002	2002-03	Percentage of growth in 2002-03 over 2001-02
Cars	418.28	897.11	114.47
Two Wheelers	263.26	513.17	94.93

Source: DGCI and S Kolkata.

(c) India is exporting cars to about 80 countries out of which our major exports are to Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Algeria, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, UK, France, Korean RP, Switzerland, Egypt and Greece. Similarly, two wheelers are exported to about 115 countries out of which our major exports are to Sri Lanka, Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal, Mexico, Columbia, UAE, Dominic Republic, Peru and USA.

Futures Trading in Gold and Silver

1656. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is a major consumer of gold and silver using 800 tonnes of gold and 3500 tonnes of silver in a year;

(b) if so, whether after a 42 year gap, India has launched futures trading in gold and silver as reported in the 'Times of India' dated October 4, 2003 under caption "Gold, Silver futures trade starts";

(c) if so, the number of bodies recognized by the Forward Market Commission for futures trading in silver and gold; and

(d) the extent to which this decision of the Government is likely to curb wild fluctuation in prices of silver and gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No reliable information/statistics on the consumption of gold and silver is available. However, in the year 2002-03 about 606 tonnes of Gold and 3069 tonnes of Silver were imported in various forms (Source GJEPC).

(b) to (d) Futures trading commenced on 3rd October, 2003 by National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., Ahmedabad. Three exchanges viz., (i) National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., Ahmedabad. (ii) Multi Commodity Exchange, Mumbai and (iii) National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Ltd., Mumbai have been recognized by the Forward Markets Commission (FMC) for futures trading in Gold and Silver. The basic objectives of futures trading are price discovery and price risk management. In the process, it facilitates moderating fluctuations in prices. However, the exact extent of the same cannot be specified.

*[Translation]***Funds to Bihar**

1657. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar played prominent role in reducing the revenue deficit in comparison to other States of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has also provided assistance to Bihar for improving its financial conditions; and

(c) if so, the details of the financial reforms

introduced by Bihar and the subsequent Central assistance provided for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) to (c) A statement showing status of Revenue Surplus/Deficit as percent of Revenue Receipts for 29 States including Bihar, during the last four years, is enclosed. Bihar was in the category of initial improvement and later deterioration.

Incentive under Fiscal Reforms Facility introduced on the recommendation of Eleventh Finance Commission is linked to improvement in Revenue Deficit situation. Bihar has not been released this assistance as Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Programme of the State has not been finalised.

Statement*Revenue Surplus/Deficit as % of Revenue Receipt*

		(%)				
Sl.No.	States	1999-00 Act	2000-01 Act	2001-02 Act	2002-03 RE	2003-04 BE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-7.34	-18.46	-13.19	-13.91	-8.61
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	17.01	-1.90	5.14	20.60	19.97
3.	Assam	-20.75	-13.83	-14.78	-13.11	-17.84
4.	Bihar	-28.22*	-26.01*	0.79	-21.23	-11.19
5.	Chhattisgarh			-12.30	-8.68	-4.67
6.	Delhi	17.58	32.10	19.34	29.92	28.48
7.	Goa	-17.01	-15.24	-12.20	-4.47	-2.17
8.	Gujarat	-26.02	-40.04	-42.10	-36.13	-28.36
9.	Haryana	-20.55	-9.24	-13.89	-12.37	-9.38
10.	Himachal Pradesh	-2.86	-42.13	-23.16	-44.93	-44.35
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	-9.82	-16.97	-5.15	9.23	15.22
12.	Jharkand			1.65	-4.47	6.81
13.	Karnataka	-18.02	-12.56	-21.45	-20.05	-10.76
14.	Kerala	-45.60	-36.05	-28.78	-16.57	-20.98
15.	Madhya Pradesh	-22.21	-16.71	-28.17	-10.67	-3.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Maharashtra	-16.89	-26.50	-27.21	-22.29	-11.86
17.	Manipur	-26.83	-8.26	-13.70	-0.64	-0.38
18.	Meghalaya	1.68	4.65	-2.99	-2.92	6.38
19.	Mizoram	-3.62	-23.35	-30.01	-3.70	-13.35
20.	Nagaland	-0.82	-2.88	-7.70	6.01	12.20
21.	Orissa	-43.74	-27.91	-40.15	-15.47	-24.53
22.	Punjab	-36.52	-24.91	-42.35	-27.35	-22.97
23.	Rajasthan	-37.18	-21.24	-31.23	-30.19	-23.81
24.	Sikkim	0.12	11.51	7.91	10.74	9.49
25.	Tamil Nadu	-26.95	-18.76	-14.55	-28.60	-17.35
26.	Tripura	-1.57	-5.86	2.91	-3.93	7.28
27.	Uttar Pradesh	-33.74	-25.42	-24.15	-16.96	-9.20
28.	Uttaranchal			-3.65	-40.56	-23.32
29.	West Bengal	-90.95	-52.20	-60.92	-58.49	-57.49

Source: Finance Account/State Budget.

*Revised Estimates

Persons Involved in Hawala Racket

1658. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons involved in Hawala racket against whom action has been taken during the last year and the current financial year till date. State-wise;

(b) the nature of action taken against the persons found guilty;

(c) the number and the names of persons who were assisting terrorists and the States to whom they belong to; and

(d) the reaction of the Government towards the fact that despite actions taken by the Government against the guilty persons Hawala racket is being operated at large scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Proposals for Primitive Tribals from Maharashtra

1659. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals for grant-in-aid to the State Government of Maharashtra under Central Sector Scheme for the Development of primitive Tribal Groups in Maharashtra has been received from the Government of Maharashtra;

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

(c) whether the proposals for development of primitive tribal groups in Maharashtra have since been sanctioned and the required amount have been released;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason for delay and when the said proposals are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two proposals have been received from Government of Maharashtra for Development of Primitive Tribes, one for Gadchiroli and other for Nandurbar districts.

(c) to (e) The proposals have been considered by the Review cum Selection Committee of the Ministry for sanction as appropriate.

Edible Oil Fund

1660. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Edible Oil Fund with a view to helping its growth and price stability;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No feasible suggestion was received.

Accounting Firms

1661. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted searches on some accounting firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the scope of searches;

(c) the outcome of such searches;

(d) whether this type of searches will be followed at regular intervals in future to keep tab on the accounting firm: and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A search was conducted at the premises of an accounting firm of Delhi on 6.9.2002. A search is authorized by the Director General/Director of Income Tax (Investigation) on being satisfied that the income which has not been disclosed or is not likely to be disclosed to the Income Tax Department can be unearthed by conducting the search.

(c) Cash of Rs. 2,50,000/- and Share Certificates of face value of Rs. 17,32,500 were seized.

(d) and (e) The search can only be conducted for the reasons mentioned at (b) above

[Translation]

"Schemes for Tribal Women"

1662. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes being implemented by the Government for tribal women;

(b) the programme-wise grants provided during the last three years; and

(c) the number of institutions and NGOs in Uttar Pradesh which have been provided with grants during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Ministry has been implementing the schemes of Construction of Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes from Third Five Year Plan and Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of Literacy amongst Scheduled Tribe Women in tribal areas since 1993-94 exclusively for tribal women. Besides, National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation (NSTFDC), a Govt. of India undertaking under the Ministry has introduced a scheme from 2002-03 viz. Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana.

The scheme of Construction of Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes provides for financial assistance to the State Government on 50:50 basis (100% to UTs) for construction of Hostel Building to provide hostel facilities to the Scheduled Tribe girls studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and universities. The Scheme of Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of Literacy amongst Scheduled Tribe Women in tribal areas provides for financial assistance to the extent of 100 percent to the Non-Governmental Organizations and State Govt. run societies

for setting up and running of educational complexes in those 136 Districts in the country which are having less than 10% literacy among women as per 1991 census. Under the scheme of Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana, the Scheduled Tribe women of DPL (Double the Poverty Line) families can avail Term Loan for Schemes/Projects costing upto Rs. 50,000/- per unit from NSTFDC through the states channelising agencies. Promoter's contribution is not insisted upon and the interest rates under this scheme are upto 4% p.a. for the beneficiaries. The loan is to be repaid within a maximum period of 10 years in quarterly/half yearly instalments.

(b) Programme-wise grants provided during the last three years under each of the schemes is as indicated below:

Scheme	(Rs. in crores)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Construction of Girls Hostels	2.33	7.20	6.34
Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of Women Literacy in Tribal Areas.	1.02	3.99	6.00
Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana	Nil	Nil	7.66

(c) Of the three schemes, the Ministry provides financial assistance to NGOs under the Scheme of Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of Women Literacy in Tribal Areas only. Under the Scheme the Ministry has funded 3, 2 and 1 number of organisation(s) during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03, respectively.

[English]

WTO Negotiations on Services

1663. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has filed requests at WTO relating to services under Doha Declaration;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the services that India has shown interest in;

(c) the status of negotiations on the issue;

(d) whether negotiations on emergency safeguard measures have been concluded as planned;

(e) whether any specific commitments have been arrived at; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India has submitted requests in the sectors of Accounting; Architecture, Health, Computer related, Construction and Engineering, Financial, Audio-visual, Tourism and Maritime Transport services to a large number of trading partners. The requests are part of the request-offer process that is underway at the WTO. Further negotiations in response to the requests and offers tabled by each member country would take place on a bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral basis.

(d) Negotiations on Emergency Safeguard Measures (ESM) continue to take place at the WTO and are scheduled to be concluded by March 31, 2004.

(e) and (f) The negotiations towards specific market access and national treatment commitments to be undertaken by each member country of the WTO are continuing. So far, about 40 countries have submitted their 'initial offers' for such commitments but final schedules of commitments would be worked out only towards the end of this round of negotiations, which is presently slated for 1.1.2005.

Formation of Asian Economic Community

1664. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister while addressing entrepreneurs and Business Associations from South East in the month of September, 2003 in New Delhi, stressed the need for cooperation between India and the South East Asian countries to shape an Asian Economic Community with Free Trade arrangements;

(b) if so, the decisions taken or resolutions adopted at the meet;

(c) the steps have been taken or being taken towards formation of such a community with Free Trade arrangements; and

(d) the other subjects discussed at the meet and results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Honourable Prime Minister of India in his inaugural address at the Second India-ASEAN Business Summit held on 4th September, 2003 in New Delhi highlighted the importance of India-ASEAN partnership and announced that the Economic Ministers of India and ASEAN have reached an agreement on the text to be signed on the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between India and ASEAN. He further, informed that BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka India Economic Cooperation) provides a valuable link between South Asia and our two close neighbours in South East Asia and that BIMST-EC is working towards a Free Trade Arrangement.

(b) and (c) A Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between India and ASEAN was signed during the Second India-ASEAN Summit meeting held on 8th October, 2003 in Bali, Indonesia. Under this Agreement, India and ASEAN will establish a Free Trade Area in goods by the year 2016.

(d) Several other areas which were discussed in the inaugural speech included, inter-alia, new cooperation programmes in science and technology, transport and infrastructure, information technology, biotechnology and human resources development; cooperative projects for the CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) under the India-ASEAN Fund; trade and investment; space technology; trilateral highway project; Mekong Ganga Cooperation; WTO issues etc.

"Word Bank Aided Projects in MP"

1665. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the World Bank aided projects under implementation in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the amount of World Bank assistance received for these projects as on date; and

(c) the present status of the projects as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) There is one state sector project, namely, Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project, assisted by World Bank under implementation in Madhya Pradesh. The utilization upto October, 2003 has been USD 14.554 million out of total World

Bank credit of USD 110.1 million for this project. Moreover, there are three multi-state projects namely, Hydrology Project, Ecodevelopment Project and Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Project, in which Madhya Pradesh is one of the participating states.

Export Decline in Garments

1666. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep decline in export of readymade garments from India during the last six months;

(b) if so, the extent to decline during the period as compared to corresponding months last year; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to increase exports of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) As per latest available Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI and S) data, exports of readymade garment during the period April-July 2003 have amounted to US\$ 1593.0 million as compared to export of US\$ 1758.7 million during the corresponding period of 2002, showing a decline of 9.4%.

(c) Government has been taking a number of measures to boost the textile exports including readymade garments. Some of the important initiatives are:

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

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

(iv) With a view to making fabric production competitive, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%.

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

Pension for Agriculture Labourers

1667. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has mooted any plan for granting pension to agricultural labourers of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the scheme and likely time frame from when this will be implemented; and
- (c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Government launched Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha

Yojana 2001 w.e.f. 1.7.2001 for the agricultural workers, which is being implemented by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in 50 identified districts in the country on a pilot basis for three years. The scheme, envisaged the benefit of life-cum accident insurance, money-back, pension and superannuation benefits. The scheme inter-alia, provided for minimum pension of Rs. 100 p.m. paid to the member during his/her life time, subject to at least 10 years contributions having been received.

Investment in States

1668. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the name of the top ten States according to the actual domestic investment in 2002-03;
- (b) the total investment made during the last three years in these ten States;
- (c) whether any State dropped from top position to the bottom; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The State-wise investment in the National accounts framework is not compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation. However, investment based information on Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEMs) compiled from SIA Statistics published by the Secretariat for Industrial Assistance (SIA), Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is given in the enclosed statement. It may be observed from the statement that, in 2002, the leading States attracting investment are Gujarat, West Bengal, Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

(b) to (d) Total investment based information on IEMs during 2001, 2002 and 2003 (Jan-Sept.) in these States are also given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

*Statewise Breakup of IEMs implemented (From August 1991 to September 2003)
Based on Part B of IEM form Filed by Entrepreneurs*

	1992-2000	2001	2002	2003 (Jan-Sept) Investment (Rs. Crore)	2001 to September 2003
1	2	3	4	5	6
Gujarat	26580	3921	2803	183	6907
West Bengal	25498	581	1553	253	2387

1	2	3	4	5	6
Haryana	9161	158	1360	7	1525
Maharashtra	24430	1791	822	216	2829
Punjab	4759	355	807	8	1170
Andhra Pradesh	11533	1605	572	178	2355
Tamil Nadu	8200	751	474	18	1243
Uttar Pradesh	15554	721	328	304	1353
Rajasthan	9470	1283	214	9	1506
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	976	45	202	0	247
Madhya Pradesh	8091	154	119	3	276
Goa	359	228	114	1	343
Jharkhand	1488	38	84	4	126
Orissa	1520	33	81	3	117
Assam	31	967	75	29	1071
Pondicherry	220	26	65	0	91
Chhattisgarh	1070	122	43	14	179
Karnataka	8026	211	38	169	418
Meghalaya	1	7	19	9	35
Kerala	973	18	14	7	39
Daman & Diu	2052	34	13	29	76
Uttaranchal	105	4	9	3	16
Himachal Pradesh	135	141	7	0	148
Jammu & Kashmir	602	0	3	155	158
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
Bihar	51	14	0	0	14
Chandigarh	258	0	0	0	0
Delhi	634	0	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0
Total	161777	13208	9819	1602	24629

IEM: Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum

Note: No applicant had reported implementation of IEM during the year 1991.

Note: Investment figures revalidated based on revised data in respect of certain sectors

Source: SIA Statistics, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (October 2003)

[Translation]

Welfare of Tribals

1669. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Adivasis living in Maharashtra;
- (b) the details of the welfare programmes/schemes being implemented by the Union Government in the State; and
- (c) the details of the schemes being implemented by non-Governmental organizations for welfare of Adivasis in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) As per 1991 Census, there were 73,18,281 Scheduled Tribes living in the State of Maharashtra, which constitute 9.27% of the total population of the State. The details of the Scheduled Tribes notified under Article 342 of the Constitution of India for the State of Maharashtra are available in the Annual Report 2002-2003 as well as on the web-site (www.trbal.nic.in) of the Ministry.

(b) and (c) The details of the welfare programmes/schemes of the Ministry being implemented in the State of Maharashtra, including the details of the schemes being implemented by non-governmental organizations for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes in the State, are also available in the Annual Report 2002-2003 and the web-site of the Ministry, referred to above.

Funds to States

1670. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the head-wise funds allocated by the Union Government to States during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government are providing 29 per cent amount of Central revenue to the State Governments;
- (c) if so, since when and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the names of the States which had demanded financial assistance from the Union Government during the last three years and the State-wise and head-wise quantum thereof alongwith the action taken by the Union Government to cater to the demand of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The share in net proceeds of Central taxes and duties is devolved to States on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission established under Article 280 of the Constitution. On the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission 29.5 per cent of net proceeds of Union taxes and duties are being shared with States for the award period 2000-2005. The tax-wise, State-wise share for the last three years is detailed in the enclosed statements I to III. Central Assistance for State Plans provided by the Central Government to the States during last three years is at enclosed statement-IV.

(d) Requests of various States at different times for release of advance share in Central taxes and duties have been received and the same have been examined and advance releases made in a number of cases to meet the requests of States.

Statement-I

The amount released to States on account of States' share of net proceeds of all shareable Union Taxes and Duties and Expenditure and Service Tax as per the recommendations of Eleventh Finance Commission during the year 2000-2001

(In Crore of Rupees)

Sl. No.	State	Corporation Tax	Income Tax	Wealth Tax	Customs	Union Excise Duty	Other Taxes & Duties	Expenditure Tax	Service Tax	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	810.06	630.98	3.18	1030.33	1445.36	18.17	7.60	50.63	3996.31
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25.66	9.04	0.10	32.65	45.80	0.58	0.24	1.60	115.57
3.	Assam	345.54	247.40	1.35	439.51	616.54	7.75	3.24	21.60	1682.93

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4.	Bihar	1420.16	1051.85	5.57	1806.34	2533.96	31.85	11.43	76.20	6937.36
5.	Chhattisgarh	101.88	75.96	0.40	129.59	181.79	2.29	2.35	15.68	509.94
6.	Goa	21.67	15.31	0.09	27.56	38.66	0.49	0.20	1.36	105.34
7.	Gujarat	296.73	355.03	1.16	377.43	529.46	6.66	2.78	18.55	1587.80
8.	Haryana	99.30	150.83	0.39	126.30	177.17	2.23	0.93	6.20	563.35
9.	Himachal Pradesh	71.85	32.07	0.28	91.38	128.19	1.61	0.67	4.49	330.54
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	135.69	65.34	0.54	172.59	242.11	3.04	0.00	0.00	619.31
11.	Jharkhand	115.26	85.94	0.45	146.61	205.66	2.59	2.97	19.78	579.26
12.	Karnataka	518.58	419.44	2.03	659.59	925.29	11.63	4.86	32.41	2573.93
13.	Kerala	321.56	258.23	1.26	409.00	573.75	7.21	3.02	20.10	1594.13
14.	Madhya Pradesh	827.77	647.12	3.24	1052.86	1476.97	18.56	6.36	42.43	4075.31
15.	Maharashtra	487.23	772.34	1.91	619.72	869.35	10.93	4.57	30.46	2796.51
16.	Manipur	38.50	17.62	0.15	48.97	68.69	0.86	0.36	2.41	177.56
17.	Meghalaya	35.97	17.01	0.14	45.75	64.19	0.81	0.34	2.25	166.46
18.	Mizoram	20.83	4.70	0.08	26.49	37.16	0.47	0.20	1.30	91.23
19.	Nagaland	23.14	0.63	0.09	29.44	41.29	0.52	0.22	1.45	96.78
20.	Orissa	531.83	394.52	2.08	676.45	948.93	11.93	4.99	33.24	2603.97
21.	Punjab	120.65	224.75	0.47	153.46	215.27	2.71	1.13	7.54	725.98
22.	Rajasthan	575.69	444.93	2.26	732.24	1027.20	12.91	5.40	35.98	2836.61
23.	Sikkim	19.35	10.28	0.08	24.62	34.54	0.43	0.18	1.21	90.69
24.	Tamil Nadu	566.43	499.24	2.22	720.47	1010.68	12.70	5.31	35.40	2852.45
25.	Tripura	51.23	23.50	0.20	65.16	91.40	1.15	0.48	3.20	236.32
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2056.00	1565.68	8.06	2615.11	3668.50	46.12	18.87	125.83	10104.17
27.	Uttaranchal	26.49	19.75	0.10	33.70	47.27	0.60	0.65	4.34	132.90
28.	West Bengal	853.69	688.93	3.35	1085.86	1523.25	19.15	8.00	53.36	4235.59
Total		10518.74	8728.42	41.23	13379.18	18768.43	235.95	97.35	649.00	52418.30

Statement-II

The amount released to States on account of States' share of net proceeds of all shareable Union Taxes and Duties and Expenditure and Service Tax as per the recommendations of Eleventh Finance Commission during the year 2001-2002

(In Crore of Rupees)

Sl. No.	State	Corporation Tax	Income Tax	Wealth Tax	Customs	Union Excise Duty	Other Taxes & Duties	Expenditure Tax	Service Tax	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	866.67	715.95	1.52	926.08	1440.57	21.05	6.80	82.86	4061.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	27.46	7.62	0.05	29.34	45.64	0.67	0.22	2.62	113.62
3.	Assam	369.70	278.78	0.65	395.04	614.50	8.98	2.90	35.34	1705.89
4.	Bihar	1304.23	1142.06	2.29	1393.63	2167.86	31.67	10.24	124.69	6176.67
5.	Chhattisgarh	268.41	235.03	0.47	286.81	446.14	6.52	2.11	25.66	1271.15
6.	Goa	23.18	18.32	0.04	24.77	38.53	0.56	0.18	2.22	107.80
7.	Gujarat	317.48	278.00	0.56	339.24	527.70	7.71	2.49	30.35	1503.53
8.	Haryana	106.24	93.03	0.19	113.52	176.59	2.58	0.83	10.15	503.13
9.	Himachal Pradesh	76.87	28.36	0.13	82.13	127.76	1.87	0.60	7.35	325.07
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	145.18	64.21	0.25	155.13	241.31	3.53	0.00	0.00	609.61
11.	Jharkhand	338.52	296.43	0.59	361.72	562.68	8.22	2.66	32.36	1603.18
12.	Karnataka	554.82	481.66	0.97	592.85	922.22	13.47	4.35	53.04	2623.38
13.	Kerala	344.04	286.21	0.60	367.62	571.85	8.35	2.70	32.89	1614.26
14.	Madhya Pradesh	726.22	635.92	1.28	776.00	1207.11	17.64	5.70	69.43	3439.30
15.	Maharashtra	521.29	456.47	0.92	557.02	866.47	12.66	4.09	49.84	2468.76
16.	Manipur	41.19	17.04	0.07	44.01	68.46	1.00	0.32	3.94	176.03
17.	Meghalaya	38.49	16.26	0.07	41.13	63.98	0.93	0.30	3.67	164.83
18.	Mizoram	22.28	2.02	0.04	23.81	37.04	0.54	0.18	2.13	88.04
19.	Nagaland	24.76	-4.78	0.04	26.46	41.15	0.60	0.19	2.37	90.79
20.	Orissa	569.00	442.13	1.00	608.01	945.79	13.82	4.47	54.40	2638.62
21.	Punjab	129.08	113.03	0.23	137.93	214.56	3.13	1.01	12.34	611.31
22.	Rajasthan	615.93	504.74	1.08	658.15	1023.79	14.96	4.83	58.88	2882.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
23.	Sikkim	20.71	11.11	0.04	22.13	34.42	0.50	0.16	1.98	91.05
24.	Tamil Nadu	606.03	530.67	1.06	647.57	1007.33	14.72	4.76	57.93	2870.07
25.	Tripura	54.81	22.06	0.10	58.56	91.10	1.33	0.43	5.24	233.63
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2153.69	1885.89	3.78	2301.31	3579.81	52.30	16.91	205.90	10199.59
27.	Uttaranchal	74.39	65.14	0.13	79.49	123.65	1.81	0.58	7.10	352.29
28.	West Bengal	913.38	792.88	1.60	975.98	1518.20	22.18	7.17	87.32	4318.71
Total		11254.05	9416.24	19.75	12025.44	18706.21	273.30	87.18	1062.00	52844.17

Statement-III

The amount released to States on account of States' share of net proceeds of all shareable Union Taxes and Duties and Expenditure and Service Tax as per the recommendations of Eleventh Finance Commission during the year 2002-2003

(In Crore of Rupees)

Sl. No.	State	Corporation Tax	Income Tax	Wealth Tax	Customs	Union Excise Duty	Other Taxes & Duties	Expenditure Tax	Service Tax	Total Col. 3 to 10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	945.60	692.10	1.52	997.60	1534.17	22.94	6.80	115.08	4315.81
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	29.96	6.86	0.05	31.61	48.61	0.73	0.22	3.64	121.68
3.	Assam	403.36	268.60	0.65	425.55	654.43	9.78	2.90	49.09	1814.36
4.	Bihar	1423.00	1106.16	2.29	1501.27	2308.73	34.51	10.24	173.18	6559.38
5.	Chhattisgarh	292.85	227.65	0.47	308.96	475.13	7.10	2.11	35.64	1349.91
6.	Goa	25.30	17.68	0.04	26.69	41.04	0.61	0.18	3.08	114.62
7.	Gujarat	346.39	269.26	0.56	365.44	561.99	8.40	2.49	42.16	1596.69
8.	Haryana	115.91	90.11	0.19	122.29	188.06	2.81	0.83	14.10	534.30
9.	Himachal Pradesh	83.86	26.24	0.14	88.48	136.07	2.03	0.60	10.21	347.63
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	158.40	60.21	0.25	167.11	256.99	3.84	0.00	0.00	646.80
11.	Jharkhand	369.35	287.11	0.59	389.66	599.25	8.96	2.66	44.94	1702.52
12.	Karnataka	605.35	466.40	0.97	638.65	982.14	14.68	4.35	73.66	2786.20
13.	Kerala	375.37	276.74	0.60	396.01	609.01	9.10	2.70	45.68	1715.21
14.	Madhya Pradesh	792.36	615.94	1.28	835.94	1285.55	19.22	5.70	96.44	3652.43
15.	Maharashtra	568.76	442.12	0.92	600.04	922.77	13.80	4.09	69.22	2621.72

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
16.	Manipur	44.94	15.91	0.07	47.41	72.91	1.09	0.32	5.47	188.12
17.	Meghalaya	41.99	15.20	0.07	44.30	68.13	1.02	0.30	5.10	176.11
18.	Mizoram	24.31	1.41	0.04	25.65	39.44	0.59	0.18	2.97	94.59
19.	Nagaland	27.01	-5.46	0.04	28.50	43.83	0.66	0.20	3.29	98.07
20.	Orissa	620.82	426.47	1.00	654.97	1007.24	15.06	4.47	75.55	2805.58
21.	Punjab	140.84	109.48	0.23	148.59	228.50	3.42	1.01	17.14	649.21
22.	Rajasthan	672.02	487.78	1.08	708.99	1090.32	16.30	4.84	81.77	3063.10
23.	Sikkim	22.59	10.54	0.04	23.83	36.66	0.55	0.16	2.74	97.11
24.	Tamil Nadu	661.22	513.99	1.06	697.59	1072.79	16.04	4.76	80.46	3047.91
25.	Tripura	59.80	20.55	0.10	63.09	97.02	1.45	0.43	7.27	249.71
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2349.81	1826.61	3.78	2479.06	3812.42	56.99	16.91	285.97	10831.55
27.	Uttaranchal	81.16	63.09	0.13	85.63	131.68	1.97	0.58	9.87	374.11
28.	West Bengal	996.55	767.75	1.60	1051.37	1616.85	24.17	7.17	121.28	4586.74
Total		12278.88	9106.50	19.76	12954.28	19921.73	297.82	87.20	1475.00	56141.17

Statement-IV

(Rs. in Crores)

Statement-IV					1	2	3	4	5
S.N.	States	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	11	Jammu & Kashmir	1657.02	2022.56	2305.17
1	2	3	4	5	12	Karnataka	1522.94	2847.31	1973.81
1	Andhra Pradesh	2764.76	5092.59	3491.73	13	Kerala	682.02	789.44	1459.48
2	Arunachal Pradesh	591.01	610.81	604.63	14	Madhya Pradesh	1499.30	1921.32	2026.64
3	Assam	1544.27	1573.27	1775.46	15	Maharashtra	1241.79	1249.80	1692.01
4	Bihar	1855.81	1442.21	1834.98	16	Manipur	413.41	575.58	567.67
5	Chhattisgarh	279.25	442.82	575.49	17	Meghalaya	404.76	408.80	408.59
6	Goa	131.14	132.66	93.87	18	Mizoram	399.78	459.89	507.38
7	Gujarat	2014.29	2801.52	2934.77	19	Nagaland	422.70	459.56	454.01
8	Haryana	590.35	390.51	483.24	20	Orissa	1454.45	1286.74	1906.50
9	Himachal Pradesh	952.92	1027.69	1295.27	21	Punjab	546.28	665.95	584.43
10	Jharkhand	315.23	438.16	557.09	22	Rajasthan	1189.89	989.77	1363.21
					23	Sikkim	266.36	303.30	290.83

1	2	3	4	5
24	Tamil Nadu	1752.70	1259.97	1362.36
25	Tripura	659.52	696.57	648.41
26	Uttaranchal	475.78	1148.54	1604.82
27	Uttar Pradesh	4980.39	3506.85	4296.78
28	West Bengal	2056.10	2073.00	2185.39
Total		32664.22	36617.19	39284.02

[English]

Financial Condition of States

1671. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the financial health of the States, State-wise;
- (b) the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the States and their growth rate for the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the growing ratio of fiscal liabilities to GDP and revenue deficit of the States, State-wise; and

(d) the concrete steps the Government has taken to improve the financial position of States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The financial health of the States, in terms of ratio of their revenue surplus/deficit and gross fiscal deficit to GSDP, for the latest three years for which GSDP figures are available, is at enclosed Statement-I. Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the States and their growth rates is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) The Government has initiated several measures in this regard including Fiscal Reforms Facility, Debt Swap Scheme, Reform Oriented Schemes like Accelerated Power Reforms and Development Schemes, Urban Reforms Initiative Fund (URIF), Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). Government has also streamlined the process for containing States' exposure to guarantee based borrowings.

Statement-I

Ratio of Revenue Surplus/Deficit and Gross Fiscal Deficit of States to GSDP (%)

Sl. No.	States	Revenue Surplus/Deficit as % of GSDP			Gross Fiscal Deficit as % to GSDP		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	-0.98	-2.58	-1.92	-3.97	-5.25	-4.48
2	Arunachal Pradesh	10.66	-0.96	2.87	-5.51	-14.94	-12.79
3	Assam	-3.43	-2.54	-2.72	-5.49	-5.01	-4.47
4	Bihar	-8.38	-6.40	0.15	-14.42	-10.56	-1.19
5	Chhattisgarh		1.24	-1.78		0.22	-3.59
6	Delhi	1.43	3.04	NA	-2.64	-2.80	NA
7	Goa	-3.09	-3.01	-2.94	-5.04	-5.49	-5.31
8	Gujarat	-3.36	-5.71	-5.39	-6.30	-7.23	-5.60
9	Haryana	-2.43	-1.11	-1.77	-4.36	-4.14	-4.58
10	Himachal Pradesh	-0.87	-9.63	-5.85	-1.55	-13.84	-10.27

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	Jammu & Kashmir	-3.88	-6.51	NA	-9.59	-12.70	NA
12	Jharkhand			NA			NA
13	Karnataka	-2.44	-1.78	-3.00	-4.49	-4.03	-5.36
14	Kerala	-5.79	-4.56	-3.42	-7.25	-5.62	-4.29
15	Madhya Pradesh	-3.77	-2.93	-3.88	-5.03	-4.84	-4.48
16	Maharashtra	-1.76	-3.28	-3.02	-4.81	-3.76	-4.02
17	Manipur	-9.00	-2.61	-4.49	-20.57	-5.54	-9.48
18	Meghalaya	0.48	1.41	-0.84	-6.35	-6.69	-5.55
19	Mizoram	-2.21	-10.93	-14.56	-15.18	-21.21	-23.61
20	Nagaland	-0.37	NA	NA	-7.80	NA	NA
21	Orissa	-6.66	-4.97	-6.54	-9.70	-8.57	-9.16
22	Punjab	-4.46	-3.54	-5.34	-5.22	-5.91	-7.01
23	Rajasthan	-4.64	-3.31	-4.23	-6.83	-5.42	-6.41
24	Sikkim	0.22	10.90	14.63	-11.02	-5.54	-6.84
25	Tamil Nadu	-3.48	-2.43	-1.84	-4.25	-3.60	-3.19
26	Tripura	-0.50	-1.82	0.90	-6.38	-8.45	-8.88
27	Uttar Pradesh	-4.35	-3.64	-3.30	-6.65	-5.89	-5.29
28	Uttaranchal	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
29	West Bengal	-7.32	-5.42	-5.68	-9.20	-7.80	-7.57

Statement-II*Gross State Domestic Product at Current Prices*

Sl. No.	States	(Rupees in Crore)			.(% Growth over previous year)		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	125236	139137	150096	9.0	11.1	7.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1610	1898	1945	6.3	17.9	2.5
3.	Assam	29263	30711	32428	14.5	4.9	5.6

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar	42358	46259	50987	9.0	9.2	10.2
5	Chhattisgarh	25405	26061	30265	5.6	2.6	16.1
6	Delhi	52375	57547	NA	11.6	9.9	NA
7	Goa	6762	7521	7771	11.3	11.2	3.3
8	Gujarat	107618	110449	124905	2.2	2.6	13.1
9	Haryana	48872	54660	59754	12.0	11.8	9.3
10	Himachal Pradesh	12229	13329	14717	14.3	9.0	10.4
11	Jammu & Kashmir	13961	14750	NA	11.1	5.7	NA
12	Jharkhand	30511	28986	NA	-0.1	-5.0	NA
13	Karnataka	95310	104815	109461	8.5	10.0	4.4
14	Kerala	62514	69042	76182	11.1	10.4	10.3
15	Madhya Pradesh	77804	73165	81286	12.4	-6.0	11.1
16	Maharashtra	243178	238875	271406	13.6	-1.8	13.6
17	Manipur	3188	3302	3591	22.0	3.6	8.8
18	Meghalaya	3291	3729	3978	11.9	13.3	6.7
19	Mizoram	1409	1769	1789	13.1	25.6	1.1
20	Nagaland	2547	NA	NA	6.8	NA	NA
21	Orissa	38629	38779	43293	8.6	0.4	11.6
22	Punjab	61178	66049	70751	9.8	8.0	7.1
23	Rajasthan	78481	79600	89727	7.3	1.4	12.7
24	Sikkim	840	911	977	7.4	8.5	7.2
25	Tamil Nadu	126500	141150	148585	7.0	11.6	5.3
26	Tripura	4544	5270	6062	19.1	16.0	15.0
27	Uttar Pradesh	166808	172702	187231	8.4	3.5	8.4
28	Uttaranchal	NA	NA	NA			
29	West Bengal	126834	139969	156020	9.8	10.4	11.5
	All-India GDP	1761932	1917724	2094013	10.2	8.8	9.2

P: Provisional Estimates

NA: Not Available

Centres of NIFT

1672. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned centres of National Institute of Fashion Technology at Tirupati and Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government has demanded that such centres should also be set up at Vijayawada and Warangal; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

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

Improvement of Infrastructure and Industrial Areas

1673. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have considered to improve infrastructure and industrial areas and also cleared a fund for that purpose;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and details of areas where the fund to be utilised;
- (c) whether Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will also be formed to take up project; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) The Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) is a Central Sector Scheme, with a provision of Rs. 675 crore to be implemented by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in the Tenth Plan. The objective of the scheme is to enhance international competitiveness of the domestic industry by providing quality infrastructure

through public-private partnership approach in selected industrial clusters/locations. The scheme envisages provision of physical infrastructure like water, transport, road, communication etc. Other common infrastructure like fuel/gas supply system, effluent treatment, solid waste disposal, product design, captive power generation, Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure (ICT) support, and infrastructure identified by the cluster association, and approved by the Apex Committee, can also be considered under the scheme.

The Central assistance will be restricted to 75% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50 crore. The remaining 25% will be financed by other stake holders of the respective cluster/location with a minimum industry contribution of 15% of total project cost. The industrial areas where the funds will be utilised will be decided by an Inter-Ministerial APEX Committee after the scheme is notified.

The scheme will be implemented through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) formed by the cluster/industry association which will carry out the business of developing, operating and maintaining the infrastructure facilities created in the industrial locations. SPV will be an independent legal entity registered under Companies/Societies Act.

Upliftment of Tribals

1674. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received some schemes from the Government of Maharashtra to facilitate the upliftment of people belonging to Scheduled Tribes for Central assistance during the past six months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the response of the Union Government thereto;
- (d) the number of welfare schemes run for the welfare of STs with the help of Union Government in Maharashtra; and
- (e) the assistance given by the Union Government for the purpose during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 so far?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has received proposals from the Government of Maharashtra for the upliftment of people belonging to Scheduled Tribes for Central assistance during the past 6 months, under the following schemes:

1. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan.
2. Grant-in-aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution.
3. Grant-in-aid to Non-governmental organizations.
4. Vocational Training in Tribal Areas.
5. Educational Complex in Low literacy pockets.
6. Development of Primitive Tribal Groups.
7. Post Matric Scholarship for ST students.
8. Research and Training
9. Hostels for ST Girls and Boys.
10. Ashram Schools in TSP Areas.

(c) The receipt and sanction of the proposals for

the welfare of the tribals is an ongoing process. The proposals submitted by the State Governments under the various schemes of this Ministry are processed and sanctioned when they fulfil the eligibility conditions of the relevant schemes and subject to the availability of the funds. An amount of Rs. 2736.68 lakh has been released to the State Government of Maharashtra so far during the current year under the various schemes.

(d) The details of the schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes being implemented in the State of Maharashtra are available in the Annual Report 2002-03 as well as on the web-site (www.tribal.nic.in) of the Ministry.

(e) The funds released by the Ministry to the State of Maharashtra under various schemes during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 (as on 30-11-2003) are as under:

S.No.	Name of Scheme	2002-03	2003-04 (as on 30-11-2003)
1.	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan.	3723.83	1675.72
2.	Grant under Article 275(1) of the Constitution	2925.00	913.50
3.	Grant-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organisations	70.61	65.36
4.	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas	4.80	80.51
5.	Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for the Scheduled Tribe girls	11.13	1.59
6.	Development of Primitive Tribal Groups	127.00	0.00
7.	State Tribal Finance Development Corporation	100.00	0.00
8.	Post Matric Scholarship for ST students	165.02	0.00
9.	Research & Training	6.00	0.00
Total		7133.39	2736.68

[Translation]

Procurement Centres

1675. SHRI PRADIP YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has opened procurement centres in each State so that farmers get remunerative price for their wheat and paddy;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof alongwith details of procurement made by said centres;

(c) whether the Government proposes to open

procurement centres in Godda, Dwarka and Devaghar districts of Jharkhand State for procurement of paddy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A statement showing the number of procurement centers opened in each State, by the FCI and State Agencies, during the Kharif and Rabi Marketing Seasons 2003-04 and quantity of paddy and wheat procured is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The matter regarding opening of procurement

centers for paddy in Jharkhand during the current Kharif Marketing Season was discussed by the FCI officers with the State Government authorities. Initially it was proposed that a procurement center may be set up at District Godda. However, after discussion it has been decided that FCI would operate the following procurement centers:-

1. FSD Ranchi
2. ARDC Tatisilwai

3. FSD Gumla
4. APMC Chakulia
5. FSD Jasidih

No request for opening of procurement centre at District Dwarka was received. The centre at Jasidih is located in District Devghar.

Statement

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)

State/UT	Paddy		Wheat	
	No. of proc. centres	*Procurement	No. of proc. centres	Procurement
Andhra Pradesh	277	0.80		-
Bihar	100	Neg.	100	0.01
Chandigarh				Neg.
Chhattisgarh	1680	5.15		Neg.
Delhi		-	2	0.12
Haryana	222	10.18	340	51.22
Himachal Pradesh		-	4	0.01
Madhya Pradesh	301	0.05	930	1.88
Maharashtra	748	0.38		-
Orissa	20	0.01		
Punjab	1458	98.47	1520	89.38
Rajasthan	12	0.20	60	2.59
Uttaranchal	50	0.06	202	0.67
Uttar Pradesh	1155	2.17	4222	12.13
Total	6023	117.47	7380	158.01

Neg. - Below 500 tonnes

Note: Details of paddy and wheat procurement pertains to KMS/RMS 2003-04

* - Position as on 9.12.2003

[English]

Debt Recovery Tribunal

1676. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Debt Recovery Tribunal at Madurai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at this stage to set up a DRT at Madurai.

Currently there are 3 DRTs (Chennai-I, Chennai-II and Coimbatore) having jurisdiction over cases pertaining to Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. The present workload in the above DRTs does not justify creation of another DRT immediately to cover cases in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.

[Translation]

Share Scams

1677. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to check the recurrence of share scams;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of share scams during the last three years including the current year, 2003 alongwith the number of persons chargesheeted; and

(d) the number of persons against whom action has been taken alongwith the number of those acquitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) It has been the constant endeavour of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to ensure the safety, integrity and efficiency of the stock market. In order to achieve this objective SEBI has taken various measures, which, inter-alia, include shortening of settlement cycle, global benchmarking of functioning of the stock exchanges, dynamic margining and risk management, strengthening of surveillance, enhanced on-site inspections, prescribing stringent disclosure norms for companies, better enforcement of corporate governance norms and inter-regulatory coordination for monitoring the capital markets.

(c) and (d) There have been a few instances of market manipulation in the past. A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) was constituted to look into the share market scam of 2001, which submitted its report in December, 2002. One of the recommendations of the Committee was that suitable action be taken against all persons/entities involved in this episode of market manipulation. The first Action Taken Report (ATR) on the recommendations/observations of the JPC was presented to the Parliament in May, 2003. Apart from action taken by SEBI pursuant to the JPC recommendations, SEBI takes action against market intermediaries and non-intermediaries as a part of its enforcement function. The details of number of actions taken in the last three years are given in the statement enclosed. The Department of Company Affairs has conducted inspection of books of accounts and other

records in respect of 96 companies which had been named by SEBI in the preliminary investigation report on the market misconduct has ordered/ launched 539 prosecutions so far for violations of the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. Central Bureau of Investigation has registered 4 case during the last 3 years (upto 30-11-2003) and has filed.

Statement

Action taken by SEBI in respect of investigation, enforcement and surveillance	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Warnings issued	9	36	63
Suspension	4	8	42
Cancellation/Card surrendered	1	1	11
Issues refunded/option given	4	-	2
Directions issued	35	98	136
Prosecution	20	110	229
Number of persons against whom prosecution launched	98	613	848

[English]

Vanished Companies

1678. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court ordered the Security and Exchange Board of India to submit details of vanishing companies;

(b) if so, whether the information has since been submitted; and

(c) if so, the broad details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per criteria laid down by Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee (CMC) jointly headed by the Secretary, Department of Company Affairs, Government of India and Chairman SEBI, 185 companies have been identified as vanishing companies. The action taken in this regard is as under:-

- 1) SEBI has passed orders under section 11 B of the SEBI Act against 96 vanishing companies and 361 directors of such companies.

- 2) 149 prosecutions have been filed against vanishing companies/their directors.
- 3) Further, the public companies in which the said directors hold controlling or substantial interest shall not be allowed to raise funds from the capital market for a period of five years. When companies/directors are debarred, references are made by SEBI to the state government requesting them to initiate action under applicable investor protection act or under Indian Penal Code. The lists of debarred companies and directors are also forwarded to other concerned agencies for appropriate action.

[Translation]

Appointment of Compassionate Grounds

1679. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 3856 dated August 22, 2003 and state:

- (a) the number of dependents of deceased persons in Punjab National Bank who have not been employed on compassionate grounds, area-wise;
- (b) the number of dependents who have filed their cases in Labour Courts, especially in the State of Madhya Pradesh; and
- (c) the present status of aforesaid cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Handloom Societies

1680. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has provided financial assistance to handloom cooperative societies and State Handloom Finance Corporation before setting up of looms and for alteration etc. after setting up of looms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof particularly for Assam;
- (c) the norms adopted for providing such assistance;
- (d) the amount of financial assistance provided by

the Union Government under different schemes during the last three years including the current financial year, State-wise; and

- (e) the number of beneficiaries benefited therefrom State-wise, particularly of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY), the Government of India provides financial assistance to Handloom Cooperative/Apex Societies and Development Corporations to cover a wide gamut of activities such as product development, infrastructure support, institutional support, training to weavers, supply of equipments and marketing support for pre-loom and post loom both at macro and micro level in an integrated and coordinated manner for an overall development of the sector and benefit to handloom weavers. No assistance however is provided under the scheme to the State Handloom Finance Corporation. Further, under Handloom Export Scheme for modification of looms is one of the component eligible for financial assistance. This is a component of the export project for which financial assistance is provided against a viable proposal being received from the state Director of Handlooms as per the procedure laid down in the said scheme. For the state of Assam, 3 projects under the erstwhile DEPM Scheme have been sanctioned so far.

(c) Under Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY), the grant portion is shared between the Centre and the State. The sharing is in the ratio of 50:50 between the Centre and the State Government excepting in the case of States like North Eastern States, Sikkim, J&K, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh where the sharing ratio is 90:10 between the Centre and the State. For implementing agencies that have 100% beneficiaries as SC/ST/Women/Minorities, the sharing ratio is 75:25. The sharing for the component of Marketing Incentive is, however, 50:50 for all the States.

(d) Details of financial assistance provided to different States including the state of Assam under various Handloom Development Schemes are given in enclosed statement.

(e) As the projects sanctioned are at various stages of implementation and as also the benefits accruing to the weavers thereof are only supplementary and cumulative in nature, it will be difficult to quantify the number of weavers benefited under the schemes.

Statement

Releases for the last 3 years under Handloom Sector Schemes

S. No. of State	Deen Dayal Rathkargha Proisahan Yojana	Development of Exportable Products & their Marketing		Workshd-cum-Housing		Project Package Scheme		HDC/QDC Scheme		Health Package Scheme		Thrft Fund Scheme											
		99-00	00-01	01-02	99-00	00-01	01-02	99-00	00-01	01-02	99-00	00-01	01-02										
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1. Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	156.04	-	-	-	72.08	129.23	320.00	39.90	55.55	12.12	-	-	-	-	50.35	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Andhra Pradesh	-	-	1,176.82	14.72	5.00	6.00	340.20	119.59	253.96	420.09	307.01	31.88	13.69	27.89	86.99	96.25	-	41.04	-	-	-	-	-
3. Assam	-	424.10	866.07	4.40	12.85	9.56	59.18	-	-	546.72	513.43	-	-	-	24.40	112.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	6.50	-	-	-	8.85	3.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Chhattisgarh	-	-	32.58	-	4.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19.82	-	-	1.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Gujarat	212.50	212.50	-	-	-	-	-	230.00	-	18.65	7.35	4.29	-	-	55.11	-	8.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Haryana	-	-	-	-	15.50	8.50	-	-	-	4.00	-	6.56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Himachal Pradesh	6.89	24.23	56.25	53.97	44.00	22.93	-	2.21	34.16	10.47	19.17	2.84	5.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11. Jammu & Kashmir	44.54	-	2.64	-	-	-	-	-	-	28.55	47.83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.79	-
12. Karnataka	-	-	298.50	-	-	7.95	-	57.07	113.10	20.96	18.16	20.27	-	-	22.00	-	29.00	30.00	20.00	-	-	-	-
13. Kerala	-	-	225.00	-	8.90	-	-	-	90.00	68.80	283.45	486.30	15.99	-	6.43	37.22	-	-	-	-	-	10.43	-
14. Madhya Pradesh	32.71	9.34	7.50	-	16.25	-	-	-	-	29.50	16.02	1.25	-	-	-	-	2.96	1.03	3.72	-	-	-	-

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
15. Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.95	8.42	50.00	5.03	89.87	2.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	25.83	4.78	2.26	
16. Manipur	-	143.51	-	-	-	-	-	-	127.50	188.75	-	180.80	236.24	19.04	-	-	-	-	32.53	-	-	-	-	
17. Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	7.48	-	-	-	10.25	-	7.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
18. Meghalaya	-	6.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.76	10.53	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.96	2.34	-	-	-	-	
19. Nagaland	-	33.10	346.50	-	12.25	18.00	150.00	136.96	-	189.14	127.08	-	61.39	78.84	-	-	-	19.46	74.77	-	-	-	-	
20. Orissa	-	-	-	-	-	7.50	-	-	180.00	45.00	-	154.53	1.38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
21. Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
22. Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	13.25	4.25	28.50	-	-	-	8.90	3.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
23. Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	92.24	-	26.61	92.99	-	-	-	1.78	5.00	-	-	-	1.00	-	-	
24. Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18.80	2.50	-	-	-	-	
25. Tamil Nadu	-	677.05	1,662.37	13.13	5.25	-	199.92	181.46	114.13	121.38	141.76	11.96	290.09	-	-	-	-	83.06	37.79	35.31	241.15	262.16	291.22	
26. Tripura	-	33.14	3.92	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.05	-	24.00	4.54	-	-	-	-	-	29.83	-	-	-	0.29	0.13
27. Uttar Pradesh	-	54.15	643.25	37.75	14.25	44.75	-	-	-	-	-	644.51	314.84	-	12.19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28. Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	40.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29. West Bengal	-	28.15	27.69	36.00	16.25	4.20	-	358.45	-	144.52	73.85	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.10	7.35	2.35	-	-	-	
30. Delhi	-	-	-	-	8.25	5.00	8.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.39	
Total	-	1,695.84	5725.06	208.87	157.72	202.96	1,245.00	1,499.99	980.54	2,793.47	2,255.48	634.66	396.19	111.83	1.78	273.10	539.89	37.66	348.98	299.05	320.15	-	-	-

Releases for the last 3 years under Handloom Sector Schemes

S. No.	Name of the State	(Rs. in Lakh)																						
		Group Insurance Scheme	New Insurance Scheme	MDA Scheme	Janata Cloth Scheme	Publicity & Exhibitions	Magin Money for Desitute Weavers	Integrated Handloom Village Development																
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.00	2.31	10.51	-	-	-	-	-	-		
2.	Andhra Pradesh	16.00	24.00	22.73	15.19	-	-	451.31	295.95	70.07	-	-	-	15.50	66.25	52.47	26.50	-	-	33.00	128.00	-		
3.	Assam	1.50	-	-	0.25	-	-	50.22	40.04	10.26	14.60	-	-	27.80	67.48	64.96	-	-	-	44.75	-	-		
4.	Bihar	-	-	-	3.59	0.37	-	5.76	-	-	9.00	-	-	5.82	21.94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	0.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.00	-	-	-	-	-	-		
6.	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34.27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
7.	Gujarat	0.97	1.57	2.15	2.63	2.73	2.99	21.04	117.60	0.87	-	-	-	9.50	-	19.00	0.70	-	-	-	-	-		
8.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	-	116.59	16.46	16.98	-	-	-	12.61	-	12.00	-	-	-	-	-	-		
9.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	42.14	32.24	-	-	-	-	1.00	12.39	10.17	-	-	-	-	-	-		
10.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	0.33	34.94	12.00	-	-	-	-	13.98	25.89	65.78	-	-	-	-	-	-		
12.	Karnataka	20.00	-	14.12	-	-	-	102.52	193.12	-	-	-	-	6.51	1.00	6.70	-	4.50	-	-	-	-		

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
13. Kerala	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	308.49	110.77	43.44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71.07	
14. Madhya Pradesh	1.13	0.05	1.83	0.74	1.13	99.59	21.85	-	-	46.97	-	-	-	29.13	25.30	64.98	-	-	-	-	48.90	10.00	-	
15. Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46.97	-	-	-	59.96	38.93	40.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.74	-	-	-	-	-	8.58	9.34	6.00	-	-	-	-	-	57.15	-	
17. Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.00	9.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.00	
18. Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.28	-	-	1.00	1.08	1.93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
19. Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.00	7.84	12.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
20. Orissa	-	-	-	-	-	18.00	-	-	223.47	107.59	12.45	-	-	5.00	16.90	45.34	-	-	-	-	44.00	-	-	
21. Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.23	57.80	28.37	-	5.90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
22. Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130.98	0.52	-	-	1.00	2.00	0.36	0.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	
23. Rajasthan	-	-	-	1.36	2.56	3.50	11.99	37.63	18.02	6.93	0.05	-	-	2.77	22.00	16.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
24. Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.99	4.97	3.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
25. Tamil Nadu	36.67	36.75	-	-	-	-	-	700.00	921.62	-	-	-	-	4.51	29.15	-	-	-	-	-	-	63.00	-	
26. Tripura	-	-	-	0.15	0.60	0.51	18.02	6.06	5.15	-	-	-	-	4.63	4.19	5.76	-	-	-	-	42.75	-	10.50	
27. Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	125.66	233.40	31.22	1.63	-	-	6.89	30.70	43.64	-	0.86	1.00	-	-	-	6.00	
28. Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
29. West Bengal	2.77	2.47	2.77	-	-	-	-	400.00	110.08	-	97.29	-	-	28.63	23.15	34.52	-	0.50	-	-	6.00	-	-	
30. Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.21	135.09	220.63	3.33	-	-	4.00	19.73	9.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	77.91	65.92	42.32	25.00	25.00	10.00	2,905.37	2,690.74	212.59	135.35	0.05	0.05	252.81	467.83	543.81	27.70	5.86	1.00	276.55	202.00	89.57	202.00	89.57	

Details of releases made during 2002-2003 & 2003-2004 to various States under different Handloom Schemes (upto 08/12/2003)

(Rs. in Lakh)

S. No.	Name of the State	DDHPY		Marketing Promotion Programme		Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme		Health Package Scheme		Weaver's Welfare Scheme					
										Thrift Fund Scheme		Group Insurance		New Insurance	
		2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1238.85	0.00	61.88	8.37	0.00	92.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.27	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	19.33	0	19.59	3.38	28.00	13.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	837.87	436.71	112.55	52.00	117.95	0.00	63.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	42.92	7.58	29.19	3.75	0.00	0.00	11.42	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	150.00	100.00	13.7	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0000
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	15.66	19.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.02	0.00	0.59	2.21	1.32	3.46
9.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	11.52	12.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0000
10.	Himachal Pradesh	137.64	45.58	9.05	5	22.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	31.89	0	53.42	13.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	8.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	156.61	9.19	24.45	12.14	250.00	6.0	50.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	7.5	12.36	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
14.	Kerala	1067.13	154.73	4.00	3.20	34.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	62.20	6.66	41.87	20.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.48	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.77	0.00
16.	Maharashtra	2.82	0.00	66.31	4.00	35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Manipur	481.32	0.00	0.00	4.00	127.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	3.98	1.00	15.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	2.46	0.00	14.92	11.00	36.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	117.81	20.50	14.00	25.00	24.45	155.21	0.89	73.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.83	0.00
21.	Orissa	22.34	0.00	18.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.12
22.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Rajasthan	9.77	0.00	59.08	51.52	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.96	0.00
25.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	2.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	2376.71	1223.52	0.00	25.11	227.800	0.00	106.22	0.00	210.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Tripura	7.72	0.00	19.07	7.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	589.04	244.35	103.74	44.58	109.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Uttaranchal	27.25	0.00	31.67	6.00	20.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	West Bengal	347.88	10.20	11.88	5.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	2.87	0.00	0.00
Total		7729.56	2269.02	760.08	350.02	1050.00	281.52	237.08	74.58	275.03	0.00	10.45	17.92	7.44	10.71

Review of Vigilance Cases

1681. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman, FCI was directed to review vigilance cases where penalty imposed was not commensurate with the gravity of charges;

(b) if so, whether the case has been reviewed at corporate office and Punjab; and

(c) if so, the details of the review and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No such directions were issued to Chairman, FCI.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Grant of Import Registration to Foreign Manufacturers

1682. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether import registration has been granted by the Ministry to all the foreign manufacturers without conducting the inspection of the premises;

(b) if so, the reasons for not inspecting the premises; and

(c) the measures proposed to be adopted by the Government to ensure the quality of products especially in view of large scale dumping by the low quality Chinese manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) As per General Notes regarding Import Policy in the ITC(HS) Classification of export and import items, import of all products covered in DGFT Notification No. 44 of 24.11.2000 as amended from time to time are subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian Quality Standards which are also applicable to domestic goods. For compliance of these requirements, all manufacturers/exporters of these products to India are required to

register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Under the foreign manufacturers scheme of BIS, these manufacturers are granted licence only after due inspection of their factory premises to verify their competence to manufacture and test products according to relevant Indian standards.

As far as dumping of goods are concerned, there is a separate Directorate of Anti-dumping in Ministry of Commerce which initiates action either on the formal complaint of any party or on a *suo moto* basis.

[Translation]

Goud Tribe of Bihar

1683. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the aboriginal Goud Tribe of Bihar has been excluded from the list of reserved categories by the State Government for the last few years whereas they were earlier getting reservation;

(b) if so, the steps contemplated to be taken by the Government to reinclude the Goud Tribe in the reservation list; and

(c) the time by which this tribe is likely to be reincluded in the reservation list?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Goud Tribe was not specified in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Bihar. As such its exclusion from the list of Scheduled Tribes does not arise.

(b) and (c) A proposal to include Gour and Gonr (not Goud) Tribes as synonyms to Gond tribe, which has been notified in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Bihar, has been processed as per the modalities approved by the Government for deciding such claims. No specific time schedule can be indicated at this stage as the matter involves consultations with the concerned State Government, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[English]

Subsidy for Coffee Growers

1684. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the subsidy for coffee growers in Karnataka and other States till end of the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Government of India has already approved Coffee Board's Plan schemes for implementation during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. Coffee Board is implementing these developmental schemes under which various types of technical and financial assistance/subsidies are provided to coffee growers in both traditional and non traditional coffee growing areas. Further, in order to improve the farm productivity, quality, processing /marketing capability as also to reduce the credit burden of the coffee growers, the Coffee Board is operating several specific programmes providing for direct financial support/subsidies to the coffee growers during the X Plan. For carrying out the coffee developmental activities, the Coffee Board has been allocated a sum of Rs.300 crores as against Rs.124 crores during the 9th Plan period.

NPA of Financial Institutions

1685. SHRI Y. V. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial institutions are saddled in arbitrations in the recovery of non-performing assets;

(b) if so, the total amount involved in the arbitration; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for early recovery of NPAs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Financial Institutions take recourse to Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs)/other measures and do not resort to arbitration.

(c) Government have introduced several enabling measures for improving the situation arising out of growing incidence of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) through strengthening of Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), introduction of Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) mechanism, enactment of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the setting of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs). RBI has also issued circulars to FIs and banks to enter into non-discretionary and non-discriminatory mechanism for recovery of NPAs in all sectors through compromise settlements under One Time Settlement Scheme (OTS).

FFI Aid to Tamil Nadu

1686. SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the project proposals submitted by the Tamil Nadu State Government for financial assistance from the Foreign Financial Institutions during each of the last three years and as on date;

(b) the status of each of these projects, their value, the total allocation sanctioned;

(c) whether the Union Government has furnished favourable reports regarding these project; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in the sanctioning of Integrated water project proposed by the Tamil Nadu Government before the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The details are as under:

(i) Structural adjustment loan (SAL): (Loan amount: US \$ 600 million). The project has been posed to the World Bank for appraisal.

(ii) Tamil Nadu empowerment and Poverty reduction project: (Total outlay: US \$ 214.44 million). The project has been posed to the World Bank. A World Bank Project Preparation Mission visited the State in July/August 2003.

(iii) Kanchi area development and participatory project: (Total outlay: US \$ 2.34 million) The project has been posed to the World Bank for funding. World Bank has recommended the submission of this proposal to future rounds late in the calendar year.

(iv) Tamil Nadu water supply project for rural areas: (estimated cost: to be finalized between Government of India and World Bank). The project has been posed to the World Bank for funding. World Bank has approved a PHRD (Policy and Human Resource Development) grant of US \$ 415,000 for project preparation.

(v) Tamil Nadu state health system project: (Estimated cost: Rs. 650 crore). The project has been posed to the World Bank for funding. It is at stage of project preparation by State Government.

(vi) Tamil Nadu water resources consolidation project-II: (Estimated cost: Rs.3902 crore). The project has been posed to the World Bank for funding. World Bank are in discussion with Government of Tamil Nadu.

(vii) Hydrology project-II: (Estimated cost: Rs. 709.50 crore). This is a multi-state project with Tamil Nadu as one of the participating States. The project has been posed to the World Bank for funding. The World Bank is in discussion with Government of India, Government of Tamil Nadu and other States for the proposed project.

(viii) Third Chennai Water Supply and Sewerage project (Estimated cost US \$ 150 million). This project is under examination between Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu.

Export of Fruits to Asian Countries

1687. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of India's export to Fareast and Southeast Asian countries in respect of fruits and vegetables;

(b) whether Japan has shown keen interest in importing fruits from India, especially mangoes;

(c) if so, whether India has started exports of mangoes to Japan;

(d) if so, the quantum and value of mangoes exported to various countries, including Japan, country-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken to increase the export of other fruits and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) India's export of fruits and vegetables to Fareast and Southeast Asian countries during the last two years are as follows:

Year	Quantity in MTs	Value in Rs. crores
2001-02	507,813	423.36
2002-03	5,50,149	377.60

(Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata)

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Exports to Japan face non-tariff barriers and are insubstantial.

(d) The total quantum and value of exports of mangoes to various countries during last three years are as under:-

Export of Mangoes (2001-01 to 2002-03)

Country	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
	Qty. (Kgs.)	Value (Rs.)	Qty. (Kgs.)	Value (Rs.)	Qty. (Kgs.)	Value (Rs.)
Bangladesh	21426825	232359944	21033736	241040343	13392850	138854302
U.K.	842707	34026148	1372870	45418724	1227568	53207383
Kuwait	940486	30360437	984700	30981634	807408	37363589
Saudi Arabia	2111693	47022478	2942882	66198115	2085023	68151442
Singapore	302634	15218046	321928	11601997	292556	12224425
Baharin	443202	14119916	596898	20066798	866887	23493478
Netherlands	326284	14908681	301122	10779734	54720	2422111
U.S.A	716433	19832231	730689	16272953	467912	10453529
U.A.E.	6859385	187294615	12809549	281877115	14033563	370331501
Sub Total	33969649	595139496	41094374	724237413	33228487	716501760
Others	3140022	90931238	2334956	85676048	4774946	125442044
Total	37109671	686070734	44429330	809913461	38003433	841943804

(Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata)

(e) Some of the steps initiated by APEDA for increasing the volume of exports of fruits and vegetables are as under:

- Participation in important trade fairs to promote export of fresh produce and processed foods.
- Organisation of Buyer-Seller Meet.
- Publicity and information dissemination.
- Implementation of the concept of Agri Export Zones (AEZ).
- Providing financial assistance schemes to improve quality of fruits.

[Translation]

World Bank Assisted Projects in Bihar

1688. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the World Bank assisted projects started so far in Bihar;

(b) the amount of assistance provided by the World Bank so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) No World Bank assisted State Sector Project is under implementation in Bihar at present. However, a number of Central Sector/Multi-State Projects with World Bank assistance are under implementation in the country including in the State of Bihar, details of which are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(Amount In US\$/Million)

S. No	Name of the Project Loan/ Credit No.	Date of Agreement/ Closing	Sector	Area of Implementation	Donor	Loan/ Credit amount	Cuml. Disb. As on 31.10.03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	3rd National Highway Proj. LN.4559-IN	11.8.2000/ 31.12.2005	Central	UP/Bihar	IBRD	516.00	130.623
2.	Grand Trunk Road Imp. Proj. LN.4622-IN	27.7.2001/ 31.12.2006	Central	UP/Bihar	IBRD	589.00	94.787
3.	National Agri. Tech. Proj. LN. 4296-IN/CR.3048 -IN	22.6.1998/ 31.12.2004	Multi State	AP, Bihar, Jharkhand, HP, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab	IDA/ IBRD*	96.8/ 100.00	124.098
4.	Rural Women Dev. & Empowerment Proj. LN.2942-IN	14.9.1998/ 30.6.2004	Multi State	Bihar, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Haryana, Kar., MP, Chhattisgarh, UP, Uttaranchal	IDA	12.5	5.578
5.	TB Control Proj. 2936-IN	14.3.1997/ 30.9.2004	Central	Nation-wide	IDA	142.40	60.32
6.	Malaria Control Prog. 2964-IN	30.7.1997/ 31.3.2004	Central	Nation-wide	IDA	164.80	68.8
7.	II HIV/Aids-3242-IN	14.9.1999/ 31.7.2004	Central	Nation-wide	IDA	194.75	111.19
8.	Immunization Stren. Proj. 3340-IN	19.5.2000/ 30.6.2004	Central	Nation-wide	IDA	142.60	109.54

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	II National Leprosy Elimination Proj. 3482-IN	19.7.2001/ 31.12.2004	Central	Nation-wide	IDA	30.00	23.24
10.	RCH Proj. 018-IN	30.7.1997/ 31.3.2004	Central	Nation-wide	IDA	248.30	174.27
11.	DPEP-III, Bihar 3012-IN	23.2.1998/ 30.9.2004	Central	Bihar and Jharkhand	IDA	152.00	56.01
12.	Power Grid II	13.6.2001/ 30.6.2006	Central	Nation-wide	IBRD	450.00	173.504

* International Bank for Reconstruction & Development
International Development Association

[English]

Observation Made by C&AG

1689. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C&AG in its report No. 11 of 2003 (Indirect Taxes Central Excise and Service Taxes) on page 59 have reported the short levy of duty of crores of rupees between April, 1996 and July, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Government has enquired into the matter and taken any action together with details thereof;

(c) if so, whether the Government has fixed responsibility and accountability of the Commissioners/ Chief Commissioners for lack of proper supervision and control; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Sir, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in its Report No. 11 of 2003 has observed that there were instances of incorrect valuation of goods sold at buyers' destination where insurance and freight charges were not included, and reported short levy of duty of Rs. 48.38 crores between September 1996 and October, 2001, vide Audit Para No.9.1. Though, the Ministry reported issuance of show cause notices, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of M/s Escorts J.C.B Ltd. Vs CCE, Delhi - II reported in 2002(146)ELT 31 (SC) and in the case of Prabhat Zarda Factory Ltd. Vs. CCE reported in 2002 (146)ELT 497 (SC) allowed the appeals preferred by the assesseees with consequential relief to the assesseees.

Hence, in view of the above the legal position the C&AG has also settled the said audit objection.

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

NPA of Banks/FI

1690. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of non-performing assets recovered by the financial institutions including the banks from the defaulting companies during the last one year;

(b) the total amount of NPAs to be recovered by each financial institution/bank; and

(c) the concrete steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to recover all the outstanding NPAs from the defaulting companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As per the Reserve Bank of India, total amount of recoveries (including write offs) of non-performing assets made by scheduled commercial banks in 2002-03 was Rs.23,182 crore. As reported by SIDBI, IDBI, IIBI, EXIM Bank, IFCI and NABARD, the total amount of NPAs recovered by them during 2002-03 was Rs.927.48 crore.

(b) Total amount of NPAs to be recovered, as on 31.3.2003, by SIDBI, IDBI, IIBI, EXIM bank, IFCI and NABARD was Rs.473.12 crore, Rs.7059.00 crore, Rs.1556.00 crore Rs.784.00 crore, Rs.7161.01 crore and Rs.0.31 crore respectively. As reported by RBI, the outstanding NPAs of scheduled commercial banks as on 31.3.2003 (bank-wise details) are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Government have introduced several enabling measures for improving the situation arising out of growing incidence of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). These comprise strengthening of Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), introduction of Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) mechanism, enactment of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial

Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SRES) and the setting up of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs). RBI has also issued circulars to FIs and Banks to enter into non-discretionary and non-discriminatory mechanism for recovery of NPAs in all sectors through compromise settlements under One Time Settlement Scheme (OTS).

Statement

*Gross NPAs of Scheduled Commercial Banks
as at end March, 2003*

(Rs. in Crore)

S.No.	Bank Group	Bank Name	2002-03
1	2	3	4
1.	Nationalised Bank	Allahabad Bank	1841.50
2.		Andhra Bank	580.70
3.		Bank of Baroda	4167.90
4.		Bank of India	3804.00
5.		Bank of Maharashtra	957.54
6.		Canara Bank	2474.78
7.		Central Bank of India	3244.00
8.		Corporation Bank	657.34
9.		Dena Bank	1616.58
10.		Indian Bank	1629.82
11.		Indian Overseas Bank	1896.48
12.		Oriental Bank of Commerce	1146.25
13.		Punjab & Sind Bank	1246.89
14.		Punjab National Bank	4980.06
15.		Syndicate Bank	1416.22
16.		UCO Bank	1366.49
17.		Union Bank of India	2387.61
18.		United Bank of India	959.08
19.		Vijaya Bank	505.54
Total (Nationalised Bank)			36878.78

1	2	3	4
20.	SBI Group	State Bank of India	13506.07
21.		State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	580.29
22.		State Bank of Hyderabad	739.84
23.		State Bank of Indore	295.25
24.		State Bank of Mysore	562.01
25.		State Bank of Patiala	533.85
26.		State Bank of Saurashtra	354.34
27.		State Bank of Travancore	635.26
Total (SBI Group)			17206.91
Total (Public Sector Banks)			54085.69
28.	Old Private Banks	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	266.08
29.		Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	80.53
30.		Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	202.30
31.		City Union Bank Ltd.	172.41
32.		Development Credit Bank Ltd.	259.71
33.		Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	148.15
34.		Federal Bank Ltd.	527.99
35.		Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad Ltd.	19.32
36.		Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.	253.00
37.		Karnataka Bank Ltd.	538.02
38.		Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	255.46
39.		Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	211.13
40.		Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	84.36
41.		Nainital Bank Ltd.	10.95
42.		Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	39.23
43.		Sangli Bank Ltd.	75.00
44.		SBI Commercial & International Bank Ltd.	86.91
45.		South Indian Bank Ltd.	345.84

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
46.		Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.	340.56	71.		BNP Paribas	89.99
47.		United Western Bank Ltd.	447.71	72.		Chinatrust Commercial Bank	0.48
48.		ING Vysya Bank Ltd.	202.87	73.		Chohung Bank	0.74
		Total (Old Private Banks)	4567.53	74.		Citibank N.A.	2+7.50
49.	New Private Banks	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	169.61	75.		Credit Agricole Indsuez	123.73
50.		Centurion Bank Ltd.	228.43	76.		Credit Lyonnais	46.10
51.		Global Trust Bank Ltd.	915.82	77.		Deutsche Bank AG	41.01
52.		HDFC Bank Ltd.	265.45	78.		Development Bank of Singapore Ltd.	25.13
53.		ICICI Bank Ltd.	5027.38	79.		HSBC Ltd.	435.26
54.		IDBI Bank Ltd.	115.17	80.		ING Bank N.V.	27.05
55.		Industrial Bank Ltd.	266.28	81.		JP Morgan Chase Bank	0.00
56.		Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	15.06	82.		Krung Thai Bank Public Co. Ltd.	0.00
57.		UTI Bank Ltd.	228.93	83.		Mashreqbank PSC	16.78
		Total (New Private Banks)	7232.13	84.		Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd.	25.36
58.	Foreign Banks	ABN-AMRO Bank N.V.	174.59	85.		Oman International Bank S.A.O.G.	173.78
59.		Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank Ltd.	52.54	86.		Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd.	3.39
60.		American Express Bank Ltd.	259.79	87.		Societe Generaic	14.00
61.		Antwerp Diamond Bank N.V.	0.00	88.		Sonali Bank	0.42
62.		Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.	0.78	89.		Standard Chartered Bank	427.22
63.		Bank Internasional Indonesia	28.36	90.		State Bank of Mauritius Ltd.	45.81
64.		Bank of Muscat S.A.C.G.	15.96	91.		Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation	242.79
65.		Bank of America NA	34.30	92.		Toronto-Domonion Bank Ltd.	0.00
66.		Bank of Baharin and Kuwait B.S.C.	50.32	93.		UFJ Bank Ltd.	19.37
67.		Bank of Ceylon	35.34			Total (Foreign Banks)	2828.53
68.		Bank of Nova-Scotia	165.24			Total (All Banks)	68713.88
69.		Bank of Tokyo-Mitubishi Ltd.	1.31				
70.		Barclays Bank PLC	4.09				

Sale of Azam Jahi Mill

1691. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to sell properties of Azam Jahi Mill in Warangal Distt of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government not to dispose off the property; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. This mill has been found unviable as per Techno Economic Viability study. There has been no production activity in the mill since 1993 and the workers were being paid idle wages. BIFR, after studying the viability, ordered closure of this mill. Accordingly, the mill was closed under ID Act on 31st October 2002 after paying Rs 20.70 cr. as VRS to workers. Sale of the land is undertaken as per the BIFR scheme only after due procedure has been followed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It was decided after due consultation with State Government to assist in creation of a vibrant textile city in the place of the sick/closed textile mill - consisting of a modern Apparel park and a Powerloom cluster. The land of the closed mill would be utilized accordingly.

[Translation]

Sale of Under Weight Articles

1692. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that it has become a common practice for companies to sell articles of lesser weights than the ones printed on them;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon by the Government; and

(c) the extent of success thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. A newspaper article in the Tribune published under title "Underweight ghee" was brought to the notice of the Department.

(b) The enforcement agencies in the States have been requested to conduct intensive inspections, among other things, for checking of short filling in packages and under weighing, throughout the country, as a special drive. The penal provisions available under the Weights and Measures Acts were also brought to their notice.

(c) 432 cases have been booked for short measurement across the country. Enforcement agency in Rajasthan has reported that no subsequent case of repeat offence has been observed.

[English]

Nutrition Content of Processed Food Products

1693. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether listing of nutrition content on processed products is not compulsory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the immediate steps taken by the Government to make listing of nutrition contents on processed food products compulsory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 provide that when the food is claimed to be enriched with nutrients such as mineral, protein and vitamin, the quantities of such added nutrients shall be given on the label.

[Translation]

Loan to Farmers Through RRBs

1694. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

DR. M. P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan provided by the Gramin Banks in various States particularly in Gujarat and Bihar during the last two years;

(b) whether the farmers are not getting any special benefit following the increasing corruption in these banks;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide sufficient loans to farmers through these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The total loans disbursed by RRBs in various States and in the States of Gujarat and Bihar during the last two years are as under.

(Rs Crore)		
States	31-3-2002	31-3-2003
Total loans disbursed	10570.67	12641.00
Gujarat	305.36	355.08
Bihar	294.93	423.98

(b) to (d) The total loans disbursed by the RRBs increased from Rs. 10570.67 crore during 2001-2002 to Rs 12641.00 crore during 2002-03 in the country. The disbursement increased by 19.59% over the previous year. The steady growth in loans and advances from RRBs in country reveal that farmers are getting the benefit of the RRBs consistently. There are systems and procedures in place to look into the complaints/charges of corruptions etc. levelled by the public/farmers against the staff of RRBs for sanction of loans, etc. and to take corrective measures.

The following steps have also been taken to further improve the performance of the RRBs in providing loans to farmers:-

- (i) Forums such as State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC), District Level Review Committee (DLRC), District consultative Committee (DCC), Block Level Bankers Committee (BLBC) etc. to review the target and achievement of the RRBs under the priority sector lending and ensure smooth and timely flow of credit to the farmers by these banks;
- (ii) Close monitoring to ensure proper utilization of Bank credit under Swaranajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana;
- (iii) Formation of Self Help Groups in encouraged with a view to enhance availability of credit to the poor;
- (iv) Issue of Kisan Credit Cards to improve adequate and timely credit to farmers for the short term cultivation need, in a cost effective and simplified manner;
- (v) Loan application forms etc. in local languages have been printed and put to use;

(vi) Speedy sanction of loans through increased delegation of sanctioning powers to Branch Managers; and

(vii) Targets for lending under priority sector has been increased to 60% for RRBs.

[English]

Fall in Export of Tea

1695. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the countries importing tea from India have been insisting upon the exporters to reduce the price of different varieties of tea;

(b) the countries which are importing tea from India;

(c) the quantity of tea exported to them during the last two years and the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(d) the extent to which the export of tea has been affected as a result of the insistence of the tea importing countries for reduction in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Government is not aware of any such request by importing countries for reduction in prices of the different varieties of tea exported from India.

(b) There are more than 80 countries, which import tea from India. These include, Russia, Kazakhstan, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Iraq, Pakistan, Poland, Australia, USA, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Ireland and Netherlands.

(c) The quantity of Indian tea exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last two years, is as follows:

Year	Quantity (million Kgs.)	Value (Rs. crores)
2001-02	190.00	1695.79
2002-03	184.40	1665.04

(d) Does not arise

[Translation]

Losses of FI's

1696. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial institutions which have incurred losses during the each of the last three years;

(b) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to each of these FI's for bailing them out of their losses during the said period; and

(c) the effective steps taken by the Government to check the said losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) IFCI has reported losses during each of the last three years:

(Rs. in crore)			
Financial Institution	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
IFCI	-261.93	-884.70	-259.70

IIBI has reported losses during 2001-02 and 2002-03.

(b) As per the Restructuring Package for IFCI, the Government proposes to give financial support of Rs.5220 crore to IFCI spread over till 2011-12 for meeting the principal and interest liabilities of IFCI as follows:

- (i) The liabilities of IFCI in respect of the Government guaranteed SLR bonds and retail borrowings of investors below Rs. One lakh would be taken over by Government.
- (ii) Government would service the borrowings of IFCI from ADB and KfW.
- (iii) Government would bear the difference between the existing coupon rate and the current G-Sec rate on SLR bonds held by Public Sector Undertakings/Financial Institutions till its maturity.

Out of the total amount of Rs.5220 crore, a sum of Rs.523 crore has been released as loan during 2002-03 and another sum of Rs.1573 crore as grant has been released during 2003-04 to IFCI.

As a part of restructuring of debt/liabilities of IFCI, Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions have also restructured their loans/ advances/ investments in IFCI.

The Government assistance is meant for restructuring of debt/liabilities of IFCI.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to check the said losses of IFCI are as under:

- (i) IFCI should not incur fresh borrowings/deposit

liabilities over and above its outstanding position as on March 31, 2003 except on account of rolling over and restructuring of debt liabilities as envisaged in the package finalized in the meeting of stakeholders.

- (ii) IFCI would reduce its percentage of net NPAs to net advances from 22% at the end of FY 01-02 to 9% by end of FY 04-05.
- (iii) The Board of IFCI would set a target as regards the amount of assets to be transferred by IFCI to ARC for the next three years beginning 2003-2004 in line with paragraph (ii) above.
- (iv) Recovery from NPAs by means other than through sale/transfer to ARC would be stepped up in line with the target for reduction in NPAs.
- (v) Reduction in the strength of personnel at the rate of 5% points per annum.
- (vi) Fresh sanctions and disbursements would be restricted to cases where exposure has been undertaken prior to March 31, 2003 or otherwise to top rated corporate clients only.
- (vii) In the interest of securing the interest of stakeholders of IFCI, the Government may seek specific compliance to additional terms and conditions as may be set out from time to time.
- (viii) A monthly report on compliance of the terms and conditions of the sanction of Rs.1573 crore is required to be submitted by IFCI to Banking Division.

Similar steps have been taken in respect of IIBI.

[English]

Tax-GDP Ratio

1697. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Tax-GDP ratio in India for the past three years in comparison to UK, USA, Japan, China and France;

(b) whether there is large distortion between India and other developed and developing countries because we have not yet tapped and brought under the tax a large number of our prospective tax payers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bring a large number of prospective tax payers in tax net?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The tax revenue of the Central Government as percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as published in the World Development Indicators 2001, 2002 and 2003 for the three years 1999 to 2001 are as follows:

Country	1999	2000	2001
India	9.1	9.6	10.0
United Kingdom	34.6	34.6	34.3
United States	19.5	20.1	19.4
Japan	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
China	6.1	6.8	6.8
France	38.9	N.A.	N.A.

(b) The variations in tax revenue to GDP ratios between developed and developing countries is mainly because of low capacity to pay on account of low per capita income in developing countries resulting in lower tax base.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps over the last decade for comprehensive tax reforms. These measures, inter alia, include sharp reduction and rationalisation of the tax rates, removal of numerous exemptions and deductions, widening the tax base through imposition of service tax, simplification of rules and procedures and use of information technology for tax administration.

[Translation]

SC/ST and OBC Employees

1698. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No.859 on July 25, 2003 regarding SC/ST and OBC employees and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has been collected:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

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

[English]

Cases Registered Under MRTP Commission

1699. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases registered with MRTP Commission during the last two years;

(b) number of cases disposed off during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Commission for speedy disposal of remaining cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) During the year 2001 and 2002 the following number of cases were registered and disposed by MRTP Commission:-

	2001	2002
Cases at the beginning of the year	5066	2677
Registered	436	334
Disposed	2825	760
Pending	2677	2251

(c) The MRTP Commission is a quasi-judicial body and consideration of cases by it is a judicial process; as such, a time frame for disposal of remaining cases thus cannot be set.

Control of Court Administration

1700. Dr. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has recommended to the Union Government that the responsibility of the court administration should be left to the Judiciary and that the Government should have no control over it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. C. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Delhi High Court in its judgment in a Criminal Case, CrI.M(m) No.

2686/2003 observed that the Government should transfer the responsibility of court administration exclusively to the judiciary as ultimately the public blames the judiciary for all ills and failures of administration of justice though the entire control about availability of judges, supply of administrative component and financial sanction vests in the Government.

The above observation arose out of an appeal filed by a private party for summary disposal of a cheque bouncing case under Section 138 of Negotiable Instrument Act.

Articles 233, 234 and 235 of the Constitution provide ample power to the High Court of the concerned State in matters of administration of subordinate courts such as appointment of district judges, recruitment of persons other than district judges, the control over district courts and courts subordinate to it including posting and promotion and the grant of leave to persons belonging to the judicial service.

In view of the above, no action was considered necessary on the observation of the Delhi High Court and it was noted for future reference only.

First National Judicial Pay Commission

1701. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the states have implemented the recommendations of the First National Judicial Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States which have not implemented the recommendations of the First National Judicial Pay Commission alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any financial assistance has been requested by the State Government from the Union Government to implement the recommendations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. C. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As Department of Justice is administratively responsible for the judicial officers of Union Territories only, the details regarding implementation of the recommendations of the First National Judicial Pay Commission (FNJPC) in States is not maintained in the Department.

(d) and (e) As per available information, State Governments of Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland have requested for financial assistance from the Union Government to implement the recommendations of FNJPC.

(f) Under the Constitutional provisions, the subordinate judiciary entirely falls within the ambit of the State Governments. Further, all State Governments are parties in the All India Judges Association case and they are free to take up the matter directly with the Finance Commission or the Union Ministry of Finance.

New Integrated System to Curb Fraud

1702. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has approved a new Integrated System to curb security market frauds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of success likely to be achieved thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Considering the need for an adequate surveillance system and also having due regard to the Joint Parliamentary Committee recommendations, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has decided to put in place an integrated surveillance system across all stock exchanges and across cash and derivative markets.

Pursuant to this, in September 2003, a study was conducted by a team of National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD), at the initiative of SEBI, to examine the feasibility of implementing such a system for the Indian capital market and also to draw an overall roadmap, high level architectures and time and cost estimates for this system. It was indicated in this study report that implementation of such a system would involve a time period of two years after various components of the project are awarded to vendors. The envisaged regulatory platform would provide automated data reporting capable of capturing market transactions, reference data research, regulatory analysis and market alerts generation for further frontline proactive surveillance.

Revision of Norms for Import of Steel

1703. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing norms governing the import of steel for use in the domestic market;

(b) whether the existing norms for import of steel are responsible for the soaring steel prices;

(c) whether the Government have decided to simplify the existing norms in order to boost import of steel for use in the domestic market and to yield way for reduction in steel prices; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in implementing the revised/modified norms for import of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Quantitative restrictions on import of a large number of items have been removed in accordance with the policy of economic liberalization and the country's international commitments. Mandatory Indian quality standards as applicable to domestic goods were imposed on import of all products as per the Appendix III to Schedule I of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import items.

There has been no general increase in the domestic prices for steel during the last three months as compared to the prices prevailing in August, 2003. The main reason for the rise in steel price upto August '2003 has been the global increase in the demand for steel. The domestic prices have followed the general pattern of international prices. The increase in demand from the domestic steel consuming industries had further reinforced the upward movement of prices. Sharp rise in the cost of metallics and certain other critical inputs like iron ore, coal, coke, nickel and Ferro alloys had also contributed to the rise in prices.

Ministry of Steel has withdrawn the quality specifications on steel vide Public Notice 1 dated 28th October 2003. DGFT has also issued a Notification withdrawing the quality standards on import of steel items.

Tonnage Tax

1704. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a six-member committee set up by the Government has finalised a draft Bill on implementing a new tonnage-based tax regime for the domestic shipping industry as an alternative to the normal corporate tax structure;

(b) if so, the other recommendations made by this committee;

(c) the extent it is different than the Rakesh Mohan Committee recommendation on tonnage tax; and

(d) the time by which legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Various proposals regarding amendment of the Income-tax Act are considered every year during the annual Budgetary Exercise and the decision of the Government is reflected in the annual Finance Bill.

Production Incentives to Tea Exporters

1705. SHRI C. N. SINGH:

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the exporters have urged the Government to grant the industry a production incentive on every kilogram of traditional premium tea exported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The tea industry has sought an incentive of Rs. 7/kg on orthodox tea produced for exports.

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

Export of Cotton

1706. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to restrict the cotton exports with a view to bring stability in the prices of cotton; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and

(b) Requests have been received to restrict cotton exports, however, Government is keeping a close watch on domestic as well as international scenario for taking appropriate action as and when considered necessary.

Trade with China

1707. COL (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed between India and China to achieve 10 billion U.S. dollars worth of bilateral trade during the recent visit of Prime Minister to China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to benefit the trade and investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. However, during the next Prime Ministerial visit, both sides expressed their hope that bilateral trade would soon achieve the level of US\$ 10 billion.

(b) and (c) In view of above, do not arise.

[Translation]

FCI Deal with Private Exporters

1708. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has borrowed Rs.1200 crore from the private exporters in the form of deposit against wheat and rice to be sold to them for export purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has increased the prices of wheat and rice before completing the first deal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) FCI does not borrow from private exporters. Release orders for issue of foodgrains for export are obtained by exporters after the requisite amounts are paid to the FCI.

(c) and (d) The offer price of export of wheat and rice from the Central Pool is fixed for a period of 3 months, with an additional month given for lifting of stocks. The prices are announced in advance of the concerned quarter.

[English]

Confiscated Goods

1709. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether seized and confiscated goods worth over 1,000 crore of rupees are lying pending for disposal in 26 Commissionerates;

(b) if so, the details thereof and time since when these are lying;

(c) it is a fact that Gold valued at Rs.190.80 crore (Rs.270 crore at current rates), silver valued Rs.15.89 crore and Diamonds/precious stones worth Rs.82 crore are awaiting disposal for the last about 50 years causing blockage of Government revenue worth Rs.300 crore with national loss of interest; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to dispose off these seized/confiscated goods since there is huge demand for such items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

VRS for the Employees of GIC

1710. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) is being reintroduced recently for the employees of the General Insurance Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the additional financial burden likely to be borne by these companies due to implementation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The scheme is being introduced for the first time for officers/employees (other than Development Officers) of the non-life public sector insurance companies. Development Officers are excluded because they already had such a scheme in January 2003.

An employee seeking Special Voluntary Retirement (SVR) under this scheme will be entitled to ex-gratia amount of either 60 days salary for each completed years of service or salary for the number of remaining months of service which ever is lower. It is expected that 10% of the employees may opt for voluntary retirement under the scheme. The total additional outgo on account of ex-gratia payment has been projected at Rs. 502 crores approximately.

[English]

Performance of Banks

1711. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loan amount disbursed by State Bank

of India, United Bank of India and Punjab National Bank during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the financial performance of United bank of India and Punjab National bank during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the non-performing asset of these banks till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) State-wise Advances by United Bank of India and Punjab National Bank for the last three years is in the statement enclosed. The information relating to State Bank of India is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The net profit of Punjab National Bank and United Bank of India for the last three years is as under:

(Rupees in Crore)

Bank	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Punjab National Bank	463.64	562.39	842.20
United Bank of India	19.14	119.04	305.19

(c) Gross NPAs of Punjab National Bank and United Bank of India stood at Rs. 4980.06 crore and Rs. 959.08 crore respectively as on March 31, 2003.

Statement

(Rupees in crore)

Name of the State	Punjab National Bank			United Bank of India		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	164.12	433.50	373.69	55.82	62.05	110.16
Assam	19.22	11.46	40.93	624.10	653.63	547.51
Bihar	246.00	390.00	517.00	61.27	73.69	83.14
Chhattisgarh	57.23	148.23	213.12	2.41	3.41	3.55
Chandigarh	-	-	-	0.60	0.73	1.10
Delhi	1310.00	1869.00	1111.00	917.93	1302.09	1591.91
Goa	39.65	38.16	53.79	3.01	3.02	3.32
Gujarat	875.01	920.55	219.71	31.76	53.07	91.62

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana	1063.79	1184.40	1890.74	4.18	4.60	30.51
Himachal Pradesh	300.02	196.87	264.19	0.19	0.21	0.23
Jammu & Kashmir	78.70	106.32	105.36	0.90	1.27	1.52
Jharkhand	25.51	68.97	78.10	102.04	90.56	80.26
Karnataka	450.73	592.18	539.45	17.51	81.85	119.62
Kerala	29.93	29.91	30.13	9.77	12.89	19.68
Madhya Pradesh	162.97	445.45	596.40	3.44	3.53	5.24
Maharashtra	3966.90	4185.98	5085.36	1926.63	592.40	677.49
Manipur	-	-	-	56.25	45.53	50.27
Meghalaya	-	-	-	17.01	38.00	119.63
Nagaland	-	-	-	3.79	3.65	4.29
Orissa	53.15	47.11	38.59	225.98	230.37	252.09
Pondicherry	1.11	0.77	1.81	0.98	1.04	2.54
Punjab	635.00	703.00	985.00	3.74	3.91	4.61
Rajasthan	566.30	889.77	955.06	6.67	9.35	64.17
Tamil Nadu	711.54	1068.58	1125.01	196.19	176.30	248.80
Tripura	-	-	-	91.66	95.79	152.77
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	1.50	1.69	1.80
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	1.83	3.19	5.00
Uttar Pradesh	974.38	1496.60	1648.05	81.79	88.76	88.12
Uttaranchal	44.00	131.00	204.00	0.65	0.95	1.20
West Bengal	478.17	993.39	1002.02	2110.67	3884.80	3529.55
Total	12253.43	15951.20	17078.51	6560.27	7522.33	7891.70

Insurance Claims

1712. SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4020 on August 22, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay; and

(c) when it is likely to be laid on the Table of the House?

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

(b) On the basis of the information received from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), Assurance in reply to Question No. 4020 was fulfilled on 6.11.2003.

(c) The Implementation Report in fulfilment of the Assurance is slated to be laid on the Table of the House on 10.12.2003.

Judicial Reforms

1713. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evolved a two pronged strategy on judicial reforms both including appointment of judges and their accountability;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to adopt and implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. C. THOMAS) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Constitution (Ninety-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2003 has been introduced in the Parliament on May 9, 2003 for the setting up of National Judicial Commission. The proposed Commission shall:

- (i) make recommendations of persons for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and Chief Justices and Judges of the High Courts;
- (ii) make recommendations for the transfer of Chief Justices of High Courts and the Judges of the High Courts from one High Court to any other High Court;
- (iii) draw up a Code of Ethics for Judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices of High Courts and the Judges of the High Courts;
- (iv) inquire into, suo-moto or on a complaint or reference, cases of misconduct or such deviant behaviour of a Judge other than those calling for his removal and advise the Chief Justice of India or the Chief Justice of a High Court appropriately after such inquiry.

Handling Marketing of Sugar

1714. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL.: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved sops for sugar exporters and decided to bail out the States where there is no system of State advised prices for canes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also decided to reimburse the handling and marketing charges for export of sugar @ Rs. 500 per tonne;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the effect thereof on retail sugar price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (e) The Central Government has decided to permit, inter-alia, the State Governments (where there is no system of State advised price for sugarcane) to raise additional market borrowings to help the sugar factories to clear the arrears on account of cane price payments for the 2002-03 sugar season. With a view to further promoting the exports of sugar, the Central Government has decided to reimburse to sugar factories, handling and marketing charges at the rate of Rs.500 per tonne on the quantity of sugar exported by them on or after 3rd of October, 2003. Necessary provisions enabling payment of such reimbursement to sugar factories that have exported sugar, have been incorporated in the Sugar Development Fund Rules 1983 by a Notification in the Official Gazette on 19th November, 2003. Reimbursement of handling and marketing charges have no direct bearing on the retail prices of sugar in the domestic market.

Rehabilitation Scheme for Tribals

1715. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a policy for the rehabilitation of tribals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware of problems like unemployment, starvation and shortage of drinking water being faced in tribal dominated areas; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to take remedial steps to remove the problems while formulating the rehabilitation policy?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development has been formulating a National Policy for Rehabilitation and Resettlement of project affected persons including the displaced tribals. The problems of unemployment, starvation and of drinking water are being handled by the concerned States in consultation with the respective Ministries/ Departments in Union Government dealing with the sectoral programmes. However, this Ministry provides assistance to States under SCA to TSP, Article 275(1) and has a scheme of Village Grain Banks to address these issues also.

[English]

India's Support to US to Resolve Trade Talks at WTO

1716. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether the United States of America has sought India's support to resolve the impasse on trade talks at the World Trade Organisation following the collapse of the Cancun ministerial summit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government on the request of United States of America?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) In accordance with the mandate given by the WTO Ministers at Cancun in the final Ministerial Statement adopted at the conclusion of the Conference on 14 September, 2003, the Chairman of the General Council, in close coordination with the Director General of the WTO, is coordinating the work on outstanding issues with regard to the meeting of the General Council at the senior official level in Geneva on 15 December, 2003. All Members including the United States and India are involved in exploring ways of reviving the process of negotiations under the Doha Work Programme. India is participating in all the informal consultations in this regard and is also interacting with other Members with a view to facilitating the process. We have been emphasizing that only a balanced and fair outcome, taking into account the concerns of the entire Membership,

would be sustainable and that this would require genuine commitment by all Members to re-start the multilateral process.

Impact of Collapse of Cancun Meet

1717. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

SHRI MANJAY LAL:

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

(a) whether collapse of trade negotiations in Cancun can arise problem of maintaining trade growth and also affect our GDP growth rate;

(b) if so, whether India seeks to relaunch the dialogue at the WTO to resolve the stalemate of the Cancun conference;

(c) if so, whether several other countries are being contacted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Trade growth is affected by several factors including international demand, tariff and non tariff barriers to exports and imports, competitiveness of domestic producers and relative movement of exchange rates. Various projections indicate that to 2003-2004 trade and GDP growth of India will surpass that of many developed and developing countries.

In accordance with the mandate given by the WTO Ministers at Cancun in the final Ministerial Statement adopted at the conclusion of the Conference on 14 September 2003, the Chairman of the General Council, in close coordination with the Director General of the WTO, is coordinating the work on outstanding issues with regard to the meeting of the General Council at the senior official level in Geneva on 15 December 2003.

India has always supported the smooth functioning of a rule based and fair multilateral trading system. At the same time, we have also been emphasizing that if further progress is to be expected, all WTO Members should show genuine commitment to re-start the multilateral process. The concerns of large number of developing countries including the least

developed among them will have to be taken into account and the 'development' dimension envisaged in the Doha mandate will have to be retained in letter and spirit. India is participating in all the informal consultations in this regard and is also interacting with other Members with a view to facilitating the process. India is also closely coordinating with various developing country groupings, especially the G-20 on Agriculture and G-16 on Singapore issues.

Withdrawal of IPRA

1718. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Intellectual Property Right Agreement which India had signed in 1989, has led to increase in the cost of medicines;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken steps to review the aforesaid agreement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Patents Act, 1970 currently does not provide product patent protection to pharmaceutical and chemical products. India, as a developing country can delay the application of the provisions on product patent under the TRIPS Agreement up to 1.1.2005 to areas of technology not so protectable in India on 1.1.2000. Accordingly, India is obliged to provide product patent protection to pharmaceutical products only from 1-1-2005.

The Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and

Public Health recognized that the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent Members from taking measures to protect public health. It reaffirmed the right of WTO Members to use, to the full, the provisions in the TRIPS Agreement which provide flexibility for this purpose. The Declaration recognized that these facilities include the right of each Member to grant compulsory license and the freedom to determine the grounds upon which such license is granted, the right to determine what constitutes a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency and the freedom to establish its own regime for exhaustion of intellectual property rights.

Construction of Godowns

1719. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a number of requests from various State Governments for allocation of funds for construction of godowns for strengthening of Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds released by the Union Government for this purpose so far, State-wise; and

(d) the number of requests rejected alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) The required information for the year 2001-2002 is given in the statement enclosed. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Construction of Godowns has since been discontinued with effect from 1st April, 2002.

Statement

S.No.	State/UT	No. of Godowns for which proposal received	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of Godowns approved	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)	Reasons for not approving in part, of the proposal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Chhattisgarh	17	460.04	6	169.95	In view of Budgetary constraints the proposal for 11 godowns was not approved by Standing Finance Committee (SFC).
2	Himachal Pradesh	3	85.28	3	70.78	
3	Madhya Pradesh	16	335.75	16	321.37	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	Tripura	15	620.03	7	35.07	In view of Budgetary constraints the proposal for one godown was not approved by SFC.
5	Pondicherry	3	135.50	1	15.06	In view of Budgetary constraints the proposal for two godowns was not approved by SFC.
6	Sikkim	1	28.50	1	8.05	
7	Gujarat	15	221.26	5	43.09	In view of Budgetary constraints the proposal for 10 godowns was not approved by SFC. Approved for earthquake affected locations only.
8	Manipur	10	941.61	1	57.78	Amount restricted due to budget constraint.
9	Rajasthan	27	641.43	Nil	Nil	The State Govt. had been provided Rs.656.33 lakh for construction of 29 godowns during 1998-99 to 2000-2001. The unutilized amount of Rs. 79.47 lakh was required to be refunded by State Govt. In view of this the request was not approved by the SFC.
10	Uttar Pradesh	21	715.41	Nil	Nil	The State Government has to refund an unutilized amount of Rs.98.165 lakh out of assistance sanctioned during 1997-98 to 1999-2000. Rs.1024 lakh was also sanctioned for 62 godowns in hilly areas, which are now in Uttaranchal. Out of this amount Rs.233 lakh has not been transferred to Uttaranchal. In these circumstances the proposal was not approved by SFC.
11	Kerala	18	669.15	4	179.75	In view of Budgetary constraints the proposal for 10 godowns was not approved by SFC. The proposal for another 4 godowns was received in September, 2002 when the scheme was not in operation.
12	Mizoram	4	276.42	Nil	Nil	In view of Budgetary constraints the proposal was not approved by SFC.
13	Punjab	17	150.00	Nil	Nil	Land availability certificate, detailed drawings and estimates were not given by the State Govt. Hence the proposal could not be considered.
14	Karnataka	45	2237.35	Nil	Nil	In view of refund due from the State Government in respect of earlier sanctions and budgetary constraints the proposal was not approved by SFC.
15	Andhra Pradesh	36	360.00	Nil	Nil	Proposal submitted was not as per guidelines of the scheme.
16	Assam	6	202.62	Nil	Nil	Financial assistance sanctioned during 1996-97 to 1998-99 has not been utilized.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17	Bihar	229	2060.35	Nil	Nil	Utilisation certificates in respect of financial assistance sanctioned during the years 1992-93 to 1994-95 pending from the State Government.
18	Tamil Nadu	4	132.00	Nil	Nil	Financial assistance sanctioned during 1996-97 was not utilized and the same has been revalidated for utilization in the financial year 2001-2002.

Fast Track Courts

1720. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has reviewed the performance of various States in setting up of Fast Track Courts;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the incentives given by the Union Government under centrally sponsored scheme to the Government of Maharashtra for setting up of Fast Track Courts during the last three years and current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Central Government has addressed letters periodically to the State Governments to set up the earmarked Fast Track Courts. In the conference of Law/Home Secretaries of States and Registrar Generals of all the High Courts, which is held twice in a year, the performance of Fast Track Courts is reviewed. As per available information with this Department, as on 30.11.2003, 1401 Fast Track Courts have been notified by the States out of which 1136 are functional 5,72,777 cases have been transferred to such courts, out of which 2,77,120 have been disposed of.

(c) No incentives are given by the Union Government under Centrally Sponsored Scheme to any State for setting up of the Fast Track Courts.

Sugarcane Price Arrears

1721. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ:

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:

YOGI ADITYANATH:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any package for State Governments to clear sugarcane price arrears for the year 2002-03 and during the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allotted under the scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Central Government have allocated Rs.678.06 crores for assistance to the Governments of UP, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana to help clearance of sugarcane price arrears in respect of 2002-03 sugar season by private sugar factories in these States as indicated below:

Name of State	Allocation (in Rs. crores)
Uttar Pradesh	490.21
Uttaranchal	32.25
Bihar	39.91
Punjab	30.96
Haryana	84.73

The Central Government have also decided to offer assistance to the State Governments by way of market borrowings to help sugar factories clear cane price arrears of 2002-03 sugar season. As per this decision, the State Governments would be extended financial support to meet the interest differential representing the difference between the Coupon Rate on the Bonds raised through additional market borrowings and 4% (the rate at which loan is being extended to the sugar mills). This assistance would be available to the mills in the cooperative and public sectors in the States where the practice of State Advised Prices (SAP) of sugarcane is prevalent and to all sugar mills in the States

where no such practice exists. The extent of open market borrowings will depend the cane price arrears of 2002-03 sugar season.

Settlement of Loan Taken by Dabhol Power Company

1722. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether six offshore banks served notices to the Union Government for settlement of claims in relation to the Dabhol Power Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the amount demanded by each of the banks; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) 7 offshore lenders to the Dabhol Power Project have issued notices to GOI under the bilateral investment treaties entered into by GOI, seeking compensation towards claims against the Dabhol Power Company. The details are as under:-

S.No.	Name of the Lender	Amount (in US \$ million)
(1)	ABN AMRO Bank N.V.	77
(2)	ANZEF Limited	35.2
(3)	BNP Paribas	14.6
(4)	Credit Lyonnais S.A.	19.5
(5)	Credit Suisse First Boston	35.3
(6)	Erste Bank der Oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG	9.7
(7)	Standard Chartered Bank	14.6

Incentives to Mango Exporters

1723. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to give some specific incentives to the mango exporters who exports mangoes to China which has recently opened its market for import of mangoes in its domestic market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No specific incentives are planned for mango exporters for export of mangoes to China. However, Government of India has taken specific measures to meet the quarantine requirements of China for export of mangoes. The initiatives taken by Government for export of mangoes to China include:

- signing of protocol with China regarding Phyto Sanitary requirements for export of mangoes.
- Up-gradation and recognition of packhouse facilities.
- Mango promotion campaign in Beijing and Shanghai to popularise Indian mangoes.

Trade Relations with Various Countries

1724. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas wherein India has established trade ties with Russia, China, America, Pakistan, Bangladesh and England;

(b) whether the Government propose to broaden its commercial relations with all these countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The areas wherein India has established trade ties with Russia, China, America, Pakistan, Bangladesh and England (U.K.) are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) Trade promotion through the medium of Government and Industry level interaction like Joint Commission meetings, exchange of sectoral business delegations, participation in trade fairs organisation of seminars and road shows in these countries is a continuous process. Efforts are made to identify products with good export

potential, to break into new areas, to explore untapped potentials and focusing on identified fast growing areas. Based on the strategies contained in the Medium Term Export Strategy 2002-07, announced in January, 2002, a number of programmes/schemes have been launched through the Union Budget 2003-04 and Exim Policy, 2003-04. In the Exim Policy 2003-04, besides the focus on Service exports, policies have been devised to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs),

100% Export Oriented Units (EOU's), etc. A new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. Duty Neutralization Schemes for import of inputs used for export production have been strengthened. Export Promotion being a constant endeavour of the Government, export performance is continuously monitored on a regular basis with a view to accelerating trade.

Statement

India's Trade with Select Countries (major items) during 2002-2003

Country	Major items of Export	Major items of Imports
Russia	RMG cotton incl accessories; Drugs, Pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals; tea; coffee.	Iron and steel; Fertilizers; Non-ferrous metals; newsprint.
China	Primary and semi-finished iron and steel; Iron ore; Plastic and Linoleum products; other ores and minerals.	Electronic goods; organic chemicals; coal; coke and briquettes; Medicinal and Pharma products.
America (USA)	Gems & Jewellery; RMG Cotton incl. Accessories; cotton yarn, fabrics, madeups; drugs pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals.	Electronic goods; transport equipments; machinery except elec. & electronic; professional instrument etc.
Pakistan	Plastic & linoleum products, drugs, pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals; dyes/intermdtes petroleum products	Pulses; fruits & nuts excl. cashew nuts; spices; cotton yarn and fabrics.
Bangladesh	Cotton yarn, fabrics & made ups; rice other than basmati; wheat; sugar.	Jute raw; inorganic chemicals; fruits & nuts excluding cashew nuts; ready made garments (Woven & Knit)
England (U.K.)	RMG Cotton incl. Accessories; Gems & Jewellery; manufactures of metals; cotton yarn, fabrics & madeups.	Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones; Machinery except elec and electronic; electronic goods; gold and silver.

Interest Rates of Banks

1725. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has given a free hand to banks to sanction consumer loans even below the prime lending rate;

(b) if so, the specific details of this policy;

(c) whether RBI has put any limit on the size of the consumer loan;

(d) if so, the reasons for limiting credit to consumers; and

(e) the other steps RBI propose to assist middle class people to get credit at cheaper rates?

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

(b) The Banks are now free to determine their own rates of interest on loans for various purposes, including, the consumer loans to individuals and other non-priority sector personal loans without reference to the Prime Lending Rate and regardless of the size of such loans, with the approval of their respective Boards of Directors.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The rationalization undertaken by the Reserve Bank of India has enabled middle class and other borrowers to access, especially, housing and other types of retail credit at lower rates than the PLR of the Banks.

Foodgrains for PDS

1726. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAJO SINGH:

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

(a) the BPL population and the total quantity of foodgrains required under public distribution system for people living above and below poverty line in Bihar and Jharkhand during the last three years;

(b) the demand, allotment and actual procurement of foodgrains during the said period in Bihar and Jharkhand;

(c) the actual prevailing price of foodgrains during

the said period and the prices of foodgrains made available by the FCI to the families living below poverty line;

(d) the total cost incurred by the FCI as a consequence thereof including the cost of subsidy; and

(e) the steps taken to supply good quality foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Allocation of foodgrains under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made as per the poverty Estimates of the Planning Commission (1993-94), based on the Expert Group's methodology updated on the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000. The estimated number of BPL households in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand are 65.23 lakh and 23.94 lakh respectively. The quantity of foodgrains allotted under TPDS to Bihar and Jharkhand during the last three years and quantity lifted by these States are as under:

Bihar

	Allocation of foodgrains (in lakh tonnes)			Lifting of foodgrains (in lakh tonnes)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
BPL	18.771	18.209	22.442	6.026	3.781	4.383
APL	2.165	1.743	22.915	0.023	0.010	0.035
AAY	0.000	1.500	4.200	0.000	1.086	3.339

Jharkhand

	Allocation of foodgrains (in lakh tonnes)			Lifting of foodgrains (in lakh tonnes)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
BPL	1.845	5.675	8.147	0.867	2.291	2.261
APL	0.211	0.633	2.163	0.002	0.065	0.037
AAY	0.000	0.916	1.539	0.000	0.628	1.097

(c) The Central Issue Price (CIP) and Retail Issue Price (RIP) for BPL has been as under:

CIP

(Rs. per Quintal)

Rice	Wheat	Effective from
590	450	1.4.2000
565	415	25.7.2000

CIP are the same for all the States/Union Territories.

RIP

Bihar

(Rs. per kg.)

Rice	Wheat	Effective from
6.48	5.10	1.4.2000
6.22	4.73	25.7.2000

Jharkhand

(Rs. per kg.)		
Rice	Wheat	Effective from
6.48	5.10	1.4.2000*
6.22	4.73	25.7.2000*
6.15	4.62	1.4.2002

*as part of Bihar State.

(d) The total cost incurred by FCI (Economic Cost) and subsidy involved on the quantity of foodgrains issued is as under:

Year	Economic cost of FCI (Rs. per Quintal)		Subsidy involved (Rs. in Crores)	
	Rice	Wheat	Bihar	Jharkhand
2000-2001	1180.47	858.26	295.94	**
2001-2002	1195.55	859.20	234.81	148.94
2002-2003	1223.17	891.73	388.42	182.90

** Included in the subsidy of Bihar

(e) The foodgrains under TPDS are issued to the State/UT Governments only after their satisfaction about quality and following the joint sampling system. The foodgrains issued are not below the Fair Average Quality (FAQ).

Leather Industrial Park

1727. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has recently requested the Union Government for sanctioning of Leather Industrial Parks in the State;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether the State Government had already sanctioned a plot of one thousand acre for the purpose on the State's Seashore long back; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government propose to grant formal sanction of the project so that the State Government can commence all the connected necessary works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A request from the Government of

Andhra Pradesh for setting up of an international leather complex in the State has been received. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that "necessary preparatory work has been completed for identification of land in Nellore district".

The scheme for setting up of a Leather Complex at an appropriate location is a part of the "Integrated Leather Development Programme" (ILDP) having an outlay of Rs. 400 crores in the Tenth Five Year Plan and comprising several schemes/initiatives. The ILDP has not yet received final approval of the competent authority. The implementation of the scheme, for setting up a leather complex including identification of an appropriate location for the complex, can be taken up only after due approval of the competent authority.

Export Value

1728. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the value of textile exports during the first two months of the current fiscal year;

(b) the percentage of decline/increase in it as compared to the corresponding months of 2002;

(c) if there is decline, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the industry has sought certain sops to check dip in textile exports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) As per latest available Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI and S) data, textile exports during the period April-July 2003 have amounted to US\$ 3696.8 million as compared to export of US\$ 4088.6 million during the corresponding period of 2002, showing a decline of 9.6%. The main reason for decline is general slowdown in the economies of some of our major trading partners like US and increase competition from countries like China, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka etc.

(d) and (e) Government has been holding regular consultations with the cross section of textile trade and industry; and has been taking a number of measures to boost the textile exports. Some of the important initiatives are:

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven

segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.

- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.
- (iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.
- (iv) With a view to making fabric production competitive, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%.
- (v) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (vi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.
- (vii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.
- (viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.

[Translation]

Loan for Roads/Bridges

1729. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the roads and bridges are in a dilapidated condition in Bihar;

(b) whether the State Government have sent any proposals for the construction of roads and bridges to NABARD;

(c) if so, the details of those schemes;

(d) the action taken by NABARD for providing financial assistance for the implementation of those schemes;

(e) the time by which these schemes will be cleared; and

(f) the time by which the implementation of these schemes will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that Government of Bihar has submitted two projects for the construction of rural roads and bridges for financial assistance under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF-IX-2003-04). The details of these projects are given below:

S. No.	Name of the Project	No. of Roads	No. of Bridges	Total Projected Outlay (Rs. in crore)
1.	Rural Connectivity in Five Districts	26	32	399.76
2.	Bridge Project in various Districts	-	70	135.73

(d) NABARD has reported that technical scrutiny of sample projects of rural connectivity has already been done. Based on the clarifications received from the State Government, detailed technical appraisal of projects has been taken up. Regarding the other proposal (70 Bridges), approval from the nodal department of the State Government is still awaited and the project would be considered by NABARD on receipt of the same.

(e) and (f) The projects for which appraisal has been completed will be considered in the forthcoming meetings of the Project Sanctioning Committee of NABARD. The State Government is expected to start implementation after the projects are sanctioned.

[English]

Import of Life Saving Drugs

1730. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has struck a deal with WTO allowing India to import life saving medicines to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and other epidemics;

(b) if so, the details of the WTO deal;

(c) whether the duty structure on these life saving drugs has been decided; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health recognized that the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent Members from taking measures to protect public health. It reaffirmed the right of WTO Members to use, to the full, the provisions in the TRIPS Agreement which provide flexibility for this purpose. The Declaration recognized that these facilities include the right of each Member to grant compulsory license and the freedom to determine the grounds upon which such license is granted, the right to determine what constitutes a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency and the freedom to establish its own regime for exhaustion of intellectual property rights.

Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration recognized difficulties of WTO Members with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector in making effective use of compulsory licensing under the TRIPS Agreement and instructed the Council for TRIPS to find an expeditious solutions to this problem.

The General Council of the WTO took a Decision on 30 August 2003 for implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. The Decision allows manufacture and export of patented pharmaceutical products under a compulsory license to countries with limited or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector. This decision would enable countries with limited or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector to import pharmaceutical products at affordable prices.

(c) and (d) Customs duty on 126 life saving drugs/ medicines was made zero vide Notification number 21/2002- Customs dated 1.3.2002.

New Security Features for Stamp Papers

1731. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI C. N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a task force in order to make the printing of non-judicial stamp papers foolproof;

(b) if so, the suggestions made by the said task force and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government is considering the legal aspects arising from the scam involving use of fake stamp papers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) In view of the large seizures of counterfeit Non-Judicial Stamp Papers, NJSP Government of India constituted a Working Group of NJSP in February 2001 to suggest ways to plug loopholes and review the adequacies of existing security feature in the NJSP. The Working Group submitted its report in December 2002. The recommendations have been accepted and the NJSP with revised security features are scheduled to be printed w.e.f 1st July 2004.

(c) to (e) The Department of Revenue, Government of India, are examining legal aspects of documents executed on fake Stamp Papers in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Cost of Production and MRP

1732. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of their being no rationale behind the cost of production and the MRP resulting into exploitation of consumers at large;

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring rationale between the cost of production and the MRP;

(c) whether the MRP on many consumable items and the crackers and fireworks is 150-200 per cent more than the wholesale price; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to enquire into this and to ensure that the MRP is not excessive to exploit the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 require declaration of retail sale price of the package in the form MRP ... (Inclusive of all taxes), for information of the consumer. The declaration of the MRP on the package has to be made by the manufacture or packer of the commodity. The Rules have penal provision, which prevent the retail dealer from selling the packaged commodity at a price higher than the declared MRP. The selling price of the packaged commodity may vary from location to location depending on various factors like transportation, local taxes, competition etc. and may be less than the declared MRP. The consumer is benefited to the extent that the retail dealer cannot charge more than the declared MRP. Competitive market forces would discourage manufacturers/packers from declaring unreasonably high MRP.

[Translation]

Identification of Industrially Backward Districts

1733. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for selection of industrially backward districts by the Government;

(b) the State-wise, names of the districts identified as industrially backward; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the industrial health of these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Liquidation of RRBs

1734. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have liquidated some of the Regional Rural Banks in the country during the past few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the All India Regional Rural Bank's Federation has expressed concern over the Union Government's attempt to liquidate these RRBs;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(e) whether the recommendations of the Working Group on amendment of RRB Act, 1976 have been fully adopted; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) There is no proposal, at this stage, to abolish RRBs. Working Group under the Chairmanship of Shri M.V.S. Chalapathi Rao has made comprehensive recommendations on restructuring RRBs, inter alia, suggesting changes in capital structure, ownership pattern, etc. Recommendations of the Working Group are being considered in consultation with other stakeholders viz. State Governments and Sponsor Banks. These recommendations would require detailed examination in terms of long term viability of RRBs, their relevance to the rural credit delivery, capital structure required and better and effective management. Discussions are currently being held with Indian Banks' Association, (Sponsor Banks) Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to take decisions on these critical issues and the discussions at this stage are inconclusive.

Lending Through Banks

1735. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks in the country now are unable to find big borrowers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount of funds presently available with the bank for lending;

(d) the steps taken for proper utilization of surplus funds available with banks; and

(e) the present amount of bad debts/NPAs?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total deposit of scheduled commercial banks as on 31st March 2003 were Rs.12,80,853 crore.

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

(e) Total Non-performing assets of scheduled commercial banks were Rs.68,714 crore as on 31st March, 2003.

Urban Haat

1736. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of "urban Haats" set up in the country for providing direct marketing facilities to artisans and weavers, as on September 31, 2003 State-wise;

(b) the total number of artisans/weavers benefited under the scheme, State-wise; and

(c) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The number of Urban Haats set up for providing direct marketing facilities to artisans and weavers as on September, 30, 2003, State-wise are as under:

Sl. No.	Location	Name of the State	Artisans/Weavers to be benefited annually
1.	Karnal	Haryana	825
2.	Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh	825
3.	Jammu	Jammu & Kashmir	825
4.	Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	825

(c) The total approved project cost and amount released under the scheme, State-wise, is as per statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	Location of Urban Haats	Total Approved Project Cost (in Rupees)	Amount Released (in Rupees)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Agartala	Tripura	1,35,00,000.00	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Tirupati	1,67,00,000.00	63,45,000.00
3.	Assam	Guwahati	1,98,00,000.00	10,00,000.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	1,60,00,000.00	-
5.	Gujarat	1. Ahmedabad	1,70,00,000.00	29,75,000.00
		2. Surat	2,00,00,000.00	-
		3. Bhuj	1,42,00,000.00	-
6.	Haryana	Karnal (Uchana)	1,23,00,000.00	20,70,000.00
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1. Jammu	1,37,00,000.00	52,95,000.00
		2. Srinagar	2,00,00,000.00	35,00,000.00
8.	Jharkhand	1. Ranchi	1,81,00,000.00	31,67,000.00
		2. Hazaribag	2,00,00,000.00	-

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Karnataka	Mysore	1,96,00,000.00	-
10.	Kerala	Trivendrum	Approval in Principal	-
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Gohar Mahal	1,80,00,000.00	31,50,000.00
12.	Nagaland	Dimapur	Approval in Principal	-
13.	Orrisa	Bhubneshwar	1,86,00,000.00	34,40,000.00
14.	Punjab	Patiala	1,95,70,000.00	-
15.	Rajasthan	1. Jodhpur	2,00,00,000.00	35,00,000.00
		2. Jaipur	Approved in Principal	-
16.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun	1,81,00,000.00	-
17.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Lucknow	2,00,00,000.00	35,00,000.00
		2. Agra	1,05,000,00.00	23,80,000.00
		3. Kanpur	2,00,00,000.00	-
		4. Varanasi	1,95,00,000.00	-
18.	West Bengal	Kolkata	1,75,00,000.00	30,62,500.00
	Total	26	Rs.40,26,70,000.00	Rs.4,33,84,500.00

Credit/Debit Card

1737. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has taken cognizance of the menace and harassment caused by banks foisting credit/debit cards on unsuspecting customers and extracting payments later;

(b) whether such cards are being offered free initially but later renewal/service charges are being debited to customers' accounts without their prior consent and knowledge; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by RBI to curb such unscrupulous practices indulged into by banks particularly private banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that in the case of credit/debit cards, the relation between the bank and

the cardholder is Contractual. In order to promote credit/debit cards, many banks waive the joining fee (normally issued free) in the first year and charge annual fee, renewal fee, service charges, etc. for the subsequent years as per the contractual terms and conditions specified by these banks. In the case of credit cards, the question of debiting the accounts does not arise as the card holders need not necessarily be account holders of the bank.

(c) Banks have been advised by RBI to clearly spell out fees/charges (membership, renewal, service charges, penal charges etc.) to the cardholder at the time of their applying for credit cards. In particular, banks are required to bring to the notice of the cardholder the rates of interest to be charged in case of delays and default in payments, besides the membership/renewal fees.

In the case of debit cards, RBI have advised banks that each bank should make available to the cardholders in writing a set of contractual terms and conditions governing the issue and use of such a card. The customer availing of the credit/debit card is expected to go through the terms and conditions before accepting the card.

Tea Export to Russia

1738. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has chalked out a joint marketing strategy with Russia to promote Indian tea in that country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Russian market bought more than 50 percent of tea exported by India;
- (d) whether Russia is now buying more tea from Sri Lanka instead of India; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Tea Board is implementing a Market Promotion Scheme during the 10th Plan, which aims at promoting exports of Indian tea to various markets, including Russia. Tea Board has already launched a communication campaign in Russia, to promote Indian tea and the logo developed by the Tea Board. Financial support would be provided for promoting brands bearing the India tea logo, that is for brands having an adequate presence in the Russian market and containing 100% Indian tea meeting minimum quality standards. The Scheme also envisages joint promotion campaigns for Indian teas packed in Russia under joint ventures with Russian importers/packers.

(c) Volume of tea exports from India to Russia have constituted less than 50% of the total Indian tea exports during the last ten years.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. One of the major reasons for Russia buying more teas from Sri Lanka is, that there has been a shift in the consumer preference in Russia from Cut-Tear-Curl (CTC) to Orthodox variety of tea and Sri Lanka is a dominant producer of orthodox teas. India, on the other hand, largely produces CTC teas.

Revival of IFCI

1739. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to revive IFCI by infusing fund to the institution;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether public sector banks have been asked to work out fund for its revival;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government have explored or to be explored the possibility of merger of IFCI with State Bank of India/Life Insurance Corporation of India; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Government of India has scheduled a payment of Rs.5220 crore to IFCI spread over till 2011-12 for meeting the principal and interest liabilities of IFCI as follows:

- (i) The liabilities of IFCI in respect of the Government guaranteed SLR bonds and retail borrowings of investors below Rs. One lakh would be taken over by Government.
- (ii) Government would service the borrowings of IFCI from ADB and KfW.
- (iii) Government would bear the difference between the existing coupon rate and the current G-Sec rate on SLR bonds held by Public Sector Undertakings/Financial Institutions till its maturity.

Out of the total amount of Rs.5220 crore, a sum of Rs.523 crore has been released as loan during 2002-03 and another sum of Rs.1573 crore as grant has been released during 2003-04 to IFCI.

As a part of restructuring of debt/liabilities of IFCI, Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions have also restructured their loans/advances/investments in IFCI.

The Government assistance is meant for restructuring of debt/liabilities of IFCI and is not a part of revival plan.

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

[Translation]

Supply of Wheat by FCI

1740. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FCI has stopped the supply of wheat/rice/sugar under different schemes for the last three-four months;

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

(c) the time by which the supply is likely to be restarted?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Job Opportunities for OBCs

1741. SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided adequate job opportunities for the persons belonging to Other Backward Communities (OBC) in the various departments, autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices of Ministry of Commerce and Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in most instances the OBC staff strength is far less than what it should be in corresponding to the total strength, particularly in Group A and B;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representations for the OBC and to uphold social justice to the persons belonging to the OBC in respect of job opportunities;

(e) whether the Government has asked for any detailed report from the various departments, autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices of Ministry of Commerce and Industry regarding the current status of OBC representations in Group A, B, C and D; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI

SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Lok Adalats

1742. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to amend the Legal Service Authorities (Amendment) Act, 2002 for the setting up of permanent Lok Adalats to bring under its ambit public utility service cases involving the Government; and

(b) if so, the manner in which this amendment is likely to expedite civil justice delivery system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Panel on Corporate Governance

1743. SHRI Y. V. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has appointed a special panel on corporate governance;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the time by which the panel is likely to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. SEBI had constituted a committee on Corporate Governance under the chairmanship of Shri N.R. Narayanamurthy (known as Narayana Murthy Committee on Corporate Governance) to evaluate the adequacy of the existing corporate governance practices and further Improve these practices.

(b) The Terms of Reference of the Narayana Murthy Committee on Corporate Governance was as follows:

1. To review the performance of corporate governance and
2. To determine the role of companies in responding to rumour and other price sensitive information circulating in the market, in order to enhance the transparency and integrity of the market

(c) The Narayana Murthy Committee on Corporate Governance submitted its report on February 8, 2003 to SEBI.

Trade with Myanmar

1744. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total trade between India and Myanmar during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government is exploring the possibility of boosting trade ties between India and Myanmar;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether for the confidence building measure, both the countries have cleared some items for import which were earlier banned by each other; and
- (e) the list of items on which trade restrictions have been placed between both the countries alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The trade between India and Myanmar during the last three years was as under:

(Value in US\$ million)

Year	Total Trade
2000-01	231.73
2001-02	435.32
2002-03	411.03

(b) and (c) This is an on-going process. The first session of the Joint Trade Committee (JTC) between the two countries was held in Yangon on July 15, 2003. In the meeting, a range of issues of mutual interest were discussed for promoting trade ties.

(d) In the above negotiations of JTC, no banned items were cleared for import.

(e) List of items on which trade restrictions have been placed between both the countries is not readily available.

Ban of Fresh Portfolio Investment

1745. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a ban on the fresh portfolio investments in India by overseas corporate bodies;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to review its policy on overseas corporate body investment in Indian companies;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the proposals received by the Government from the corporate sector for investments in the different sectors and whether these proposals have been reviewed by the Government; and
- (e) if so, the details of the proposals received and the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) The decision taken on 29-11-2001 to ban fresh investment by the Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) under the Portfolio Investment Scheme for NRIs/OCBs was reviewed and it was decided to continue the earlier ban. Government has now derecognised OCBs as a 'Class of investors' in terms of RBI Circular dated the 16th September, 2003. Hence, OCBs cannot invest under the Portfolio Investment Scheme.

Community Apartments for Senior Citizens

1746. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether LIC Housing Finance Limited propose to finance a company to build community apartments for senior citizens;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the terms and conditions for the lease of apartments to senior citizens have since been finalized; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. LIC has informed that LIC Housing Finance Limited has started a wholly owned subsidiary namely LICFL Care Homes Ltd. for setting up Senior Citizens' Home across the Country.

(b) The Company proposes to procure land at Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi & Mumbai for setting up of Care Homes.

(c) No Sir. The terms and conditions can be finalized only after procuration of land and construction of the units.

(d) Does not arise.

Investment in Insurance Sector

1747. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of breach of foreign investment norms in the insurance sector have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken some new decisions to check such cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A case of ING Vysya Life Insurance Company has been brought to the notice of the Government for breach of foreign investment norms. The Government has already written to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) to ensure that foreign equity holding in all the Indian insurance companies should be according to the existing provisions in the Insurance Act, 1938.

Technical and Economic Co-operation among Countries

1748. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is playing a pioneer role by providing Technical Co-operation and economic co-operation among developing countries;

(b) if so, the number of countries have been assisted by India by providing technical and economic co-operation during the last three years;

(c) whether India is also providing debt to a number of countries in Asia, Africa and CIS countries; and

(d) if so, the details of such help?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) India is playing an active role in furthering the economic interests of developing countries and provides technical cooperation.

(b) The information sought is given below:

Year	Number of Countries
2000-01	102
2001-02	81
2002-03	110

(c) and (d) It has been decided to extend lines of credit through Exim Bank of India to Vietnam, Myanmar, Syria, Zambia, Djibouti, Mozambique, Ghana, Sudan, Lesotho and Tajikistan. The detailed terms and conditions are negotiated in each case.

[Translation]

Fera Violations

1749. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons involved in FERA violation case during the current year;

(b) the number of persons against whom charge sheets have been filed;

(c) the number of cases in which inquiry has been initiated;

(d) whether there is unnecessary delay in taking action against the FERA violaters; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Since FERA stands repealed with effect from 31st May, 2000, no person for involvement in FERA violation has been booked during the current year.

(b) to (e) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a).

[English]

Excise Duty Evasion by Pan Masala Manufacturers

1750. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Pan Masala manufacturers have been evading excise duty to the tunes of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the excise duty realised from prominent Pan Masala manufacturers during the last three years;

(c) the details of Pan Masala manufacturers who have paid less excise duty though their production has been very high; and

(d) the action taken against each of these Pan Masala manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Evasion of excise duty by Pan Masala manufacturers has been detected.

(b) The Central Excise duty realised (provisional figure) from Pan Masala falling under sub-heading No. 2106.00 of the Central Excise Tariff Act, for the period 2001-02, 2002-03 and April- August, 2003 is given below:

Period	Duty (Rs. in crore)
2001-02	98
2002-03	73
April-August, 2003	30

The revenue realised from individual manufacturers of Pan Masala is not monitored centrally.

(c) The major cases of evasion of Central Excise duty detected against the manufacturers of Pan Masala are as given below:

S.No.	Name of the Manufacturers	Estimated Evasion of Excise-duty (Rs. in crore)
1.	M/s. Dhariwal Industries, Hyderabad	11.43
2.	M/s. Dinesh Pouches, Jodhpur	1.13
3.	M/s. Sanket Foods Pvt. Ltd. Jalana.	11.66

(d) Appropriate action, as per Law has been taken against the said manufacturers.

[Translation]

Cloths Produced Under Handloom Sector

1751. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cloth production in handloom sector is declining constantly in the country;

(b) if so, the volume and value of the cloth produced in this sector during the year 1997-98 and 2002-2003;

(c) whether the Government had constituted any Study Group for the development of this sector during the above period; and

(d) if so, the date of constitution of the said Group along with the composition thereof and details of the report submitted by the above Group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The handloom cloth production in the country has increased constantly during the past several years except during 1998-99 and 2002-03.

(b) The handloom cloth production during 1997-98 and 2002-03 has been estimated as 7603 million sq. mtrs. and 5980 million sq. mtrs. respectively. The value of the cloth produced is not maintained due to its high variance in the quality, size, fibre composition etc.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Expenditure by GIG under Various Heads

1752. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the public sector, General Insurance Companies on the payment of salaries, rent, telephone bills and tours by the employees and other items during the year 2002-2003 alongwith the total income earned by these companies on account of proceeds from premiums of policies, shares, bonds, rentals and interest or any other item separately during the same period, item-wise and company-wise;

(b) whether expenditure incurred by these companies is relatively much higher than their proceeds from policy premium;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to reduce the expenditure of these companies;

(e) if so, the manner in which it is likely to be reduced; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The requisite information is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The companies have taken various measures

to bring down the management expenses. These, inter-alia, include reduction of wage bill through Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme for employees, rationalisation of offices, observing austerity measures in organising conferences, seminars and workshops, economy in use of telephones, official vehicles, etc. It is expected that these steps will result in lowering overall expenses of management.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

(In crore of rupees)

Expenditure incurred on	National	New India	Oriental	United India
(i) Payment of Salaries	319.20	590.39	534.58	465.72
(ii) Rents	22.99	34.90	22.77	20.93
(iii) Telephone Bills	7.87	19.64	7.00	12.28
(iv) Tours	13.14	29.91	9.28	22.85
(v) Other items	237.80	215.78	78.96	100.63
Total	601.00	890.62	652.59	622.40
Income earned from				
(i) Gross Premium	2869.87	4812.19	2868.15	2969.63
(ii) Share & Bonds	65.00	696.25	74.81	200.45
(iii) Rentals	1.20	0.84	1.74	(-).4.88
(iv) Interest	320.14	65.05	325.28	308.15
(v) Other items	99.54	40.94	91.18	171.10
Total	3355.75	5615.87	3361.16	3644.45

[English]

Finance Intelligence Unit

1753. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed the establishment of a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) for tracking money laundering offences;

(b) if so, the details of the organisational structure of such unit;

(c) whether this new body will replace the existing Central Economic Intelligence Bureau;

(d) if so, the other duties to be conferred on the FIU organisation; and

(e) the details and constitution of this new body in terms of staff, management etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (e) The proposal for setting up of a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), its organisational structure, duties, etc. are under consideration of the Government.

MSP of Oil Seeds/Pulses

1754. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to increase the Minimum Support Price of oilseeds and pulses is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the proposals alongwith the time likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Government has fixed the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for major kharif crops, including oilseeds and pulses of 2003-04 season. MSP for kharif oilseeds, namely, groundnut (in shell), sunflower seed, soyabean (black) and soyabean (yellow) have increased by Rs.45/- per quintal, Rs.55/- per quintal, Rs.45/- per quintal and Rs.45/- per quintal respectively in 2003-04 over 2002-03. MSP for pulses, namely, arhar (tur), moong and urad have also increased each by Rs.40/- per quintal in 2003-04 over 2002-03.

Achievements of WTO Agreements

1755. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:

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

(a) since when WTO/GATT talks have been going on and the number of rounds of talks held till today;

(b) the benefits that India has got in textile quota from US and Europe;

(c) the details of benefits achieved by India in other fields after signing WTO;

(d) whether the Government has commissioned a joint project in association with UNCTAD to study the impact of globalisation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Since the entry into force of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) with effect from 1 January 1948 and until the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 1 January 1995, eight (8)

Rounds of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) were held. After the coming into being of WTO, five Ministerial Conferences have been held. Doha work programme was launched in the fourth Ministerial Conference.

(b) In accordance with the WTO's Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), all WTO Member countries were required to integrate specific volumes of their textiles and clothing trade into the WTO framework. In addition, the size of quotas was expanded annually by the restraining countries that maintained the quota. These measures have led to increase in market access, to a certain extent, although most of these quotas would be removed only at the last stage of integration under the ATC on 31 December 2004. With effect from 1.1.2005, the entire textiles and clothing trade would get integrated into the multilateral framework of the WTO.

(c) WTO is a rules-based Organization that takes care of the interests of all Members. By being a WTO Member, India also avails of the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Treatment and National Treatment for its exports to other WTO Members.

Since 1995, when India became a Member of the WTO, India's exports have increased tremendously. Our exports have gone up from US \$ 26330.60 million in 1994-95 to US \$ 51702.22 million (Provisional figures) in 2002-03. India's share in total world exports of goods and commercial services has increased from 0.61% in 1995 to 0.86 % in 2001, while that in respect of total world imports of goods and commercial services for the same period increased from 0.78% to 0.99%.

(d) and (e) The Department of Commerce in collaboration with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) has in January 2003 launched a project, entitled "Strategies and Preparedness for Trade and Globalisation in India". The aim of the project is two-fold, viz. to assist in understanding the development dimension of key trade issues, particularly as they related to the current WTO Agenda; and to strengthen the country's human and institutional capacity for analysis of globalization-related issues and facilitate a policy environment that will support and sustain a more equitable process of globalization.

Small Savings

1756. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for collection of amount from the small saving schemes during the year 2003-2004 and the amount collected during the first half of the year; and

(b) the impact of reduction in the interest rates on small savings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Budget Estimates of gross and net collections under small savings schemes during 2003-04 are Rs.1,25,000 crore and Rs. 61,200 crore, respectively.

An amount of Rs. 64,521 crore (gross) and Rs. 29292 crore (net) has been collected during the first half of the current financial year.

(b) Despite revision of interest rates in the recent years, collections under the small savings schemes have continued to grow.

Bilateral Trade with Austria

1757. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether India and Austria are keen to enhance bilateral trade and investment to increase the current level of trade;

(b) if so, the present level of bilateral trade between the two countries;

(c) the field identified therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether any joint ventures would be set up in both countries;

(f) if so, the location thereof alongwith the share ratio of both countries and the financial benefit likely to be accrued to India from them; and

(g) the extent to which India's image would boost at the international level as a result of said strong commercial relation with Austria?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) It is the constant endeavour of India and Austria to enhance bilateral trade and investment. Bilateral trade between India and Austria during 2002-03 was of the order of US\$ 245.48 million.

(c) The areas identified are railways, energy, information & communication technology, steel, etc.

(d) The steps taken by the Government in this regard include interaction through the medium of the India-Austria Joint Economic Commission, Joint Working Groups in the sectors of railways, energy and tourism, facilitating direct contacts between businessmen, participation in trade promotion activities, etc.

(e) and (f) The joint ventures are set up by trade and industry after taking into account various factors such as level of financial participation, technical cooperation, commercial benefits, etc.

(g) Enhanced bilateral trade and investment cooperation between India and Austria is expected to have a positive impact on the India-EU economic relations.

Economic Growth

1758. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Monetary Fund has forecast that India's economy will grow by 5.5 per cent during 2003-2004 with some upside potential but found that the country's fiscal deficit and public debt are an economic burden;

(b) if so, whether RBI has decided to have a re-look on growth estimates;

(c) if so, to what extent the Union Government has agreed to the IMF report on the economic growth; and

(d) the steps the RBI has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its Public Information Notice of August 21, 2003 has forecast that in 2003-04, India's economy would grow by 5.5 per cent, but there is some upside potential to this projection. As regards fiscal deficit and public debt, it has been mentioned that they are exacting an economic cost in terms of foregone growth. However, following the excellent monsoon, the IMF has since revised its forecast for India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth upward to 6.5 to 7.0 per cent.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India in its Mid-term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy (November 3, 2003) has forecast the growth in real Gross Domestic Product for 2003-04 at 6.5 to 7.0 per cent, with an upward bias, as compared with its earlier projection of 6.0 per cent.

(c) The Mid-year Review of the Ministry of Finance (November 2003) also forecasts a GDP growth of over 7 per cent based on sound macroeconomic fundamentals, bountiful monsoon, moderate inflation and strong external sector performance.

(d) The Reserve Bank of India in its Mid-term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy has proposed to continue with the overall stance of monetary policy announced in the annual policy Statement (April 2003) towards provision of adequate liquidity to meet credit growth, support investment demand in the economy while continuing a vigil on movements in price level and continue with the soft and flexible interest rate environment within the framework of macroeconomic stability.

Export of Spices

1759. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which spices are being exported;

(b) the total amount of spices exported to those countries during last three years, country-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether there has been a sharp decline in the export of spices during the first six months of 2003-04 than the same period of last financial year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government to boost the export of spices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Major countries to which spices are exported are USA, UK, Japan, Germany, Sri Lanka, Singapore, UAE, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) There is a decline of 17% in terms of quantity and 6% in value in export of spices during the first six months of 2003-04 compared to the corresponding period of last financial year.

(d) Decline in exports of spices is primarily attributed to the higher prices offered by India for chilly, turmeric

and fenugreek, thus making these spices un-competitive in the international market.

(e) It is constant endeavour of the Government to increase export of spices. Apart from the general trade policy reforms, some of the steps taken to enhance exports of spices include adoption of high-tech processes and technology upgradation for value addition, supporting exporters in setting up in-house laboratories and acquiring modern analytical gadgets, market promotion, support to organic spice farming, Integrated pest and diseases management and better post harvest improvement programme.

Statement

Value of Spices Exported in Rs. Crores

Countries	Value during 2000-01	Value during 2001-02 (E)	Value during 2002-03 (E)
1	2	3	4
USA	470.07	420.45	427.65
UK	116.57	115.61	113.57
Japan	121.39	115.87	102.44
Germany	67.70	60.49	94.47
Sri Lanka	73.53	94.76	89.32
China	32.84	23.10	78.65
Singapore	60.81	41.01	70.42
UAE	84.36	78.34	63.51
Malaysia	45.44	49.99	59.54
S. Arabia	59.50	46.08	53.19
Bangladesh	54.35	46.56	49.45
France	40.92	46.02	48.06
Canada	46.23	49.48	47.13
Netherlands	52.90	28.18	40.60
Spain	61.30	24.72	36.19
Nepal	39.55	39.93	36.05
South Africa	27.11	20.44	23.75
Italy	28.52	25.42	22.97

1	2	3	4
Australia	15.82	15.78	21.07
Belgium	9.61	13.50	19.53
Korea (South)	10.37	11.87	17.41
Pakistan	32.70	16.21	15.55
Brazil	30.90	16.10	14.21
Indonesia	11.42	17.50	13.75
Russia	16.41	10.97	12.07
Taiwan	15.74	7.01	11.75
Egypt (ARE)	16.69	8.88	11.67
Mexico	20.68	24.98	11.08
Kuwait	12.79	15.29	10.91
Hongkong	2.62	6.78	10.89
Paraguay	1.51	3.84	10.46
Israel	10.24	9.02	9.63
Y.A.R.	7.92	7.01	9.04
Denmark	10.55	6.21	8.88
Thailand	3.70	4.33	8.60
Phillipines	6.17	4.61	7.81
Sweden	5.78	6.23	7.37
Switzerland	6.31	5.17	6.22
Baharain	5.75	5.26	5.79
Poland	3.67	4.81	5.61
New Zealand	2.45	4.39	5.51
Iran	6.71	6.09	5.22
Others	73.89	67.07	73.03
Total	1833.53	1625.35	1790.00

(E): Estimated

Source: Spices Board

Dissimilarities in Similar Notes

1760. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain dissimilarities have been noticed in security features of several series of high value genuine notes printed at facilities in Nashik, Sal Boni (Midnapore) and Mysore;

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

(c) the fresh and concrete steps taken by the Government for perfecting standardisation of high value currency notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Fiscal Deficit

1761. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's fiscal deficit rose by 40 per cent upto the end of September, 2003 to top Rs. 81,014 crores as compared to the deficit of Rs. 57,746 for the corresponding period last year;

(b) if so, whether the Government's decision to repay its debt to the National Small Savings Fund has further accelerated the increase in the deficit;

(c) if so, whether the Government has any fresh plans to reduce the deficit; and

(d) if so, the details of steps proposed and the time frame within which such targets are to be achieved in reducing the total deficit of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. The country's fiscal deficit rose by 40 per cent upto the end of September, 2003 to top Rs.81,014 crore as compared to the deficit of Rs.57,746 crore for the corresponding period last year.

(b) Under the Debt Swap Scheme which envisages switching of State Government's present high cost Central loans with low coupon bearing loans under National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) and open market borrowings, Rs.32,602 crore were realised in April-September 2003. The Central

Government repaid its own debt to NSSF by an equivalent amount. Hence the repayment of debt to NSSF is deficit neutral.

(c) and (d) The Fiscal responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 mandate the Government to eliminate revenue deficit by March, 2008 and reduce fiscal deficit by taking appropriate measures and specify it by annual targets as may be prescribed by the rules. The Committee for framing of Rules under the FRBM Act, 2003 has been constituted and is in the process of finalising its report.

Export of Tea to Pakistan

1762. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has exported 10 million kgs. of tea to Pakistan during the current fiscal;

(b) if so, whether it was more in comparison to the last fiscal year;

(c) if so, upto what extent;

(d) the other steps being taken to export more tea to Pakistan; and

(e) the extent to which it has been welcomed by the Pakistan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) During 2003-04 (April-October), India has exported 3.25 million kgs of tea to Pakistan as against 1.98 million kgs exported during the corresponding period in 2002-03.

(d) and (e) There has been greater interaction between the tea industry of India and Pakistan. The Indian tea industry led by the Indian Tea Association (ITA) sent a delegation to Pakistan in June 2003 and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Pakistan Tea Association for export of 10 million kgs of tea during the period July 2003 to June 2004. Subsequently a tea trade delegation from Pakistan has also visited India and had discussions with the Indian tea producers for import of tea from India. As this interaction has been at the tea industry level, there is no information as to the reaction of the Government of Pakistan.

[Translation]

Package for Agriculture and Rural Housing Sector

1763. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to announce a package soon for the agricultural and rural housing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds likely to be spent on account of the said package; and

(d) the funds proposed to be allocated under the said package for agriculture and rural housing sector, State-wise?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Time Limit for Pronouncing Judgement

1764. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the conclusion of arguments, judgements are reserved by various High Courts in a large number of cases and not pronounced for a very long period;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether there are any norms fixing the time-limit for pronouncing a judgement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total number of cases pending for pronouncements in different High Courts for six months, one year and above one year, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per available information there were 68 cases (as on 30th June, 2003) in Madhya Pradesh High Court, 5 cases in Calcutta High Court (as on 31.12.2002) and 14 cases in Karnataka High Court (as on 31st March, 2003) where judgements were reserved. As for other High Courts, there are no such cases where judgements have been reserved.

(c) and (d) Order XX Rule (1) (i) of the CPC (Amendment) Act, 2002 provides as under:

"The Court, after the case has been heard, shall pronounce judgement in an open Court, either at once, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable and when the judgement is to be pronounced on some future date, the Court shall fix a day for that purpose, of which due notice shall be given to the parties or their pleaders:

Provided that where the judgement is not pronounced at once, every endeavour shall be made by the Court to pronounce the judgement within thirty days from the date on which the hearing of the case was concluded but, where it is not practicable so to do on the ground of the exceptional and extraordinary circumstances of the case, the Court shall fix a future day for the pronouncement of the judgement, and such day shall not ordinarily be a day beyond 60 days from the date on which the hearing of the case was concluded, and due notice of the day so fixed shall be given to the parties or their pleaders."

(e) There were 68 cases (as on 30th June, 2003) in Madhya Pradesh High Court, 4 cases in Calcutta High Court (as on 31.12.2002) and 14 cases in Karnataka High Court (as on 31st March, 2003) where judgements were reserved for more than one but less than six months. Only in one case in Calcutta High Court, judgement was reserved for more than six months. As for other High Courts there are no such cases where judgements have been reserved.

Money Laundering Cases

1165. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DRI is aware of large-scale money-laundering practised at Alang ship-breaking yard through under invoicing and other manipulations;

(b) if so, the extent of such operations recently unearthed by DRI officials; and

(c) the preventive steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence is maintaining strict vigil.

Eligibility for Contesting Elections

1766. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a law for prohibiting a person from contesting in General

Election and Assembly Election if he/she had more than two children; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that a Bill, namely, the Constitution (Seventy-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 1992 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 1992, which seeks to amend the Directive Principles of State Policy to provide that the State shall endeavour to promote population control and the small family norm. Under the provisions of the Bill, a person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being a member of either House of Parliament or the Legislative Assembly or, as the case may be, either of the Legislature of the State, if he/she has more than two children. However, it will not apply to those who already have more than two children or those who beget an additional child within one year of the commencement of the Act. Thus the Bill is not applicable to persons who beget an additional child within one year of the commencement of the Act. The Bill is pending for consideration and passing before the Rajya Sabha.

Revival of NJMC

1767. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are concerned about the future of 18,000 employees working in National Jute Manufacturing Company Limited, at Kolkata;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken necessary steps to revive the company;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the deliberate stoppage of Electricity and Water supply to its corporate headquarters and unit head offices forcing employees to vacate the building;

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

(f) the action taken to solve the present crisis?

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

(b) and (c) The Government has been constantly reviewing the performance of NJMC, a sick public sector undertaking under the control of Ministry of Textiles. NJMC was referred to BIFR in 1993 and the matter is still under

consideration of BIFR. Various Turn Around Plans for revival of the Corporation have been prepared by the Industrial Investment Bank of India (IIBI), the Operating Agency appointed by BIFR for revival of the Company. Efforts were also made by the Government to attempt unitwise revival of the mills through its takeover by Workers Cooperative, the State Government or through open bids to the private parties.

(d) to (f) The Government is aware of the fact that CESC Ltd., Kolkata (the electricity utility), disconnected electricity supply to 4, Netaji Subhash Road, Kolkata, housing the Corporate Office of NJMC, on 10.10.2003. The management of NJMC Ltd. did not deliberately stop electricity. The factual position is that the ownership of the premises changed and the present owner, who is the registered consumer under CESC, requested for disconnection of electricity. The NJMC Ltd. moved the Kolkata, High Court, for getting electricity connection restored (Civil Writ Petition No. 2183 of 2003 filed on 5.11.2003). The Kolkata, High Court, passed an interim order on 27.11.2003, in compliance of which, CESC restored electricity supply to the Corporate Head Office of NJMC on the same day. This building also houses the Offices of Alexandra, Union, Kinnison, BJEL, and R.B.H.M. Katihar, units of the NJMC Ltd. Even during the intervening period electricity was provided to the corporate building headquarters through a generator hired by the NJMC management.

The water supply connection is yet to be restored because the new owner, M/s Cold Gold Syntex Pvt. Ltd. have not yet restored electricity supply to the pump which provides water to the Corporate Office Building. However, NJMC has made temporary arrangements for the supply of water to the office on hire basis from the market.

The Unit Head Quarters of the National and the Kharda Mills are located in a separate building at 7, Red Cross Place,

Kolkata and electricity and water supply was not disconnected in the recent past.

[Translation]

New Scheme for Welfare of Tribes

1768. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any new schemes for the generation of employment opportunities for the tribals during the year 2003-2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Ministry has not formulated or launched any new scheme during 2003-04. However, the Ministry has been implementing a Scheme of Vocational Training Centres for training of tribal youths for self-employment since 1992-93.

(b) The scheme provides for financial assistance to the extent of 100 percent to the State Govts. since 1992-93 and to the Non-Governmental Organizations since 1998-99 for setting up and running of Vocational training Centres for imparting training to tribal youths in vocation having good employment potential in the area. State-wise number of centers sanctioned and the amount released for setting up and running of Vocational Training Centres during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The functioning of Vocational Training Centres run by State Governments and Voluntary Organizations is being monitored through officers of the State Governments and the Ministry officials.

Statement

S. No.	Name of State	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
		No of Centres	Amount Released	No. of Centres	Amount Released	No. of Centres	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	47,77,540	12	188,54,000	4	37,71,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	2	4,80,000
3.	Assam	1	13,25,500	1	14,46,000	11	58,45,566
4.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	1	7,22,000	14	1,20,35,500
5.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli					1	2,40,000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Gujarat	-	-	13	86,20,000	16	36,99,156
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	6,18,000	1	10,07,000	1	46,71,625
8.	Karnataka	1	2,48,000	7	49,73,000	4	18,00,000
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2	17,73,500	2	11,45,500	2	15,07,500
10.	Maharashtra	2	19,26,000	-	-	1	2,40,000
11.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	2	4,80,000
12.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	1	2,40,000
13.	Mizoram	3	28,89,000	3	18,00,000	3	36,00,000
14.	Nagaland	3	28,89,000	3	36,78,788	3	29,55,788
15.	Orissa	8	64,61,000	1	3,52,500	18	82,26,000
16.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	1	2,40,000
17.	Tripura	8	54,00,000	-	-	8	54,00,000
18.	West Bengal	1	6,02,500	-	-	1	6,12,990
Total		34	289,10,040	44	425,98,788	93	560,45,115

[English]

Job Opportunities for OBCs

1769. SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided adequate job opportunities for the persons belonging to Other Backward Communities (OBC) in the various departments, Autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices of Ministry of Law and Justice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in most instances the OBC Staff strength is far less than what it should be in corresponding to the total strength, particularly in Group A and B;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representations for the OBC and to uphold social justice to the persons belonging to the OBC in respect of job opportunities;

(e) whether the Government has asked for any detailed reports from the various departments, Autonomous

offices, subsidiary and attached offices of Ministry of Law and Justice regarding the current status of OBC representations in Group A, B, C and D; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. C. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 27% of the vacancies in the Civil Posts and services filled through direct recruitment are reserved for Other Backward Classes in accordance with the existing guidelines of the Government in this regard.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, periodical reports are submitted on reservations in various posts.

Monitoring of Loans Advanced by Banks

1770. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector banks and financial institutions do not have any monitoring system to ensure that

the loans advanced to the borrowers are used for the very purpose for which it is granted;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps, the Government proposes to take to ensure proper monitoring of public money advanced as loans by banks and financial institutions?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Banks and Financial Institutions advance loans on the conditions that such loans should be used for the very purpose for which they have been granted. Compliance of this condition is ensured by constant supervision and monitoring of the account and periodical inspections.

Sale of Stamp Papers in Banks and Post Offices

1771. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has received a proposal from State Government to direct banks and post offices to sell stamp papers as retail outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this policy of allowing banks and other recognized agencies to sell stamp papers as a part of a national policy; and

(d) if so, by when this policy is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Reserve Bank of India had permitted the banks to undertake the business of selling stamps since April, 1968.

Impact of Appreciation of Rupee on Exports

1772. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

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

(a) whether in the face of rupee value rising against dollar and other currencies, the exports have significantly come down this year;

(b) if so, the comparative exports, sector-wise and on the whole during the last six months of the current year as compared to exports made during corresponding period of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to boost up exports during rest of the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. As per DGC&S provisional data exports have registered a growth rate of 8.44% during the April-October, 2003 period as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. This is over and above an export growth of 19.13% in the base year for the same period.

(b) The comparative total exports for the first six months of the current year as compared to exports made during corresponding period of last three years has been as follows:

Exports in dollars (Million)	
April-Sep. 2003-04	27207.76
April-Sep. 2002-03	24946.03
April-Sep. 2001-02	21137.90
April-Sep. 2000-01	21385.65

Sector-wise export figures in the current year are available for April-July 2003-04 and comparative figures have been placed in enclosed statement.

(c) Based on the strategies contained in the Medium Term Export Strategy 2002-07, announced in January, 2002, a number of programmes/schemes have been launched through the Union Budget, 2003-04 and Exim Policy, 2003-04. In the Exim Policy, 2003-04, besides, the focus on Service exports, policies have been devised to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs), 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU's), etc. A new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. Duty Neutralization Schemes for import of inputs used for export production have been strengthened. Export Promotion being a constant endeavour of the Government, export performance is monitored on a regular basis.

Statement*Export of Principal Commodities*

(US \$ Million)

Commodities	April-July	April-July	April-July
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
I. Plantations	220.20	192.81	173.51
II. Agri & Allied Products	1260.15	1368.27	1411.06
III. Marine Products	408.39	396.53	390.75
IV. Ores & Minerals	381.18	630.66	591.55
V. Leather & Mfrs.	670.84	637.76	618.53
VI. Gems & Jewellery	2019.77	2750.65	2834.80
VII. Sports Goods	24.04	28.45	28.17
VIII. Chemicals & Related Products	2063.69	2459.79	2792.59
IX. Engineering Goods	1835.46	2256.24	3081.17
X. Electronic Goods	403.88	414.52	470.16
XI. Project Goods	2.10	31.77	10.03
XII. Textiles	3229.31	3659.12	3367.65
XIII. Handicrafts	197.44	244.66	153.42
XIV. Carpets	171.90	179.93	169.49
XV. Cotton Raw incl. waste	2.26	3.46	5.87
XVI. Petroleum Products	607.33	821.21	979.38
XVII. Unclassified Exports	278.18	336.92	728.67
Grand Total	13776.13	16412.76	17806.82

PS: data are provisional and subject to change

GDP on Social Sector

1773. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of GDP on social sector expenditure during the past three years, separately;

(b) the comparative report of the same with the other Asian countries for the above period;

(c) whether the public spending on social sector has declined;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Total expenditure of Government (Centre and States combined) on Social Sector as percent of GDP at current market prices during last three years is indicated below.

Year	Per cent of GDP
2000-01	7.7
2001-02	7.7
2002-03 (RE)	8.3

* Social sector expenditure comprises outlay on social services, rural development and food subsidy.

* Source: RBI Annual Report, various issues

(b) The comparative report of social sector expenditure with selected Asian countries (as per cent of GDP) is indicated below.

	1996	1997	1998	1999
China	2.8	2.9	3.4	6.3
Malaysia	7.8	7.1	NA	NA
Indonesia	2.7	2.9	2.6	2.9
Korea	5.2	5.6	NA	NA
Singapore	6.5	4.6	5.2	5.4
India	5.2	5.3	5.7	6.0

* The social sector here comprises of education, health and social security and welfare

* Source: Government Finance Statistics 2002 and International Financial Statistics Nov 2003 published by the International Monetary Fund.

(c) No Sir, as may be noted from the above tables the social sector expenditure as percentage of GDP in India has been on upward trend over the years.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The government has announced several measures toward enhancement of expenditure on social sector in the Budget for 2003-04. The budget provided additional budgetary allocation of Rs.507 crore for expanding the

Antyodaya Anna Yojana from April 1, 2003. A Community based 'Universal Health Insurance Scheme' was launched on July 14th 2003, to improve the access to health care of general population and poorer sections of the society in particular. Government will provide a subsidy of Rs.100 per year towards annual premium for below poverty line families. Another special pension policy - Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana was launched on 14th July, 2003 by Life Insurance Corporation of India for persons aged 55 years and above. For monthly pension single premium is payable in lump sum with minimum of Rs.33,335/- and maximum of RS. 2,66,665/-. Several other programmes have also been announced in the budget for 2003-04 in rural development, employment generation and poverty alleviation.

Chemical Free Fabrics

1774. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton fabric producers in the country are being pressured by the overseas buying firms to ensure that their fabrics are free from chemical residues, including the presence of pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representation has been received by the Government from loom fabric exporters in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. It is true that most of the important overseas buying firms insist that the cotton fabric supplied to them should be free from harmful chemicals including the pesticides. This stipulation is primarily in the nature of commercial contract condition between the importer and the exporter. In countries like Germany and Netherlands in European Union, there is legislation passed by the respective Governments imposing limits on the presence of harmful chemicals, dyes in the textiles.

(c) and (d) No such representation has been received from fabric exporters.

Tea Production in Southern States

1775. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the various types of tea produced in Southern States;

(b) the total production of such tea in these States during the last three years;

(c) the demand of such tea in the international market and particularly Nilgiri tea as compared to the tea produced in Darjeeling, Assam and Sikkim; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production and export of tea produced in Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) There are three types of tea, viz. Cut-Tear-Curl (CTC), Orthodox and Green teas produced in the Southern States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. The total production of such teas in these States during the last three years, is as follows:

	(Quantity in Million Kgs.)		
Types of tea produced	2002	2001	2000
CTC Tea	162.4	167.4	170.3
Orthodox Tea	31.2	34.8	35.3
Green Tea	0.8	0.9	0.6
Total	194.4	203.1	206.2

(c) On an average more than 50% of the teas produced in Southern India are exported every year. Since teas are exported both in unblended and blended forms, it would not be possible to indicate the export of teas by origin.

(d) Tea Board, under its Plan schemes, provides both financial and technical assistance for improving the productivity and quality of teas produced in the country, including South India. Financial assistance is provided for activities like replanting, extension planting, rejuvenation pruning, infilling, creation of irrigation facilities and drainage etc. Tea Board is also implementing a medium term export strategy to boost the exports of Indian tea. This includes providing financial assistance to the tea exporters towards meeting part of the cost of handling, packaging, transport/freight and value addition. In addition, Tea Board is conducting promotional campaigns and providing support to the exporters in promoting Indian tea in various key markets.

Welfare Schemes

1776. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

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

(a) the number of welfare schemes run by the

Government for which food Corporation of India (FCI) is supplying foodgrains either free or at highly subsidised rates;

(b) the scheme-wise quantity of foodgrains supplied during the last three years;

(c) whether certain States are not lifting the food grains allotted to them under various welfare schemes; and

(d) if so, the fresh steps taken by the Government to clear very old stock of foodgrains from FCI godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No foodgrains is supplied free of cost by the FCI under any Welfare Scheme. However, foodgrains at subsidised rates are supplied by FCI under the following Welfare Schemes:

1. Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS)
2. Mid-Day-Meal (MDM)

3. Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP)
4. SC/ST /OBC Hostels
5. Annapurna
6. Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls

(b) and (c) A statement showing scheme-wise allocation and offtake of foodgrains for the last three years (2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04) is annexed.

(d) Instructions have been issued to the FCI to dispose of stocks of foodgrains more than three years old immediately. Prices of old wheat stocks have been fixed comparatively at lower levels under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) OMSS (D) so as to enhance off-take of old wheat from the FCI. Besides, the State Agencies of Punjab and Haryana have also been allowed to dispose of the stocks of wheat more than 3 years old under the OMSS (D) themselves.

Statement

Allocation and offtake of foodgrains during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 under TPDS and Welfare Schemes.

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Name of the Scheme	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
Mid-Day-Meal	28.63	20.76	28.24	21.20	26.79	9.09
WBNP	2.55	1.35	4.74	2.82	4.03	1.05
SC/ST/OBC/Hostels	1.96	0.83	11.11	1.44	11.42	0.71
Annapurna	1.62	0.93	0.78	1.15 *	1.23	0.38
TPDS	300.08	135.67	743.28	198.56	414.93	121.00
Total	334.84	159.54	788.15	225.17	458.40	132.23

* Include backlog quota of 2001-02.

Trade Balance

1777. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

DR. V. SAROJA:

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

SHRI Y.V. RAO:

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

(a) the balance of trade position of India as on date;

(b) whether the exports during the past few months has shown declining trend and imports increase;

(c) if so, the export growth during the first half of the current year as compared to corresponding period of last year;

(d) the main items where exports has declined and the reason therefor;

(e) the estimated import growth during the same period alongwith the names of items whose import has increased and the reasons therefor;

(f) whether rise in import has disturbed on trade balance and also affected our industry; and

(g) if so, the steps being taken to tackle the situation and to improve the export positions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) As per DGCI and S Provisional data, India's balance of trade during April-October 2003, the latest period for which data is available is US dollar (-) 9269.2 million.

(b) to (e) As per DGCI and S Provisional data, during April-September, 2003 export growth in dollar terms was 9.7% as compared to the corresponding period of the last year. The month wise export and import figures during the last few months are given in the enclosed statement. As per the latest disaggregated trade data provided by DGCI and S, during April-July, 2003-04 a decline in export growth (in dollar terms) has been witnessed in exports of plantations including tea, meat and preparations, project goods, handicrafts, textiles, sports goods, ores and minerals and carpets. During the same period, moderate to high import growth in dollar terms has been witnessed in the case of edible oil, iron and steel, machinery, non-ferrous metals, petroleum crude and products, gold and silver, newsprint, transport equipment, organic and inorganic chemicals and electronic goods. The decline in exports is mainly due to higher base of exports, SARS, Iraq War and decline in imports in major economies like USA and Japan. Among the items which have registered a high growth in imports, some are necessities and many others are needed as inputs for exports and industrial activity.

(f) No Sir. Though trade deficit has increased in April-September, 2003-04, it is within manageable limits. Moreover, the growth in non-oil imports is helping GDP growth rate of manufacturing sector which is also picking up.

(g) Based on the strategies contained in the Medium Term Export Strategy 2002-07, announced in January, 2002, a number of programmes/schemes have been launched through the Union Budget, 2003-04 and Exim Policy, 2003-04. In the Exim Policy, 2003-04, besides, the focus on Service exports, policies have been devised to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs), 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU's), etc. A new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. Duty Neutralization Schemes for import of inputs used for export production have been strengthened. Export Promotion being a constant endeavour of the Government, export performance is monitored on a regular basis.

Statement

(In US \$ Mill.)

(Not adjusted for late returns)

Month-wise Exports

	2002-2003	2003-2004	Percentage Change
April	3994.67	4176.92	4.56
May	3882.21	4491.11	12.78
June	3861.12	4308.83	11.60
July	4433.53	4688.35	5.75
August	4376.97	4560.34	4.19
September	4297.54	4982.20	15.93
October	4649.16	4884.66	5.07
April-October	29595.19	32092.42	8.44

Month-wise Imports

April	4207.22	5586.52	32.78
May	5180.98	6026.39	16.32
June	4250.70	5553.50	30.65
July	4873.60	5848.17	20.00
August	4861.37	5529.42	13.74
September	5085.74	5911.96	16.25
October	5593.07	6905.70	23.47
April-October	34052.68	41361.66	21.46

PS: data are provisional and subject to change

Interest Rates on RIDF Loans

1778. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has reduced the rate of interest to be charged by the NABARD for loan provided from Rural Infrastructure Development Fund for minor irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the details of the directives issued by RBI to NABARD and RIDF in this regard;

(c) the date from which reduced interest rates would be charged;

(d) whether interest rates will be brought down for all agricultural credit also; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has restructured the lending and deposit rates in respect of the undisbursed amounts of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-IV to IX with effect from November 1, 2003. The revised interest rate structure is indicated below:

RIDF	Deposit rates, payable to banks (percent per annum)	Lending rates, payable by State Governments (percent per annum)
IV	6	7
V	6	7
VI	6	7
VII	6	7
VIII	3 - 6% (Linked to the extent of shortfall)	Bank Rate + 0.5 (6.5)
IX	3 - 6% (Linked to the extent of shortfall)	Bank Rate + 0.5 (6.5)

(d) and (e) With a view to enable the farmers to derive the full benefit of declining interest rate regime, all public sector banks have already announced reduction in lending rate for crop loan up to Rs.50,000/- to a single digit rate of not more than 9 per cent per annum. Consequent to the amendment to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981, NABARD has formulated a scheme to provide refinance to District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) directly with a view to provide crop loan to farmers at a rate of interest not exceeding 9%. NABARD has also issued instructions to

Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks to review the interest rates charged by them for various purposes particularly for crop loans, so as to align their rate of interest on such loans at the ultimate level.

Procurement of Export Paddy

1779. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to put a fresh embargo on food grain exports;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the effect thereof on exporters;

(c) whether the Government has worked out any mechanism for repayment/compensation to the exporters;

(d) if so, the details thereof.

(e) whether the Government is considering to review its decision; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be reviewed?

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

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Intellectual Property Rights Appellate Board

1780. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up the Intellectual Property Rights Appellate Board (IPRAB);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date of functioning;

(c) the matters related to the Board;

(d) whether the Board adjudicate all disputes under the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Intellectual Property Appellate

Board (IPAB) has been established at Chennai with effect from September 15, 2003. The Board consists of a Chairman, Vice-chairman and Technical member. Under Section 84 of the Trade Marks Act, 1999, the Central Government has specified Ahmedabad, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata as the places at which a Bench of the Board shall sit. The Board has appellate jurisdiction against the decisions of the Registrar under the Trade Marks Act, 1999 and the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

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

Assets Reconstruction Company

1781. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Assets Reconstruction Company is floating issue for securitization fund for dealing with non performing assets;
(b) if so, the details of companies for which the fund to be used;
(c) whether ARCIL is also intending to target a securitization fund of Rs. 20 billion;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the NPA of banks and financial institutions so far acquired after implementation of Securitization Act, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have granted registration to Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited (ARCIL), having its Registered Office in Mumbai and Asset Care Enterprise Limited, having its Registered office in New Delhi.

A securitisation company or reconstruction company can for the purpose of acquisition of financial assets raise funds from qualified institutional buyers (mainly banks and financial institutions) by issue of security receipts representing undivided interest by the holder in such financial assets.

- (c) to (e) ARCs have yet to commence their operations.

World Bank Loan to Rajasthan for Primary Education

1782. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Rajasthan Government has recently sought loan from the World Bank for providing Primary Education in the State;
(b) if so, whether the proposal of the State Government has been cleared by the Union Government for onward transmission to World Bank; and
(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) No Sir.

However, two World Bank assisted projects namely Rajasthan District Primary Education Project I (DPEP I) and Rajasthan District Primary Education Project II (DPEP II) are being implemented in 10 and 9 districts of Rajasthan w.e.f. 6-7-99 and 27-7-2001 respectively. The credit amount for these projects are US \$ 85.7 Million and US \$ 74.40 million respectively.

Export of Soyameal

1783. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the demand for the soyameal produced in the country is on the increase in the International market; and
(b) if so, the possibility explored to increase the export of soyameal to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The export of soyameal during the last 3 years is as under:-

Year	Quantity (lakh MT)	Value (Rs. Crores)
2000-01	22.57	1970
2001-02	23.83	2062
2002-03	14.41	1336

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Solvent Extractors Association, Mumbai have indicated that exports of soyameal during the current year is likely to be

buoyant, in view of a good Kharif crop and good international demand.

[Translation]

**Outstanding Dues to Farmers
by Sugar Mill**

1784. SHRI MANIKRAO HODALYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise outstanding dues of farmers against the sugar mill owners as on date;
- (b) whether the sugar mill owners are deliberately not paying sugarcane price to the farmers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action proposed/taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) A Statement showing the State-wise position as on 30.9.2003 of outstanding dues of payment of sugarcane prices is enclosed. Legal provisions have been introduced for recovering the amounts of default of price of sugarcane and interest thereon as arrears of land revenue. Separately Government has taken measures to improve the viability of the sugar factories with a view to enabling them to clear the cane price dues namely creation of a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar, promoting export of sugar by reimbursing the expenditure incurred on internal transport and freight charges etc. Government has also allocated Rs.678.06 crores for providing assistance to the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal Bihar, Punjab and Haryana to enable the clearing of cane price arrears of the private sugar factories of those States for the 2002-03 season. Government has also decided to permit additional market borrowings by the States to the extent of the cane price arrears for the 2002-03 sugar season.

Statement

The State-wise/Zone-wise position of cane price payable, price paid and balance outstanding for cane purchased during 2002-2003 season as on 30/09/2003.

(Fig. in Lakh Rs.)

State/Zone	Total price payable for cane purchased during 2002-2003 upto 30/09/2003	Cane price paid upto 30.09.2003	Balance cane price payable as on 30/09/2003
1	2	3	4
Punjab	60,118.02	45,635.47	14,482.55
Haryana	61,913.99	48,242.70	13,671.29
Rajasthan	250.80	250.80	0.00
West UP	165,763.67	137,029.47	28,734.20
Central UP	197,406.30	166,752.05	30,654.25
East UP	135,826.10	115,490.01	20,336.09
Total UP	498,996.07	419,271.53	79,724.54
Uttaranchal	44,186.44	32,644.89	11,541.55
Madhya Pradesh	6,139.91	5,797.74	342.17
South Gujarat	84,366.22	78,537.68	5,828.54

1	2	3	4
Saurashtra	3,302.44	3,301.99	0.45
Total Gujarat	87,668.66	81,839.67	5,828.99
South Maharashtra	103,778.65	100,846.24	2,932.41
North Maharashtra	45,924.07	43,518.04	2,406.03
Central Maharashtra	98,186.69	94,827.80	3,358.89
Total Maharashtra	247,889.41	239,192.08	8,697.33
North Bihar	32,941.68	29,401.90	3,539.78
South Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Bihar	32,941.68	29,401.90	3,539.78
Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	100,157.67	92,524.28	7,633.39
Karnataka	126,903.84	114,352.90	12,550.94
Tamil Nadu	125,384.35	105,905.48	19,478.87
Kerala	177.00	0.00	177.00
Orissa	2,829.95	2,829.95	0.00
West Bengal	249.28	0.00	249.28
Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	2,473.62	2,325.90	147.72
Goa	892.70	892.70	0.00
All India Total	1,399,137.39	1,221,107.99	178,065.40

[English]

Vacant Posts of OBCs

1785. SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided adequate job opportunities for the persons belonging to Other Backward Communities (OBC) in the various Departments, Autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices of Ministry of Textiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the OBC Staff strength is far less than what it should be in corresponding to the total strength, particularly in Group A and B;

(d) if so the reasons thereof and the remedial measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representations for the OBC and to uphold social justice to the persons belonging to the OBC in respect of job opportunities;

(e) whether the Government has asked for any detailed reports from the various Departments, Autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices of the Ministry regarding the current status of OBC representations in Group A, B, C and D;

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rural Credit System

1786. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development has formulated recently a programme for strengthening rural credit system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NABARD has examined the report submitted by Vyas Committee on Rural Credit; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Capoor Committee and Vikhe Patil Committee, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has prepared a Scheme for the Revitalisation of Co-operative Credit Institutions in the country. The Scheme envisages revitalization assistance of about Rs.14,500 crores to be shared between the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 60:40. The scheme will be considered for financing only after adequate regulatory framework has been put in place for the co-operative banks.

(c) and (d) NABARD has examined the report submitted by Vyas Committee on Rural Credit and has initiated action on the recommendations relating to its areas of concern such as financing asset-less poor, small farmers/tenants, dryland agriculture, agriculture sub-sectors, private capital formation in agriculture and rural non-farm activities, opening of District Divisional Manager Offices and implementation of the recommendations of the Capoor Committee Report.

Harassment by Customs Officials

1787. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the importers, ships and other vessels face serious harassment at the hands of customs officials in various ports of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to launch a drive to ensure the people are not subjected to harassment by customs at sea ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Occasional complaints of harassments do come in which relate mainly to delay in clearance of import consignments. In all cases, enquiries are conducted and appropriate action taken.

Measures are constantly being undertaken to facilitate trade and also reduce the interface between customs officers and the trade so as to significantly reduce the scope of such complaints. The Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system is one such measure, which is already operational at 23 major customs stations across the country.

Repo Rate

1788. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had cut the repo-rate by 50 basic points to 4.5 percent with effect from August 25, 2003 following the decline in inflation, impact of good monsoon, and increase in forex reserves to a record \$85.415 billion;

(b) if so, whether the inflation rate has since moved; and

(c) the manner in which the repo-rate has since been adjusted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India had reduced both the one-day and fourteen day repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) from 5.0 percent to 4.5 percent on August 25, 2003 in view of the prevailing macro-economic and overall monetary conditions.

(b) and (c) The annual inflation rate, based on Whole Sale Price Index (WPI) on a point to point basis, has fluctuated within the range of 3.82-5.39 percent during the period August 23, 2003 upto November 22, 2003. The repo rate has remained at 4.5 percent since August 25, 2003.

Branches of Regional Rural Banks

1789. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has shifted the branches of some RRBs from rural areas to cities thus depriving the poor farmers of its benefits;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to protect the farmers and the poor and to retain branches of these banks in the rural parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India considers requests of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for shifting/ merger/ relocation of its loss making branches within the service area of the respective branches with the objective of building them up as sustainable rural financial institutions. Loss making branches of RRBs have also been allowed to be converted into satellite/mobile offices without impairing their performance of service area obligations. National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that branches of RRBs have not been shifted from rural areas to urban areas.

Production of Textiles Machinery

1790. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to revamp to textile engineering industry;

(b) if so, whether the textile engineering industry recorded a 10% rise during 2002-03 in the value of machines produced at Rs.1,175 crore compared to Rs.1,072 crore in the preceding year;

(c) whether the situation at present calls for urgent restructuring of the textile Engineering Industry to render it more competitive and technologically relevant; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to revamp of textile engineering industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Government has constituted a Working Group for the growth and development of the textile machinery industry. The terms of reference of the Working Group are as under:

(i) To study the current status of the Textile machinery manufacturing sector and prepare a baseline picture of the sector.

(ii) To prepare a vision 2020 statement for the sector.

(iii) To identify all relevant issues, technical, financial legal, etc. concerning the sectoral growth.

(iv) To prepare a roadmap and suggest measures for the growth of the sector including R&D and export.

(v) To identify issues requiring urgent action and suggest measures to address them.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Apart from the constitution of the Working Group mentioned in reply to part (a) of the question herein above, Government has reduced the customs duty of a large number of textile machinery and components and has also exempted excise duty on automatic looms and shuttle-less looms in order to encourage its production. Further, the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) is in operation since April 1999 for technological upgradation of the Textiles and Jute industries, which offers opportunity to textile machinery industry also to sell their products.

Taxes on Foreign Telecasting Companies

1791. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the policy with regard to the foreign telecasting companies on the emerging issues in non resident taxation following their claims for exemption from payment of taxes since they do not have a permanent establishment in the country;

(b) if so, the existing provisions in this regard and whether any of these companies are being taxed on the incomes generated by them from advertisements, subscription fee from cable operators etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any revised guidelines have been finalized by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal with the Government to review the policy with regard to the foreign telecasting companies.

(b) The Foreign Telecasting Companies are taxed in India as their activity in India constitutes a business connection in terms of the Income Tax Act or a permanent

establishment in terms of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements. The telecasting companies are being taxed in India in respect of their income from advertisement and subscription fee from cable operators.

(c) In terms of the I.T. Act, the taxes are required to be deducted at source on remittances made by cable operators and advertisers to the Foreign Telecasting Companies.

(d) No, Sir. No revised guidelines have been finalised by the Government.

(e) Not applicable. in view of (d) above.

Education Loan

1792. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has directed the banks to speed up disposal of applications for education loan upto Rs. 4 lakhs without insisting on collateral security;

(b) if so, whether some banks are not implementing the guidelines of RBI in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the RBI against such banks?

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

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that all banks are following RBI guidelines. According to RBI, only 8 complaints have been received so far in the current financial year. These relate to rejection, insistence on collateral security, delay in sanction/disbursement. RBI took them up with the controlling offices of respective banks and all of them have been disposed off in terms of extant guidelines of RBI. RBI vide its circular dated October 20, 2003 has recently reiterated the extant guidelines to all implementing banks for strict compliance.

Export of Cotton

1793. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton growers in the country have been happy after the international shippers have turned their attention towards Indian cotton;

(b) if so, whether the good projections of domestic production have attracted and shown keen interest by the certain countries including Bangladesh, Indonesia;

(c) if so, the extent to which the Asian countries such as Thailand have sought more import of cotton from India to take advantage of the prices;

(d) the extent to which the India has been able to receive the orders; and

(e) the details of the cotton export of each of the last three years in varieties, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The present international prices of cotton are ruling higher than the prices prevailing in India, which is a positive sign for Indian Cotton Growers.

(b) The price differentials regarding cotton in India and in the international market and likelihood of a good harvest of cotton in India have evoked positive enquiries regarding import of cotton from India. This includes enquiries from Bangladesh, Italy, Hongkong and England.

(c) and (d) The export of cotton is mainly executed by private parties. Unless, the exports are actually shipped, it is difficult to provide exact details of the Asian countries which are presently importing cotton from India alongwith the extent of imports involved.

(e) Export of cotton from India during last three years, country-wise is as under:

Country	Quantity - In Bales		Value - Rs. Crores			
	1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Agrentina	-	-	102	0.01	-	-
Angola	-	-	-	-	176	0.16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Baharain	-	-	22	0.01	-	-
Bangladesh	1798	2.11	8342	10.84	1080	0.95
Belgium	3966	3.08	3866	2.58	7091	4.06
Canada	105	0.06	542	0.36	222	0.19
Chinese Taipei	1588	0.96	-	-	-	-
Czech Republic	-	-	-	-	Neg.	0.0001
Egypt	148	0.24	-	-	-	-
France	10715	6.94	3417	2.23	2142	1.25
German Rep.	2162	1.54	2810	1.97	-	-
Greece	30	0.03	61	0.04	-	-
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	1202	0.68
Italy	-	-	6	0.004	74	0.03
Japan	27538	23.17	19881	15.24	18551	19.70
Lebanon	-	-	-	-	1	0.0015
Malaysia	-	-	13951	12.86	8395	7.35
Mauritius	41	0.02	-	-	Neg.	0.0004
Nepal	241	0.19	2311	1.54	1328	0.775
Netherlands	47	0.04	71	0.05	-	-
Portugal	-	-	585	0.67	1274	0.64
Singapore	54	0.06	-	-	-	-
Srilanka	215	0.19	98	0.05	-	-
Sweden	16	0.02	-	-	-	-
Switzerland	-	-	1001	0.64	-	-
South Africa	80	0.03	24	0.24	-	-
Tanzania	-	-	34	0.04	-	-
Thailand	-	-	1199	0.73	428	0.24
Turkey	247	0.25	512	0.50	-	-
UAE	-	-	19	0.02	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Uganda	-	-	19	0.009	-	-
UK	32	0.02	291	0.23	16	0.0089
USA	380	0.36	178	0.12	1881	3.04
Vietnam	-	-	1009	0.65	-	-
Total	49405	39.313	60351	51.43	43861	39.07

Source: Foreign Trade Statistics of India Vol-I (DGCIS, Calcutta)

Cases of Irregularities

1794. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the vigilance department of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution regarding corruption, dishonesty and having property disproportionate to known sources of income by civil servants during the last three years and current year till date along with the number of actual cases detected;

(b) whether the vigilance department has itself taken action against the guilty employees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) The complaints received in the Vigilance Division of the Ministry are examined and wherever required the matter is referred to the concerned disciplinary authority to initiate departmental action against the delinquent officers. 21 complaints relating to corruption, dishonesty and having property disproportionate to known sources of income by civil servants during the year 2000 to 2003 (till date) were received in the Vigilance Division of the Ministry. Allegations relating to 5 complaints out of 21 received during the said period have been, prima-facie, established.

Export of Steel

1795. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in the export of steel during the last six months;

(b) if so, the extent of increase registered in its export in comparison to corresponding period of last year;

(c) the countries from which the demand for steel has increased and the foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(d) whether India is also facing tough competition from some of the other steel exporting countries with regard to the prices and the quality of the steel; and

(e) if so, the main countries who are giving tough competition to the Indian steel exporting companies and how far the prices and the quality of the Indian steel is better in comparison to the other steel exporting countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The exports of Primary and Semi-finished Iron and Steel, and Iron & Steel bar/rod etc., during the period April-August 2002 and April-August 2003 are as indicated below:

Value in Rs. Crores

Item	April-August 2002* Value	April-August 2003* Value	Percentage Growth during April-August 2003*
Primary Semi-finished Iron and Steel	2079.12	3698.68	77.89
Iron Steel bar/rod etc.	434.29	474.26	9.20

* (provisional)

Source: DGCI&S

(c) The countries which have shown increase in their import of Primary and Semi-finished Iron and Steel from India during the period April-August 2003 as compared to the imports from India in the same period of 2002 include Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Taiwan, China R Rp, Djibouti, Egypt Arab Republic, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea RP, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Reunion, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, UAE, UK, Vietnam Soc Rep, Yemen Republic. The exports of the item to the above countries during the said period are valued at Rs. 3355.10 crores. Similarly, the countries which have shown increase in their import of Iron and Steel bar/rod etc., from India during the period April-August, 2003 as compared to the imports from India in the same period of 2002 include Afghanistan, Argentina, Bhutan, China P Rp, Czech Republic, Egypt Arab Republic, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Korea Rp, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Turks C IS, Uganda, UK, Ukraine, Vietnam Soc Rep. The exports of the item to the above countries during the said period are valued at Rs.249.29 crores.

(d) and (e) The competition is global. The price and quality of Indian steel are competitive and this is the reason for increase in steel exports from India.

Third Party Motor Insurance

1796. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the violation of directives of the Government by the private Insurance companies in regard to third party motor insurance;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken up steps against the refusal to give third party insurance by the private insurance players;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure compliance of the commitment?

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

(b) to (d) With the enactment of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has been vested with the powers and functions to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of insurance business in India. Accordingly, the matter was taken up with IRDA. The Authority, on receipt of complaints regarding non-acceptance of motor insurance proposals by Insurance Companies, has issued directions stating that insurers whether in public or private sector shall not refuse to underwrite motor insurance business in respect of any class of vehicles. It was also reiterated by the Authority that no insurer shall refuse proposals in respect of liability only covers. The Authority is strictly monitoring the compliance of the orders.

Securitisation Act, 2002

1797. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks and financial institutions have formed their own reconstruction companies and Reserve Bank of India has accorded licences to them;

(b) if so, the justification of granting licence to those companies which are promoted by banks and financial institutions itself, and

(c) the reasons for not giving licence to other companies which have applied under the Securitisation Act, 2002?

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

(b) RBI has satisfied itself that the majority of the members Boards of Directors of Asset Reconstruction Companies are independent of sponsoring institutions.

(c) RBI have further reported that two applications have been returned as the applications were submitted without the companies being incorporated. Other applications are being processed.

Restriction on Sizes of Packages

1798. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the restriction on sizes of packages to be sold in India under the

Package Commodity Act, Schedule-III (Weights & Measures) Rule could be unfair restrictive practice against import from non metric system countries;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The 3rd schedule to the Packaged Commodities Rules 1977 require certain products to be packed in prescribed sizes, for sale within the country. Prior to 5.4.2002, imported packages were exempted from complying with the requirement of the 3rd Schedule as they were picked off the shelf and not made specially to meet the Indian market. However in the last few years, import of such packages have increased many fold and the exemption provided under the Rules had placed imported packages at an advantageous position in comparison to local packages. To remove this anomaly, the exemption provided to imported packages as above was withdrawn with effect from 5.4.02 placing them at par with the indigenous packages. If net quantity in package imported from non metric countries is given in non-metric units, the said Rules provide for the importer to declare the equivalent net quantity in terms of standard units on the package.

I.T. Evasion by Cable Operators

1799. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of cable operators in the country evading income tax;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the number of raids conducted by the Government on the cable operators to check the evasion of tax;
(d) whether the Government propose to evolve a mechanism for fool proof system for paying income tax by cable operators; and
(e) if so, the details thereof and steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Income Tax Department has carried out several surveys and conducted enquiries in a number of cases of cable operators in the country leading to detection of tax evasion.

(d) and (e) The Income Tax Department undertakes scrutiny, enquiries and has powers to carry out surveys and searches and seizure in order to ensure that cable operators pay their Income Tax correctly.

Foreign Debt

1800. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

SHRI S. MURUGESAN:

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of loan taken from the World Bank and other foreign financial institutions during each of the last three years;
(b) the existing external debt on the country and the amount of interest payable then;
(c) the amount of debt pre-paid by the Government to World Bank and other FFIs during the last three years; and
(d) the amount of loan proposed to be pre-paid during the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The loan taken by Government of India from foreign financial institutions for various projects during the last three years was as follows:

(Figures in Rs. Crore)

Institution	Loan taken during		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	2145.11	1913.63	2519.14
International Development Association (IDA)	4848.07	5736.95	4277.92
International Bank for Reconstruction & Development (IBRD)	3234.55	3765.99	3202.78

(b) The details of existing external debt towards multilateral and bilateral development agencies are given in the enclosed Statement-I. The rate of interest payable is given in Statement-II.

(c) The amount of debt pre-paid to FFIs during the last three years is as under:

(Figures in Crore)

Institution	Principal amount		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	0.00	0.00	6336.79
International Bank for Reconstruction & Development (IBRD)	1151.98	0.00	7793.17

(d) Information in respect of FFIs is as under:

This year principal amount of Rs. 6378.29 crore has been pre-paid to IBRD. Further, principal amount of Rs. 5187.74 crore is proposed to be pre-paid to ADB during the current financial year.

(Figures in Rs. crore)

Institution/Country	Outstanding Debt (as on 9.12.2003)
1	2
Asian Development Bank	13880.76
E.E.C. (SAC)	190.17
Belgium	171.69

1	2
Rep. of Czech & Slovak	4.28
Germany	15548.56
France	3342.785
Italy	421.73
Japan	49752.33
Netherlands	2073.17
Russian Federation	2278.83
Switzerland	32.87
USA	4341.72
IBRD	17711.71
IDA	99649.78
IFAD	1182.53
OPEC	62.81
Norway	0.77

General Terms and Conditions of External Loans to Government of India

Sl. No.	Institution/ Country	Currency	Grace Period (Years)	Period of Repayment after Grace period (years)	Rate of Interest (in %)	Commitment Charges (in %)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Multilateral							
1.	A.D.B	US Dollars	3 to 5	12 to 20	Variable *	0.75	*Interest-Variable every 6 months. The interest rate is determined based on average cost of preceding six months of respective pools of outstanding borrowings established to fund such loans. The lending rate for the period 1.1.2003 to 39.6.2003 is 6.31 % on single currency US \$ loans and 2.74% on multi-currency loans. Commitment charges - 0.75% on undisbursed loan amounts. However the undisbursed amount is reckoned on a graded basis in respect of project loans. For programme loans it is on the entire loan amount.
2.	IBRD	US Dollar	5	15	Variable *	0.75	(i) Interest - variable every 6 months (a) Currency Pooled Loans (VLR - 1989) : Interest

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						<p>rate is determined based on the cost of qualified borrowing plus a spread. The lending rate applicable for Period from 1-1-2003 to 30-6-2003 is as under</p>
						<p>(1) Loans for which invitation for negotiation was issued prior to 31.7.98 - 4.62% per annum (includes a spread of 50 basis points).</p> <p>(2) Loans for which invitation for negotiation was issued after 31.7.98 - 4.87% per annum (includes a spread of 75 basis points).</p>
						<p>(b) US \$ Floating Rate Single Currency Loan</p> <p>Interest rate is determined based on 6 month LIBOR rate plus a variable spread.</p> <p>The rate applicable for interest payment date beginning 15.4.2003 to 14.10.2003 is as follows:-</p>
						<p>(1) Loan for which invitation for negotiation was issued prior to 31.7.98 - 1.47% per annum (with a spread of 21 basis points).</p> <p>(2) Loan for which invitation for negotiation was issued on or after 31.7.98 - 1.71% per annum (with a spread of 46 basis points)</p>
						<p>(ii) Commitment Charges - payable on the undisbursed loan amount - 0.75%. Bank have been notifying waiver of 0.50% since July, 91.</p>
						<p>(iii) Front End Fee - 1% (one time payment) of loan amount is payable in respect of loans negotiated after 1.7.1998.</p>
						<p>(iv) Interest Waiver for Prompt Payment - As notified by Bank, the waiver applicable for 2001 is as under:-</p> <p>Loans for which invitation to negotiation was 0.15% issued prior to 31.7.1998.</p> <p>Loans for which invitation to negotiation was 0.25% issued after 31.7.1998.</p>

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
3	I.D.A	S.D.R	10	25	0.75	0.50	(i) In respect of credits finalised till July 1988, the repayment period was 50 years including a grace period of 10 years. IDA credits presently enjoy a grace period of 10 years with a repayment period of 25 years. (ii) Commitment charges payable at 0.50% on the undisbursed credits are being fully waived by Bank since 1989-90. (iii) 0.75% shown under Interest Column is termed as Service Charge.
4	I.F.A.D	S.D.R	10	40	0.75		The payment of 075% shown under Interest Column is termed as Service Charge.
5.	O.P.E.C.	US \$	5	12	3.00		
Bilateral							
1	Australia	US \$	4	8	1.63		
2	Austria	EUR	10	20	2.00		
3	Belgium	EUR	10	20	0.00		
4	Canada	Can. \$	10	40	0.00		
5	Denmark	D. Kr	10	25	0.00		
6	E.E.C.(SAC)	UK Pd.	10	40	0.75		
7	France	EUR	5	17	2.6%		
8	Russian Fed.	US \$	6	14	4.00		
9	Germany	EUR	10	30	0.75	0.25	
			2	10	6.13	0.25	
10	Italy	US \$	10	20	1.50		
11	Japan	Yen	10	20 and 30	1.8 & .75		Interest is charged at a fixed rate as indicated in each loan agreement.
12	Kuwait Fund	Kuwaiti Dinar	5	20	3.50 to 4.50		
13	Netherlands	D.Glds.	2	10	2.5 to 3.5		
14	Czech & Slovak	Rupees	3	11	2.50		
15	Saudi Fund	S.R	5	15	3 to 4		
16	Sweden	Sw. Kr.	2.5	8	1.50	0.50	
17	Switzerland	S.Fr.	3	850%	Variable		Interest payable is 0.5% over the Swiss Export Base Rate plus an annualised Export Risk Guarantee. The interest payable ranges between 4% to 8.38% linked to the period of utilisation.
18	USA	US \$	10	30	2.50		

Note: * Interest rate is variable every six months.

Sale of Surplus Land of NTC Mills

1801. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any strategy to resolve disputes on the sale of surplus land of NTC mills in North and South Mumbai by Mumbai Municipal Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the details of NTC mills which are being considered for disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Government have agreed to follow DC Regulation 58 of Mumbai and to surrender land for BMC/MHADA as specified therein. An Integrated Development Scheme for lands of NTC mills in Mumbai, prepared in accordance with the provisions of the above Regulation, has been submitted to BMC on 3rd May 2003. BMC instead of considering the application on the basis of the current Regulation has asked NTC to surrender more land to BMC and to MHADA. Since this was not for from other private textile mills in the past and is also not in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation, BMC has been requested to act as per the provisions of the Regulation and accord approval for the Scheme early. The response of BMC is awaited. Meeting has been held with Chief Minister and Chief Secretary of Maharashtra to prevail upon the BMC to act in accordance with the approved Regulation.

(d) No NTC mill is being considered for disinvestments at present.

Strengthening the Powerloom Sector

1802. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power loom sectors in Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Madhya Pradesh and certain other States are facing acute problems mainly arising from lack of modernisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of powerloom and ancillary industries closed in these States; and

(d) the steps taken /propose to be taken by the Government to solve the problem of this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The decentralised powerloom sector of the country including that in Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Madhya Pradesh which plays a pivotal role in meeting the clothing needs of the industry, suffers from various infirmities including:-

(i) Technological obsolescence,

(ii) Small size of units,

(iii) Low HRD skill levels and poor quality consciousness, and

(iv) Inadequate availability of good quality power-supply.

(c) No information is maintained regarding closure of the industry. However recent quarterly performance report of the Powerloom Service Centres indicate that 3.15% of looms visited were found not functioning due to various reasons.

(d) Government has taken several initiatives to facilitate growth in the decentralized powerloom industry. These include:

(i) Central Government has announced a power loom package in the Union Budget 2003-04 for modernization of powerloom industry by enlarging the scope of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, providing Group Insurance Scheme for powerloom workers and assistance for Group Workshed for powerlooms to create a better working environment and obtain high productivity. The package has been made fully operational.

(ii) Government has taken up modernisation and strengthening of powerloom service centres, which have been set up to provide technical services of training, testing, project preparation etc.

(iii) Computer Aided Design Centres have been set up to enable small powerloom units to access new designs and upgrade fabric by product development inputs.

(iv) A programme for induction of 50,000 shuttleless and for 2.50 lakh semi automatic and automatic looms in the decentralised powerloom sector has been announced.

- (v) Incentives have been made available under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) whereby the powerloom owner can reduce the cost of borrowing capital either by availing 20% upfront Capital Linked Subsidy or by obtaining 5% interest reimbursement of on the loan availed.
- (vi) Import duty on shuttle less looms has been reduced and excise duty exemption has been given to indigenous automatic looms. Accelerated depreciation benefits at the rate of 50% have been extended on the weaving machinery installed under TUFS.
- (vii) Power loom Export Entitlement (PEE) quota has been provided to encourage powerloom exports.

Public Money in Share Market

1803. SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has a complete record on the quantum of public money invested by various listed companies for share units;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of companies against whom complaints were registered for not appreciating the investors properly;
- (d) the total estimated amount of public investors pending for appreciation by the unlisted companies; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government on SEBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that it does not have information about the quantum of public money invested by listed companies for share units.

(c) As on November 30, 2003, SEBI has complaints pending against 3404 listed companies.

(d) A company is listed after it makes a public offer. So, there are public investors in listed companies. However, unlisted companies do not have investments in response to a public offer.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

ATM's in Banks

1804. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the places in Bihar where the nationalised banks have provided Automatic Teller-machine (ATM) facilities;
- (b) whether nationalised banks propose to install some more machines in near future; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

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

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Company Law Settlement (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheme, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1136 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2003, under sub-section (3) of section 637 of the Companies Act, 1956.
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (i) The Companies (Appointment and Qualifications of Secretary) (Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 804 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 2003.
 - (ii) The Companies (Disqualification of Directors under section 274 (1)(g) of the Companies Act, 1956) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 830 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8218/2003]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 829(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2003 directing that clause (g) of sub-section (1) of section 274 of the Companies Act, 1956 shall not apply to a Government Company, issued under sub-section (1) of section 620 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8219/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, for the year 2002-2003.
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8220/2003]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8221/2003]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Man Made Textiles

Research Association. Surat, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Man Made Textiles Research Association, Surat for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8222/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8223/2003]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8224/2003]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8225/2003]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, for the year 2002-2003.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8226/2003]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association. Ahmedabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad, for the year 2002-2003.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8227/2003]
- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bombay Textile Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bombay Textile Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8228/2003]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Northern India Textile Research Association, Ghaziabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Northern India Textile Research Association, Ghaziabad, for the year 2002-2003.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8229/2003]
- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working

of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8230/2003]

- (13) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (l) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8231/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8232/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association (IRMRA), Thane, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association (IRMRA), Thane, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8233/2003]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 926 (E) (Hindi

and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 426 (E) dated the 10th April, 2003 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8234/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): Sir I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 9 of the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982:-
 - (i) The Sugar Development Fund (Third Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 787 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 2003.
 - (ii) The Sugar Development Fund (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 895(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8235/2003]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 702 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2003 containing Order notifying the minimum price of sugarcane for 2002-2003 sugar season under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8236/2003]

- (3) A copy of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Second Amendment Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 760 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 2003 under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 together with the corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 857(E) dated the 31st October, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8237/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Export of Fresh, Frozen and Processed Fish and Fishery Products (Quality Control and Inspection and Monitoring) (Third Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1034 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8238/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Cochin, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Cochin, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8239/2003]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8240/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:-
 - (i) S.O.2132 published in Gazette of India

- dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Swami Ramanada Tirtha Memorial Committee, Hyderabad" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) S.O.2133 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "India Brand Equity Fund (IBEF) Trust, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.
- (iii) S.O.2134 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Yusuf Meherally Centre, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.
- (iv) S.O.2135 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (v) S.O.2136 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Vivekananda Kendra, Chennai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (vi) S.O.2137 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Madhya Pradesh Mahila Kalyan Samiti, Bhopal" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (vii) S.O.2138 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Sant Shri Asharam Ashram, Ahmedabad, Gujarat" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (viii) S.O.2139 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Gurudev Sidda Peeth, Ganeshpuri, Distt. Thane, Maharashtra" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.
- (ix) S.O.2140 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Sant Nirankari Mandal, Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2004-2005 to 2006-2007, subject to certain conditions.
- (x) S.O.2141 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Integrated Rural Development Service, Secunderabad" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.
- (xi) S.O.2142 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Netaji Research Bureau, Kolkata" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.
- (xii) S.O.2143 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Bombay Iron and Steel Labour Board, Kakambali, Distt. Raigad, Maharashtra" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-1991 to 1992-1993, subject to certain conditions.
- (xiii) S.O.2144 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Krishnagopal Ayurvedic Dharmath Ausdhayala Trust, Ajmer" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.
- (xiv) S.O.2145 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Sri Anandpur Trust, New Delhi" under

- section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (xv) S.O.2146 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003, regarding exemption to the "The Muslim Educational Society, Bank Road, Calicut" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.
- (xvi) S.O.2147 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Tibetan Homes Foundation, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.
- (xvii) S.O.2148 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Centre for Advanced Strategic Studies, Pune" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.
- (xviii) S.O.2149 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "National Council for Applied Economic Research, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (xix) S.O.2150 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Krishna Chandra Memorial Trust, Ganjam, Orissa" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.
- (xx) S.O.2151 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "People's Action for Development (Maharashtra), Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1996-1997, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxi) S.O.2152 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "The National Association for Blind, Karnataka Branch, Bangalore" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxii) S.O.2153 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Vivekananda Nidhi Kolkata" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1998-1999 to 2000-2001, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxiii) S.O.2154 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Wildlife Association of South India, Victoria Road, Bangalore" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1998-1999 to 2000-2001, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxiv) S.O.2155 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "People's Action for Development (Maharashtra), Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2000-2001 to 2002-2003, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxv) S.O.2156 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Divine Light Trust for Blind, Bangalore" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2000-2001, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxvi) S.O.2157 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Punjab Istri Sabha Relief Trust, Amritsar" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1997-1998 to 1999-2000, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxvii) S.O.2158 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "The Delhi Society for the Welfare of Mentally Retarded Children, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961

- for the period covered by the assessment years 2000-2001 to 2002-2003, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxviii) S.O.2159 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Shri Bamleshwari Mandir Trust Samity, Dongargarh, (M.P.)" under section 10(23 C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2000-2001 to 2002-2003, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxix) S.O.2160 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Sri Ramkrishna Ashram, 24 Parganas (South) West Bengal" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001- 2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxx) S.O.2161 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Ramkrishna Sarada Mission, Dakshineswar, Kolkata" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxii) S.O.2162 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Adhiparasakthi Charitable, Medical, Educational and Cultural Trust, Melmaruvathur, Tamil Nadu" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxiii) S.O.2163 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Grocery Markets and Shops Board, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-1991 to 1992-1993, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxiiii) S.O.2170 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Centre for High Technology, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1995-1996 to 1997-1998, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxv) S.O.2171 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2003 regarding exemption to the "The Clearing and Forwarding Unprotected Dock Labour Board, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-1994 to 1995-1996, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxvi) S.O.2792 published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2003 regarding exemption to the "National Institute of Bank Management, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2003- 2004 to 2005-2006, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxvii) S.O.2795 published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2003 regarding exemption to the "The Railway Goods Clearing and Forwarding Establishment Labour Board, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-1991 to 1992-1993, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxviii) S.O.2796 published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Goods Transport Labour Board, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-1991 to 1992-1993, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxix) S.O.2797 published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October 2003 regarding exemption to the "Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mt. Abu, Rajasthan" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006 subject to certain conditions.
- (XL) S.O.2798 published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October 2003 regarding exemption to the "India International Rural Cultural Centre, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (XL) S.O.2799 published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October 2003 regarding exemption to the "Institute of Rail Transport (Regd.) Room

- No. 17, Rail Bhawan, Raisina Road, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 subject to certain conditions.
- (XLI) S.O.2803 published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October 2003 regarding exemption to the "Grocery Markets and Shops Board, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1996-1997 to 1998-1999, subject to certain conditions.
- (XLII) S.O.2804 published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October 2003 regarding exemption to the "Grocery Markets and Shops Board, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-1994 to 1995-1996, subject to certain conditions.
- (XLIII) S.O.2807 published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October 2003 regarding exemption to the "Maharana Rana Pratap Smarak Samiti, Moti Magri, Udaipur" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (XLIV) S.O.2808 published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October 2003 regarding exemption to the "Goods Transport Labour Board, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (XLV) S.O.2809 published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October 2003 regarding exemption to the "Maharashtra State Bharat Scouts and Guides, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1998-1999 to 2000-2001, subject to certain conditions.
- (XLVI) The Income-tax (26th Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1307 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (XLVII) The Income-tax (27th Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1332 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (XLVIII) The Income-tax (28th Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1335 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st. November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8241/2003]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:-
- (i) G.S.R. 887 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on specified float glass, originating in or exported from Indonesia and Peoples' Republic of China at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (ii) G.S.R. 888 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 7/2003-Cus., dated the 7th January, 2003.
- (iii) G.S.R. 890 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on metallurgical coke, originating in, or exported from Japan, at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority .
- (iv) G.S.R. 891 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Sodium Hydroxide, originating in, or exported from, European Union (excluding France), Indonesia and Chinese Taipei, at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (3) A copy of the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-dumping Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Amendment Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 878 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th November, 2003 under section 10 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8242/2003]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Central Excise Rules, 2002:-

- (i) G.S.R. 672 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 14/2002-CE (N.T.) dated the 8th March, 2002.
- (ii) G.S.R.744 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing format for filing return for production and removal of goods and other relevant particulars and CENVAT credit.
- (iii) G.S.R. 745 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing format for filing monthly return of excisable goods and receipt of inputs and capital goods without payment of duty by Export Oriented Units in Special Economic Zones.
- (iv) G.S.R.746 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing format for filing quarterly return for the dealers registered with Central Excise.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8243/2003]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-

- (i) The Central Excise (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 742 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2003 together with explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) The CENVAT Credit (Eighteenth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 743 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2003 together with explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8244/2003]

(6) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 838 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette

of India dated the 23rd October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum appointing Shri Sri Krishna, Chief Commissioner, as the Director General (Safeguard) for the purposes of the Customs Tariff (Identification and Assessment of Safeguard Duty) Rules, 1997 issued under rule 3 of the said rule.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8245/2003]

(7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) G.S.R.682 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/99-Cus. (NT), dated the 5th February, 1999.
- (ii) G.S.R.877 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/99-Cus. (NT), dated the 5th February, 1999.
- (iii) G.S.R.862 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 148/94-Cus., dated the 13th July, 1994.
- (iv) G.S.R.882 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8246/2003]

(8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:-

- (i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Ombudsman) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O.953 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 2003.
- (ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Central Listing Authority) Regulations, 2003

published in Notification No. S.O.954 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 2003.

- (iii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Sweat Equity) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O.977 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 2003.
- (iv) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Foreign Institutional Investors) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O.990 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2003.
- (v) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Depositories and Participants) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O.1014 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2003.
- (vi) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Stock Brokers and Sub-Brokers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O.1095 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September, 2003.
- (vii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Central Listing Authority) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O.1204(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8247/2003]

- (9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfers of Undertakings Act, 1970 and 1980):-

- (i) The Oriental Bank of Commerce General (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. 666/25/P.119/550 in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 2003.
- (ii) The Bank of India General (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. H.O.SD/SKB/1592 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 2003.
- (iii) The Dena Bank General (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification

No.47 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 2003.

- (iv) The Punjab National Bank General (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No.PNB/SD/114 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 2003.
- (v) The Canara Bank General (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No.RW/LEGAL/32/1323VSB in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 2003.
- (vi) The United Bank of India (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. 1/2003 in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2003.
- (vii) The Dena Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No.IR/PEN/AMEND/02/2003 in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8248/2003]

- (10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section(3) of section 15 of the Government Savings Banks Act 1873:-

- (i) The Post Office (Monthly Income Account) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.758 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September, 2003.
- (ii) The Post Office Savings Bank General (Second Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 818 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 2003.
- (iii) The Post Office (Monthly Income Account) (Third Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 819 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8249/2003]

- (11) A copy of the Public Provident Fund (Second Amendment) Scheme, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 690 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th August,

2003 under section 12 of the Public Provident Fund Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8250/2003]

(12) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999:-

- (i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Acquisition and Transfer of Immovable Property in India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 557 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2003.
- (ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or issue of Security by a person Resident outside India) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 558 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2003.
- (iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of any Foreign Security) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.629 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2003.
- (iv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Remittance of Assets) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.630 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2003.
- (v) The Foreign Exchange Management (Establishment in India of branch or office or other place of business) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.698 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 2003.
- (vi) The Foreign Exchange Management (Remittance of Assets) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 699 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 2003.
- (vii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.731 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th September, 2003.
- (viii) The Foreign Exchange Management

(Manner of Receipt and Payment) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.772 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2003.

- (ix) The Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods and Services) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.773 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2003.
- (x) The Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.849 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2003.
- (xi) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident outside India) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.835 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 2003.
- (xii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Withdrawal of General Permission in Overseas Corporate Bodies, OCBs) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.836 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 2003.
- (xiii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Establishment in India of Branch or Office or other Place of Business) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.847 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2003.
- (xiv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Acquisition and Transfer of Immovable Property outside India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.848 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2003.
- (xv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Exchange Derivative Contracts) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.880 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th November, 2003.
- (xvi) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Exchange Derivative Contracts)

- (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.881 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th November, 2003.
- (xvii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or issue of Security by a Person resident outside India) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.899 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 2003.
- (xviii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods and Services) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.900 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8251/2003]
- (13) A copy of the Thirty-third Valuation Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India as on 31st March, 2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8252/2003]
- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pratichi (India) Trust, Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pratichi (India) Trust, Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8263/2003]
- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8253/2003]
- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8254/2003]
- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8255/2003]
- (18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8256/2003]
- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development Economics (Delhi School of Economics), Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development Economics (Delhi School of Economics), Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 8257/2003]
- (20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English

versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, **See** No. L.T. 8258/2003]

- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, **See** No. L.T. 8259/2003]

- (22) A copy of the Export-Import Bank of India (Employees) Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. EXIM/Pension/2003 in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 39 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981.

[Placed in Library, **See** No. L.T. 8260/2003]

- (23) A copy of the Audit Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Accounts of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority for the year 2001-2002 under sub-section (4) of section 17 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library, **See** No. L.T. 8261/2003]

- (24) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959:-
- (i) The National Savings Certificates (VIII Issue) (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notifications No. G.S.R. 820 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 2003.
- (ii) The Kisan Vikas Patra (Third Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notifications No. G.S.R. 821 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 2003.

[Placed in Library, **See** No. L.T. 8249/2003]

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND

BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA-LAID

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill, 2003 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th December, 2003."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule III of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Railways (Second Amendment) Bill, 2003, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th December, 2003."

Sir, I lay on the Table the Railway Protection Force (Amendment)) Bill, 2003 and the Railways (Second Amendment) Bill, 2003, as passed by the Rajya Sabha on the 10th December, 2003.

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Statement

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, I lay on the table following statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals:-

- (1) Statement on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 17th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 11th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demand, Availability and Import of Potash/Potassic Fertilisers'.

- (2) Statement on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 19th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 14th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants 2001-02 of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers (Department of Fertilisers).'
- (3) Statement on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 20th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 12th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants 2001-02 of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas'.
- (4) Statement on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 34th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 26th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants 2002-03 of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers (Department of Fertilisers).'
- (5) Statement on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 50th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 39th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants 2003-04 of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas'.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

(i) One Hundred and Seventh Report

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the 107th report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs regarding Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

(ii) Evidence

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Sir, I beg to lay on the table of the House a copy of the evidence tendered before the committee regarding the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

12.04½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Hundred-forty second to Hundred-forty seventh Reports

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the Hundred-forty second, Hundred-forty third, Hundred-forty fourth, Hundred-forty fifth, Hundred-forty sixth and Hundred-forty seventh Action Taken Reports of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Action by the Departments of Family Welfare, Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy, Elementary Education and Literacy, Secondary and Higher Education, Women and Child Development and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on the recommendations/observations contained in the 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st Reports on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 13, Statement by the hon. Finance Minister. He is not present.

Item No. 14 - Statement by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, what about item No. 13?

MR. SPEAKER: Somebody has gone to call the hon. Finance Minister. He is expected to come any moment.

12.05 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, with your permission I inform that the following Government business will be taken up in this House during the week commencing Monday, the 15th December, 2003:-

1. Consideration of any item of official work left from the list of business for today.
2. Discussion on statutory resolution seeking disapproval of the following ordinances and consideration and passing of the Bill seeking replacement of these ordinances:-

- (i) The Prevention of Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003
 - (ii) Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003.
3. Discussion on statutory resolution seeking disapproval of the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 and consideration and passing of the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2003 as passed by the Rajya Sabha.
 4. Discussion and voting on supplementary demands for grants (General) for 2003-2004.
 5. Introduction, consideration and passing of the Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2003.
 6. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:-
 - (i) The Constitution (Ninety-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2003
 - (ii) The Petroleum Regulatory Board Bill, 2002
 7. Consideration and passing of the Special Tribunals (Supplementary Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2003.
 8. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha:-
 - (i) The Railways Protection Force (Amendment) Bill, 2003
 - (ii) The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2003
 - (iii) The Railways (Second Amendment) Bill, 2003
 - (iv) The Foreigners (Amendment) Bill, 2003
 - (v) The British Statutes (Repeal) Bill, 2003
 9. Consideration and passing of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 1998, after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (1) Tea industry is facing serious crisis. Many tea gardens are closed and many more are on the verge of closure. Thousands of workers lost jobs.

Tea industry is facing trouble in international market. The Central Government should come forward with a comprehensive package to revamp the industry. This should be discussed and a proper policy should be evolved in the House.

- (2) There are widespread black-marketing and sale of fake medicines throughout the country. This has become serious threat to the health of the people. The Government is also losing huge amount of taxes and duties. Salesmen are losing their jobs. Even WHO estimated that 35 per cent spurious drugs produced in the world are sold in India and 20 per cent of Indian medicines are fake. This serious matter should be discussed in the House.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:-

During the 28 years of their functioning RRBs have made significant strides in pursuit of their declared goal. At present 196 RRBs cover 511 districts of the country with a network of 14265 branches. Some changes in the organisational structure of RRBs therefore become inevitable in the changing scenario. They may be restructured and amalgamated into area-specific State or Zonal level Rural Banks under the aegis of a National Rural Bank at the apex level by an appropriate legislation.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, following items may kindly be included in the list of Business for the next week:-

1. There is a need for an economic assistance of Rs.2000 crores for the State of Chhattisgarh to meet with its growing population of unemployed persons and weakening of economic situation of the farmers due to the drought and to remove the frustration prevailing among the labourers due to joblessness. So that their all-round development could be brought about.
2. The approval of construction work of development items in the village panchayats by MPs and MLAs are criticised for not submitting proposals with their recommendation by the village panchayats. There is a need to approve the proposal without, the consideration of village panchayat submitting it as per the estimate and map-khasra for the construction work under the recommendation of the Members of Parliament, Members of State Legislatures. The estimates and map-khasra should be made the basis for action.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Mr. Speaker, Sir, expectation of maintaining/reconstructing the damaged bunker of Kargali Varari for saving Rs.4-5 crore per month in the B. and K. area of the Central Coalfields Limited.

Expectation of early commencement of mobile/cellular service of BSNL and expectation of early compliance of the Government order as per the direction of the Government and Sanchar Nigam Limited at the Bermo sub-division of the Bokaro district (Jharkhand).

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have not enhanced expenditure on education despite providing the right to education as the status of fundamental right. The expenditure should be immediately raised to eight percent. For ensuring the quality and utility of education, a national commission for education should be set up.

India is a big source of the technically trained human resource. This human resource is high in demand in foreign countries. In this era of globalisation the Government should formulate clear policy for exporting systematically this manpower and should make the export of manpower an important part of its foreign policy.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I give notice that the following items may be included in the List of Business during the following week,

1. An expert committee has recommended that Vizhinjam Port is the only suitable place in India for opening an international trans-shipment container terminal having a depth of 20 meters adjacent to the coastal area.
2. The construction of an international airport terminal at Thiruvananthapuram is delayed. The work should be completed without delay.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ranchi is the capital of the Jharkhand State. Ever since Jharkhand became a state the city of Ranchi has witnessed two-three fold increase in the number of vehicles. All the roads of the city remain jammed everyday and accidents take place quite often. In small towns bypass roads have been constructed, but no bypass road has so far been constructed

in the Ranchi city causing much trouble for the common people. I have been raising this issue in the House for several years. It is learnt that the Union Government have also provided funds to the State Government but so far work has not commenced in this regard.

So, the Union Government is requested to direct the State Government to expeditiously complete the work of the bypass road of Ranchi. The Ranchi-Gumla-Simdega road, which goes up to Mumbai through Madhya Pradesh and is a national highway has been in a dilapidated condition for years. These roads are not being constructed despite the formation of Jharkhand as a separate state. So, requisite directions may be issued to get the said roads constructed urgently and without further delay in public interest.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): The following items may be included for discussion in the next week agenda.

1. To discuss the serious implications and the handicaps caused for non Hindi-speaking people of India by including Hindi alone now as the medium of examination for Defence Services along with English which was in existence from the beginning.
2. To discuss for the development of minor ports in India in general but with particular reference to Tamil Nadu.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need an information as to how many subjects are taken up for discussion out of the subjects put forth by the hon. Members for inclusion in the list of business for the coming week. Out of the subjects submitted by us for discussion in the coming week none comes up in the list of business. So, It has no utility. It is my request to the hon. Minister that anyone of the subjects must be included in the list of business for the next week. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Ask your leader, business of the House has been finalised in the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Out of the subjects that have been mentioned here, none is taken up in the House for discussion. ... (Interruptions)

12.16 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER*

**Progress on the Action Taken Pursuant
to Recommendations of JPC
on Stock Market Scam**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I regret that I was absent from the House when you called my name earlier. Request was such as I had to go outside the House. I cannot lay it on the table of the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is perfectly all right, I have informed the Members.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad to submit to the House, a progress report on the action taken pursuant to recommendations of Joint Parliamentary Committee. The Joint Parliamentary Committee had submitted its report on 19.12.2002. The Action Taken Report was presented on 9 May, 2003 i.e. well within the period of 6 months. As desired by the Joint Parliamentary Committee, the Government will continue to submit periodic reports of action taken, at the intervals of 6 months upto the full satisfaction of the Parliament.

The Government has greatly been benefited from the Joint Parliamentary Committee's deliberations and expresses its gratitude to the Committee for its wide-ranging and valuable suggestions. While certain legislative measures such as the amendment of SEBI Act and repeal of UTI Act have already come into effect, other proposals like the amendment to the Securities Contract (Regulations) Act for ensuring demutualisation and corporatisation of stock exchanges and amendment of the Banking Regulation Act for better regulation of Cooperative Banks are before the Parliament.

The Government is also contemplating to bring about other regulations like the Companies Law (Amendment) Bill and Government Securities Bill, 2003.

Between the time of presentation of the last Action Taken Report and the present one, a number of measures have been taken which include setting up of additional institutional mechanism to keep a regular vigil on the financial markets,

establishment of a coordination mechanism with regulators and investigating agencies, reference to SEBI regarding the secondary market investment decisions of UTI in 89 companies identified by Tarapore Committee, setting up of serious frauds investigation office etc. While some recommendations are still pending for want of legislative mandates, other recommendations can be implemented only after the current investigations or judicial proceedings in courts of law are completed. The Government is monitoring developments on a continuous basis and there has been good progress in the ongoing investigations. It shall be our endeavour to see that wherever any action is pending, it is most expeditiously completed.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, debate should be held on this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, no action has been taken against the people who are guilty of certain acts of malfeasance. We would request you to kindly have a debate in the House on this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Kindly have a debate on this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The role of SEBI is more suspicious on this issue, you should have a debate on this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Nobody has been made accountable. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): It is a very serious issue, debate should be held on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: An inadvertent Action Taken Report presented to the House is not enough. ...*(Interruptions)* It is the planned report that has been presented to the House. It is not enough. It is not satisfactory. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Please take your seat. Hon.

* Also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8262/2003.

Speaker, Sir, I agree to the views expressed by the hon. Members that debate should be held on this issue. However, I do not agree to the views expressed by hon. Pawan Kumar Bansal ji. But, of course, debate should be held. A Joint Parliamentary Committee worked so much on this issue and yet elaborate debate is not held on this issue; we also do not accept it. We would like the debate to be held. You should decide as per rules. We, on behalf of the Government, do not have any objection to that debate. We would like that debate be held so that we can get the details whether progress has been made in this regard or not.

12.20 hrs.

**MOTION RE: FIFTY SEVENTH REPORT OF THE
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move the motion:

"That this House do agree with the fifty-seventh report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 11th December, 2003."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 11th December, 2003."

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I do not agree with this motion. Yesterday, we demanded that this Bill regarding the formation of National Tax Tribunal be referred to the Standing Committee. The Business Advisory Committee has discussed this and has allotted time for discussing this. I do not agree with that. The National Tax Tribunal Ordinance and the original Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, I had not given my ruling on the issue. The decision whether technically it is to be sent to the Standing Committee or not is still pending. Above all, the Members of both the sides - Ruling parties and the Opposition parties - can sit together and discuss it. I would take a personal initiative and see that the issue is resolved.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, you should take into account the feeling of the Members of this House.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, the Business

Advisory Committee's Report has been presented to this House. Ultimately, this House has to decide in what order the business has to be taken up. The final decision is that of this House. Yesterday, you had an occasion to see what the Members were feeling and what kind of arguments were advanced. If it were a simple Bill without having any implications and consequences for the financial and economic conditions in the country, we would not have insisted on that. That is why, it should not be treated that the House has agreed to the proposal and that it should be considered. That item should be deleted from the report. Your decision and that issue can be taken up later on.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: That is partly discussed, it is upon you whether the bill is to be sent to the Standing Committee or not. The Motion is so much. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Speaker, before your arrival yesterday there was problem on this point when we were objecting to it. Before, the hon. Minister could give his remarks a Member started speaking on this Bill from that side whereas the debate was to start from this side. We were surprised when we came to know that hon. Members from that side were speaking on this Bill. Then we objected. Such a method was adopted which was not good. Therefore, we lodged a protest. Now we are mentioning that the ordinance should be disapproved. The same thing does not get repeated, therefore, we objected yesterday. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We are not saying 'yes' or 'no' to it. It should not be treated that the entire House has agreed to discuss it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I was saying something else. ...*(Interruptions)* I was saying the same thing. Had Pawan ji heard me, he would not have had anything to speak. I said that the remaining issues be considered. Therefore, this issue has figured in it. It is always your prerogative whether the Bill be sent to the Standing Committee or not. Now, the motion is that the report of BAC be accepted. The House should accept the report of the BAC. Thereafter, your decision regarding this Bill will be final. The Government will accept that decision. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That would be a wrong

precedent. It will be burdening the hon. Speaker too much if the House decides to say 'yes' or 'no'.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The House should decide. If you are saying that is not within your jurisdiction then the entire House should decide what is to be done and what is not to be done. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker should not be burdened. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker should not be burdened. The House should decide what is to be done and what is not to be done regarding the Bill. Now the motion is regarding BAC only. If you do not like to burden the hon. Speaker then the House should decide it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is exactly what I am saying. I am agreeing with you. Let us not take a decision in the House. Leave it to the hon. Speaker.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: He is speaking the apposite thing. He is saying that the hon. Speaker should not be burdened. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If the House says: 'yes' and the Speaker has to say: 'no', then that will be wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the issue need not be made more complicated. Passing of the item does not, in any way, deprive the hon. Members to raise the point which they have already raised.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: If you leave this issue to the hon. Speaker then also we accept it and if you leave it to the House then also we accept it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: As I earlier said, even if this motion is passed, it will not be treated that you have conceded to the point which is before the House. This observation will go on record. Therefore, I now put this particular motion to the vote of the House. As I have said, I am going to convene a meeting on this issue.

The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 11th December, 2003."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)* I have been trying to raise this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri E. Ahamed, let me make it clear that there is no debate on this issue. You have promised that you would speak for two minutes on this issue. I am allowing one minute each to you and to the other hon. Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what happened to the Calling Attention Notice?

MR. SPEAKER: There is no debate on this issue. These people have one demand. It will come before the House only and it will be accomplished in five minutes.

12.27 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Problem being faced by Haj Pilgrims

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, the Government of India has decided to restrict and regulate the Haj travel subsidy for the Hajis who are going under the Central Haj Committee. This time there are about 72,000 Hajis who are going on Haj pilgrimage under the Central Haj Committee. Restriction and regulation of this Rs. 12,000 travel subsidy to Hajis has created a havoc amongst the Hajis. It is because when they applied for it, there was no restriction. Now, the Government wants every Haji to submit an affidavit counter-signed by the Notary Public. The Hajis are going on the 24th of this month. There is a shortage of time. It is impossible for the Haj Committee to collect all these affidavits counter-signed by the Notary Public. If the Hajis will not be able to go, then the Haj Committee will have to suffer a loss of nearly Rs. 25 crore because they have already made arrangements for accommodation and they have made travel plans and have also given a schedule to Air India and Saudi Airlines. This decision of the Government cannot be implemented under any circumstances.

Sir, therefore, the community largely objects to this and has asked the Government for reconsideration of the withdrawal of travel subsidy. It is because it is unjust, unfair and uncalled for. However, I would like to say that at least for the time being the Cabinet should take a decision to defer the matter for the next Haj because the next Haj is due to commence in February, 2005. Therefore, unless this is done, this would be a great injustice to the Hajis. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am associating the names of all those hon. Members, who are standing, with this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS (Palaghat): Sir, it is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)* If this decision is implemented, then tens and thousands of Hajis would not be able to go to perform Haj. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am associating every body's name.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue and it seems that it is a conspiracy to harass Hajis. Those people who were about to visit for Haj during this year, their applications were invited till 25th July and the Government of India decided in the month of September that those people who are income tax payee, no concession will be given in their fare charges for Haj. All terms and conditions are imposed on the Hajis. It is really a very impractical decision that if a income tax payee of Uttar Pradesh will go for Haj, his flight will be from Delhi. His old aged mother and father, wife who are not income tax payee, will have to depart from Lucknow. No Haj conference was held in this matter and no Muslim leaders were invited in this regard. The Government has taken this decision without talking to anyone and without any discussion, without assuring the confidence and sentiments of people which is neither judicious nor practical. I would like to request the Government through you that the Government may withdraw this decision immediately. I would like to submit that the Government's decision is totally against the sentiment of Haj is and it should be condemned in the House and the Government should withdraw the decision. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know one more thing that under what circumstances this decision was taken? The Government should withdraw this decision immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Bansalji, who has given you permission to speak?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Government should withdraw this decision immediately. This decision is totally unjustified. The Government should withdraw this decision. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri M.O.H. Farook.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Sir, the Cabinet came out with certain instructions in September to be implemented in the Haj Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: One Member is speaking. Let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may also be permitted to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down please. Let Farookji speak. He is speaking after so many days. Let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Farook is speaking after a long time. Let him speak. He is a Member of the Haj Committee.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK: Sir, I am a Member of the Central Haj Committee appointed by you. In September, the Cabinet has come out with certain instructions regarding subsidy to be implemented in the Haj season. There are so many legal as well as religious restrictions over this issue. This has created a lot of problems for the Central Haj Committee to implement them.

Another point is, the Central Haj Committee is in no way consulted at any point of time when this restriction has been implemented.

I support all these people. Yesterday, the Minister for Civil Aviation has conducted a meeting and we have placed all our difficulties before him. He has assured that he would take them to the Cabinet. Our plea is that these restrictions should be postponed for the next year and we may go ahead in the same way as you have done earlier. The present Haj activities should continue according to the old plan. This is our plea. ...*(Interruptions)* Application in this regard was given in July and this decision has come out in September. Therefore, this has created a problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with this issue. It has been stated that no rebate will be given to income tax payee. There are so many international airlines which provide ticket after getting government rebate. There are many airlines in the world and if its have to be chartered out the plane ticket will be less than those tickets. It is a very wrong decision and it should be withdrawn immediately by the Government. It will create a big problem. ...(*Interruptions*) If any husband pays income tax and wife does not pay income tax then it will be difficult for wife to visit for Haj and wife can not visit for Haj without husband. ...(*Interruptions*) So my humble submission to the Government is that step should be taken immediately in the matter of Haj. The visitor Hajis should be allowed for not giving affidavits and condition of income tax should be withdrawn while reconsidering over this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Would you do it every time? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker. Sir, the Government should withdraw this decision. The Government should reconsider about the decision which has been taken in relation to give rebate to Hajis and it should be withdrawn immediately. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Why we should not speak? Do only you speak and no body will speak? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to him, perhaps he is supporting you. So you should listen to him.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Our Government has given three times more subsidy for Hajis than your Government. The High Court in Pakistan has said that to provide subsidy for Haj is improper and against Islam. So subsidy should not be provided. ...(*Interruptions*) Whereas we are giving three times more subsidy. No Muslim country provides subsidy. It is against Islam. To raise a question that income tax payee should also be given subsidy, is totally wrong approach. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No debate or argument can be done on this issue. All of you sit down please.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We are giving three times more subsidy in comparison to Congress regime and he is making it political issue. Would a person be also given subsidy who is income tax payee? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Paswan, you sit down, please. Your elder brother is sitting and younger brother is standing

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down for a minute.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me make it clear. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: No Muslim country gives subsidy but we are giving three times more. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: There is an important Calling Attention notice. As an exception only I allowed this. Shri E. Ahamed has come and told me that this is a very important issue and that there is a time limit within which this issue is to be settled. I permitted three or four hon. Members to speak on this issue. But there cannot be a debate on this issue.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed all notices.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hannan Mollah, please do not speak in this manner. You are a nice Member. Please sit down. I cannot permit you to speak. I am not going to permit you to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): It is unfortunate. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It may be unfortunate. I cannot help it. This is not the way in which you can address the Chair. You are a senior Member. You are supposed to understand this. Now, I have stopped discussion on this issue. A number of Members have expressed their feelings. I cannot permit every Member to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What do you mean thereby? This is not the disciplined behaviour in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is a very important debate before me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra expressed his views.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you all made a request in this regard and I considered it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want me to go strictly according to the rules, I will go strictly according to the rules.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Why he is replying, the Government should reply.

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down please because I am on my legs. Listen if there will be no indiscipline in the House then I will go strictly according to rules. The issue was important that's why I given permission to raise this issue. It does not mean that I may permit everybody to speak.

[English]

Please try to understand this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, this House has seen that this is an emotional issue also. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Shivrajji, this is not the manner. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Let me argue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted Shri Shivraj Patil to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will take on record only what Shri Shivraj Patil says. Please sit down.

(Interruptions) ...*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the hon. Member from the Congress Party has made a very valid suggestion. He said that there are many issues involved in this, let them be carefully examined and then a decision be taken. That decision should be made applicable only after a careful examination of all issues involved. He has tried to say that if you apply the principle of excluding the income-tax payers, then also difficulties will arise because only Government servants are paying income tax, others are not paying income tax. So, they will get this benefit. Those people who are paying small amount of income tax will not be able to make use of this facility.

Moreover, this Government, our country, has taken into consideration the religious feelings of the people. That is why Rs. 100 crore was given by the Government of India rightly for the Nasik Kumbhamela. So, we are considering all the aspects. My submission to the government is that this is an emotional issue. Let it be carefully examined. Let a decision be taken.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There is no subsidy for Kailash Mansarovar and there is no subsidy for Gurudwaras in Pakistan. 175 crores of rupees are being provided to Hajis as subsidy. Even then this matter is being raised. ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would apprise of the sentiments of the hon. Members to concerned hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Are you going to take up the Calling Attention Notice on the issue of Haj also?

*Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: No, there is no Calling Attention Notice on this issue today.

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, earlier, you assured the House that you would take it up under Calling Attention. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am taking up Calling Attention.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You had said that.

MR. SPEAKER: What I had said, I tell you. A notice has to be given for the Calling Attention. I am ready to admit Calling Attention on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Akhilesh Singhji, the honourable Minister is coming, he has gone to Rajya Sabha.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need to quarrel with each other. I take up Calling Attention.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Akhilesh Singhji, owing to importance of your issue, I talked to the honourable Minister. The honourable Minister is in Rajya Sabha. He will come here after being free from Rajya Sabha. Raghuvanshji, now you speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready to accept it. There is no problem. Now the House will take up Calling Attention. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you on behalf of eight crore thirty lakh great people of Bihar and eight crore thirty lakh great people of Bihar are thankful to you.

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Raghuvanshji, do you know the rules that first of all you have to tell only about subject

and thereafter you have to deliver the speech forcefully. First of all you tell about the subject. The honourable Minister will reply to it and thereafter you will ask the question.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my issue is regarding need of financial package for Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I am on a point of priority. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me for one minute.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvansh Prasadji, you please sit down.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): You had called Raghuvanshji.

MR. SPEAKER: According to rules, point of proprietary comes first. Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji, you sit down please.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, Under Matters under Rule 377, I had made a submission in the House asking the Government to withdraw the conditions on Haj subsidy. Now, the Government has replied that it would consider the points raised in the House in the 'Zero Hour.' My point is that my submission made under Rule 377 should also be considered. The conditions on withdrawal of subsidy which are unjustified must be withdrawn. So, that is also to be considered along with the points that are made today. This submission has already been made in detail under Rule 377 by me earlier. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, kindly direct them to make a statement on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That issue is over.

12.44 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Reported: Need for financial package to Bihar for
development works in the State**

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Minister of State in the

Ministry of Planning to the following urgent matter of public importance and request him to come out with a statement in this regard:

"An Economic Package to Bihar for development work in the State and the steps taken by the Government"

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members have raised two issues in the Calling Attention Motion (i) grant of an economic package for improvement of the sectors like road connectivity, irrigation and power in the State and (ii) exclusion of backward districts of Bihar under the Backward Districts Initiative component of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY). I would like to clarify the position on the two issues:

I. Special Plan for Bihar

Based on wide ranging consultations with the representatives of State Government of Bihar and with the people's representatives of Bihar State, a Special Plan has been formulated for implementation under RSVY with 100 per cent Central Assistance to bring about improvement in sectors like power, road connectivity, irrigation, horticulture, forestry and watershed development. The Central Government has already approved a proposal for investment of Rs. 1,000 crore in identified projects to be implemented in the State of Bihar.

The allocation for the Special Plan for Bihar for the current year is Rs. 500 crore. The schemes which are to be taken up this year include (i) Million Shallow Tubewell Programme, (ii) Restoration of Eastern Gandak Canal in Bihar, (iii) Special projects for Mango, Lichi, Makhana crops and Spices in selected districts of Bihar, (iv) Strengthening of sub-transmission system in Bihar, (v) Development of State Highways in Bihar, (vi) Integrated Forest Management and (vii) Integrated Watershed Development in 8 districts. A sum of Rs. 50 crore has already been released for the Million Shallow Tubewell Programme. Detailed project reports are being prepared and processed in respect of other projects. Steps have also been initiated for selection of implementing agencies and it is expected that implementation of most of the schemes will commence after completion of formalities.

Thus, it may be seen that a Special Plan for Bihar is

already under implementation to address all the main concerns raised by the hon. Members.

II. Backward Districts Initiative

The States for which Special Plans had been sanctioned under RSVY have not been included in the Backward Districts Initiative component. However, under the extremist affected districts component of the Backward Districts Initiative, eight districts of Bihar, namely, Aurangabad, Gaya, Jehanabad, Rohtas, Nalanda, Patna, Bhojpur and Kaimur are being covered. In the current year, four districts, namely, Gaya, Jehanabad, Rohtas and Kaimur have been included and the balance will be covered from next year onwards. Under this initiative, each district will get an allocation of Rs. 15 crore per year for three years. Bihar State Government has been requested to forward special district plans for the four districts covered this year for approval of Planning Commission. After approval of the district plans, the first instalment of Rs. 7.50 crore (50 per cent of the annual allocation) will be released for every district.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are thankful to you on behalf of 8 crore and 30 lakh great people of Bihar for giving opportunity to raise their pressing problems.

Sir, the data reveal that 42 per cent people live below the poverty line. The CD ratio for the State is 22 per cent which is the lowest in the country and as a result of this the economic scenario is miserable there. Rs.3000 crores have to be paid annually in form of debt repayment to the Central Government as the latter make the recovery of debts in the same manner as Mughals did. Consequently there is little revenue left with the State and the money is not utilised in the development works. There was a commitment that the revenue loss suffered by the State due to division would be made good. The Government is bound by that commitment. The Government had made a declaration at the time of division of the State of Bihar. I would like to give examples one by one. The condition of roads is pitiable there. The condition of the National Highway is the most pathetic. The National Highways which is under control of the Government of India is in poor condition. 1929 kilometres of roads were declared as National Highway from 1996 to 2003. The State Government has stated that 1135 kilometres of National Highway roads are in dilapidated condition and an amount of at least Rs.1046 crores is required for their repairs. The Central Surface Transport department told that it had no funds for that. In some places the condition of roads is bad, pits have appeared in them and as regards the proposal to rebuild them, it has been stated

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

that they were not able to do it due to financial crunch. Take for instance, the National Highway No.77 which connects 17 districts like Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Sonbarsa etc. Similarly, the condition of the NH Nos. 101, 102, 103, 104 and roads adjacent to them is bad. All are in a shambles and the Government say that they do not have any funds. The department of planning should reply as to what is the use of formulating such a plan. These roads were declared as National Highways after your approval. What do you propose to do in this regard? 1135 kilometres of total 1929 kilometre roads are in dilapidated condition. What arrangements did you make for that? The estimate worked out by the State Government is pending with you. Several years ago, senior officials of the Government of India carried out inspections there and they felt that the roads were in bad shape. Neither measures are being taken to improve their condition nor any amount is being allocated. Not a single penny has been provided for this purpose. Only an amount of Rs.77 crores has been received out of Rs.1046 crores. How can this meagre amount meet the requirement? In the same way, the roads of the PWD are also worn and torn. At least 1522 KM roads are in dilapidated condition. Unless an amount of Rs.500 crores is provided, no improvement will be possible in the condition of those roads. 7000 kilometres roads of the REO are concretised but are in tatters. The State Government do not have any other resources except the MP quota and the MLA quota for their improvement. At least an amount of Rs.750 crores is required for 7000 kilometres roads. The Government are committed. These people have also decided to give assistance in all these sectors of road, irrigation, power through Rashtriya Samvikas Yojana.

The same state of affairs prevails in the power sector. The Central Government have provided assistance to the State Government for the transmission in power sector but no funds have been provided so far for power generation. The Barauni Thermal Power Plant is in dilapidated condition, the same is the case of the Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Plant. The expenditure for modernisation of the both amounts to Rs. One crore per megawatt. 320 Megawatt in Barauni, 220 megawatt in Muzaffarpur. ...*(Interruptions)* An amount of Rs.540 crores in total is required. An extension of 500 megawatt has been sanctioned in Muzaffarpur but no development is taking place due to paucity of funds. Rs.2000 crores are required for this work. A minimum amount of Rs.2540 crores are required for generation of power only then reforms can be brought about in the power sector. It was inaugurated in 1999. Five-six years have passed since then. In the meantime the thermal power plant should have been ready but that is still not ready. The work is going on there at a snail's pace.

Bihar is devastated by flood, drought, water logging and

erosion. It is ruined by four natural disaster. It leads to a loss of Rs.1200 to 1500 crore every year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar is not only devastated by drought and flood but by neglect on the part of Government of India also. I would like to tell the House about the reality of the Government. Devastation is caused to Bihar by not only the rivers of our country but also by the international rivers flowing inside it from Nepal. Every year there are losses to the tune of Rs.1200-1500 crores. The Government of Bihar is not able to find any solution to it without the Central Government's assistance. Ten lakh hectares of land remains waterlogged consequently there can be no way out for the drainage of water. Therefore, the problem of water logging cannot be removed without assistance of the Central Government. The erosion caused by the river Ganges spells disaster. Apart from it Bagmati, Burhi Gandak, Kosi rivers also cause erosion. Whenever a proposal is forwarded by the Government of Bihar to the Central Government, no attention is paid to that. In this way the State of Bihar is neglected.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India had constituted a committee in the year 1996-1997 which had identified 100 districts which needed to be developed. Out of those 100 districts, 27 were from Bihar. Now the Government have formulated a new scheme which is for 100 backward districts in the country but it is a matter of shame and regret that none of the backward districts of Bihar have found their place in this list. 55 districts suffering from extremism have been identified out of which eight districts are from Bihar. 7 districts have been identified which are not affected by extremism but they do not include any district of Bihar.

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Sir, I have also given a notice with regard to Regional Rural Bank employees. ...*(Interruptions)* I am drawing the attention of the hon. Speaker to speak on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the highest assembly and you are the presiding, taking care of all. In this way not a single district has been included from the backward state of Bihar having a population of eight crore and twenty lakhs. When extremism affected and non-extremism affected districts were identified, why Bihar was left alone? Do the Government of India intend to encourage extremism? Non-inclusion of extremism affected and non-extremism affected districts of Bihar is gross injustice to it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Nitish Kumarji is sitting here. He

is aware that a delegation of 60 MPs has already given a memorandum in this regard to the hon. Prime Minister. The hon. Prime Minister was requested to grant a special economic package to Bihar and waive off its outstanding debts. Bihar has a long history of over two millennia which is significant from cultural and tourist point of view. That also is the history of India. Measures can be taken to boost tourism by constructing Buddhist Circuit of Lord Buddha and Jain Circuit of Lord Mahavir. Bihar is being grossly neglected. The conditions of road, irrigation and power is poor in Bihar. The Government should pay attention to the points I have raised. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has announced the opening of 5 new IITs in the country.

13.00 hrs.

There are no more IITs, BITs in Bihar. All the Engineering Colleges have been shifted to Jharkhand. Why should not there be any branch of the IIT in Bihar? I would like to raise all these points. The Government should focus and act on these points. The condition of Bihar and their problems is delicate. Bihar faces the economic crisis, it is economically backward. For solution of all these problems, the Central Government should act without any sense of discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, an amount of Rs.40 per capita is being spent on agriculture. But in Bihar only Rs. 9 per capita are being spent while the national average is Rs.40 per capita. The per capita expenditure on rural development in all the States is rising but in the State of Bihar it is decreasing. Now the per capita expenditure in Bihar has come down from Rs.112 to Rs.109. i.e. allocations for Bihar are reducing, what is the reason for reducing the allocation of Bihar? Last year the allocations for rural development was reduced by Rs.301 crores. Therefore, we demand that the Union Government should give the share of Bihar and take measures to utilize the package to be given to Bihar for making improvements in roads, electricity and national highways. I would like to raise this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I have three more names. First Shri Rajesh Ranjan ji, secondly, Shri Raghunath Jhaji and thirdly Shri Devendra Prasad Yadavji. You all are aware of the rules, that the other Members who are going to speak can only ask questions from the hon. Minister. Under this rule they can not give speeches. ...*(Interruptions)* I have not yet finished. But I know that you all would like to speak on such an important issue and thus we will begin discussion on this Calling Attention Notice after lunch and Shri Rajesh Ranjanji would be the first person to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, I request you to permit me as a special case.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Sir, today is Friday, allow me to make my speech now and then declare lunch.

MR. SPEAKER: But you would only get two minutes to speak and I know that you won't stop in two minutes. You will be able to make a good speech after lunch. You will not stop in two minutes and then you will be angry with me that this should not be done. You speak after lunch, we will start the discussion then.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): I want to say that only Calling Attention is not sufficient for Bihar. If you want to know about Bihar and its miserable condition and for that whether the Union Government or the State Government is responsible can not be decided by just one Calling Attention Notice. This subject should be given three hours and Bihar should be discussed in this very session itself. As regards Bihar we can not pick and choose, we have to discuss the issue in totality. That is why I request you to allot at least three hours for this discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me for a minute. This subject came up before Business Advisory Committee and Pappu Yadavji demanded that three hours should be allotted for the subject but it was decided in the BAC meeting that this should be discussed only under Calling Attention Notice and so this discussion has been permitted under Calling Attention. If you feel like I would ask you to put up the subject for BAC meeting to be held on Monday. If your leader agrees then a discussion on this could be permitted.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: The opinion of Members from Bihar or the House may be taken up on Monday or Tuesday as the issue of Bihar has gained a national importance.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Please allow me to ask a question otherwise it would amount to gross injustice to me as I am from Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER: Two-three Members would be allowed to ask a question each after he has spoken and your name would be there, Paswanji. But I would allow other people only to ask questions and not permit them to give a speech.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

13.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE - *contd.*

Need for a financial package to Bihar for developmental works in the State

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, let me tell you one thing. The hon. Minister has to go to the other House at 2.30 p.m. As an exception, the hon. Speaker has given me some direction that three or four Members will be allowed to ask some questions. If the hon. Minister is here, then only he will be in a position to reply. But he has got a business in the other House at 2.30 p.m. So, the only thing is that you be brief in your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I left my train only to give speech in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pappu Yadavji, I am only informing you.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was misfortune of Bihar the way it was divided and if you would analyse the circumstances then we would find that people responsible for the division of Bihar are within the House and outside too and it was divided for political interests. People living in and out of the State have never been concerned about the situation of 8.5 crore poor people after division.

Sir, when Bihar was being divided, the Union Government declared a special package for Bihar which was to be made public before the division but this declaration was made neither before nor after the division of the State. There is large scale unemployment and poverty in Bihar, as per his reply I would like to tell that there were 5334 factories in Bihar. To begin with Dalmia Nagar, Gaya, Bhagalpur, Siwan, Chapra, Darwinanga Paper Mills, Gopal Silk Mills or cinnamon mills, for your information, all those factories have closed down. 14 small and 19 big sugar mills under cooperative societies in Bihar have all closed down. In today's scenario the issue is how to strengthen Bihar from whatever situation it is.

Sir, several States are given special concession by the Union Government but Bihar is not included in this even though 62.3 percent population of the state, that is more than half of the population, is illiterate; overall percentage of the urbanisation of the country is 27 percent while in case of Bihar it is only 10 percent and only 37 percent people are literate. In case of rural areas the percentage of illiteracy is even higher. Crops worth 8 thousand 500 crore rupees which could feed half of the population of the country, year gets destroyed every day, due to floods, but since independence no one has showed any concern about this. Neither a comprehensive scheme has been made nor has it been discussed how to prevent floods in Bihar due to rivers flowing in from the Himalayas and Nepal, Kosi, Kamla, Mahananda, Gandak, Punpun and Ganga are big rivers but no measures have been taken to prevent floods due to them.

Sir, no attention has been paid towards the most important issue. 8 districts have been declared as extremist affected areas but they have never bothered that there are 18-19 districts in Northern Bihar, Central Bihar and South Bihar which are totally in the grip of drought. For five months we face drought and for seven months we face floods. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can ask a clarificatory question, if you will make a speech, others will not get the chance.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to speak about leechi, mangoes, bananas, jute, sugarcane and makhana. 25 percent sugar of the country is produced in Bihar. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that there are around 100 tea plantations in Kishanganj and if you set up a factory over there then the region of Kishanganj can become self reliant. Kishanganj in Purnea is the area of jute. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yadavji, it has all been clarified. Please tell what do you want for financial development from the Central Government?

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: I want to know from the hon. Minister what scheme has been formulated for the jute mill of Katihar, sugar mills of Banmankhi, Madhubani and other places and paper mills of Saharsa and Darbhanga?

I admit that the Government of India have not allocated less amount whether it is for RF or Pradhanmantri Sadak Yojana. I know that the amount allocated to them by the Government of India is surrendered and I also know that the other states have been allocated funds under the Pradhan

Mantri. Sadak Yojana three-four times but they do not send the total allocated amount to the state of Bihar even for once. What is the reason behind it? Why they behave in such manner, why they have not sent full amount to the state till date? They released money to other states two-three times but they did not release money to Bihar even for once.

Sir, I urge upon that if they desire to strengthen Bihar then special concession should be given to it. They should develop and increase the capacity of the Thermal Power Station of Barauni and Muzafferpur by using new techniques. If they want to make it more beautiful then they should write off the loan of the farmers of Bihar when Shri Deve Gowdaji became the Prime Minister a special package was provided to Karnataka and when Shri Gujralji became the Prime Minister, a special package was provided to Punjab. Punjab is the top most state of the country and there are three rivers in the State. Our state is ranked at 32nd in the country and there are hundred rivers in our State. Gujral Sahib was elected from Bihar but Punjab got the package. Bihar played a role of kingmaker to make Shri Deve Gowdaji as the Prime Minister but Karnataka got a package. The Government of Bihar says that there is nothing in Bihar, I would like to say that the Government of Bihar should handover Bihar to the Centre. They say that there is nothing, even electricity and roads are not there. Hon. Minister, Sir, until 10 thousand MW electricity is not generated there, the people and villagers of Bihar would not prosper. They are talking about providing money to NH project. They should write to them. I would like to get it written from them. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to tell about NH, from Kishanganj to Patna via Purnia, Khagaria. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yadavji, your other colleagues will also ask questions, please conclude now.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Sir, I want special package for Bihar. Bihar slipped from 2nd to 32nd place in the country, if the state Government do not make efforts to bring it in its earlier position, then I urge upon the Centre that they should give all the factories a special package. You should assess small, cottage, big and small industries which are based on agriculture. After evaluation you should make arrangements as to how employment be generated in Bihar, the labour class of that area should not migrate and even the students should not go outside the state for getting education. I urge upon you, Nitishji, who belongs to Bihar, is present in the House. He is the Minister of Railways. Other Members of Bihar are also present in the House. You have done too much work in one part of the state. But whatever may be the circumstances, the position of employment is very

bad, the students and youths of Bihar are migrating. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now nobody may get a chance to express his views.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: How employment opportunities be generated for them, the Centre should set up a new factory or revive the closed factory to generate employment opportunities there. I am now coming to the last point. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not the last point but you have to ask clarificatory question. You are delivering a speech, thereby nobody will get a chance. The hon. Minister will go to the Upper House. Ask the question now.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: I am coming to the last point. After division of Bihar, there is not even a single technical college in Bihar. Whether the Government propose to set up any IIT, ITI or any technical college in Bihar, the number of such institutes is more than 40 in Karnataka and in other states, the number of such institutes is 60 and somewhere it is 100 or 200. Whether the Government propose to set up a Central University in Patna?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there is any proposal then you should tell about it.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Whether the Government propose to open new technical colleges. If the Government of India beautify Rajgir and Bodhgaya, royalty of entire Bihar could be given from these two places. Lastly, I would like to say that either it may be the land of Vaishali or Shershah Suri or Vir Kunwar Singhji, Buddhists from all countries of the world visit Bihar. If you develop Vikramshila and Nalanda as tourist spot on the world map then the Government of Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Instead of delivering speech, ask a question from the hon. Minister. What are you doing?

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: I am saying the same thing. Would you like to do that and if you like to do so, Bihar would definitely be benefited.

With these words, I would like to submit that the loans of the farmers be waived off and employment opportunities also be generated. Alongwith it, special package should be given to the state of Bihar so that basic infrastructure such as irrigation facility, water supply, road and factories, should be developed. Efforts should be made to provide round the clock electricity and roads be developed.

...*(Interruptions)**

* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thereafter, nothing will go on record.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the reply of the hon. Minister and listened attentively whatever he read. I admit that the Central Government have grossly neglected Bihar from the first Five Year Plan till date. When the Planning Commission was constituted and in its inaugural meeting the first Prime Minister of the country, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said that the Planning Commission would step forward through its schemes for accelerated and systematic development of the country and it would also remove the regional imbalances. But, if you see you will find that discrimination has been meted out to Bihar from the first Five Year Plan till date. When Bihar and Jharkhand both were one state, even then our royalty was not provided to us.

Big factories situated in Bihar have their headquarters either in Calcutta or Mumbai or Delhi resulting in loss of Sales Tax and consignment Tax to the state. Rivers flowing from Nepal cause damage in our state. A major part of Bihar and some part of Uttar Pradesh is affected with the rivers flowing from Nepal. Due to the damage caused by the said rivers our area and entire north Bihar is in abject poverty. Whatever infrastructure we build either road or school building or home or standing crop all is ruined. I would like that the Central Government should take effective steps to check it.

I would like to tell the hon. Minister as to whether he knows that 90 per cent rivers flowing in Bihar originate from Nepal whether it is Ganga or Kosi, Burhi Gandak or Bagmati or Kamla Balan. All these rivers belong to Adwara group. These rivers cause damage to a vast area of Bihar and some part of Uttar Pradesh. To compensate for the damage caused by these rivers you should hold discussion with the Government of Nepal. After holding discussions with the Government of Nepal effective measures should be taken by the Government so that Bihar could wipe out poverty. The Central Government provide financial assistance to the state which is destroyed by the cyclone or earthquake. In the same way the Central Government should compensate for the damage caused by the flood so that Bihar may become self-dependent.

Hon. Minister of Railways is present in the House. When the discussion on division of Bihar was going on in the House, our friend Shri Prabhunath Singhji opposed the move. We all opposed the move. I admit that the Central Government and Bihar Government both are equally accountable for the division of Bihar. Bihar was divided and after its division the hon. Minister of Railways called a meeting of all the Union Minister and Members of Parliament belonging to Bihar and discussed with them for the development of Bihar so that it could be made self-dependent.

The revenue which we used to generate has gone to Jharkhand and the population has remained with us. We have incurred all the losses. Hon. Minister of Railways has drafted a memorandum and with it he called on the hon. Prime Minister. Hon. Home Minister announced this in this House itself. The hon. Prime Minister talked to us in a very decent way and said that they would assist us in every way but Bihar received nothing in the name of assistance.

Various types of confusions about Bihar may have been created at other places, but Bihar cannot be developed unless the Union Government do not think about Bihar to understand its problems. Just now, Pappu Yadavji mentioned about other states. Gujralji did the same thing for Punjab. You write off the loans of Haryana and Punjab who remain at the top, but Bihar which is the poorest state and incurs losses due to the international rivers, is seldom cared for its poverty. Karpuri Thakurji comes to our memory all the time. Whether as the leader of the opposition or as a Chief Minister he would always say that until the Union Government and the Nepal Government negotiate effectively to prevent the losses being incurred by us from the rivers coming from Nepal, the poverty of Bihar could not be alleviated. But the situation of Bihar is same till date. From Buxar to Farakka in our area hundreds of villages located on the banks of the Ganges have submerged into the river through soil erosion. Thousands of acres of land get submerged. Same is happening with the other rivers as well.

We want to know as to what you have done to prevent it? In the constituency of the hon. Minister, water logging remains throughout the year in the Mokama tal, Barhi; a tal Lakhisarai tal. There crops are hardly grown. A very large area of our land gets affected by water logging. I would like to ask whether you have made any scheme or not for redeeming the people from this situation? Now you are going repair the embankment of the river Burhi Gandak. There has been silt up of the river. The base-level of the river has risen. It is causing floods every year. You cannot save Bihar by de-silting the river in a phase-wise manner. If you have to save the state completely, you should construct embankments on the rivers.

It is true that the Government of India have entrusted in the power sector to the Power Grid Corporation to rectify the transmission system. For that we want to congratulate them. At the time of Rajnathji when Nitishji was the Minister of Surface Transport, the national highways that had been approved in Bihar are, as per Raghuvansh babu, in a worst condition than that of the roads of the PWD. After all, when you have sanctioned them then who will construct and operate it. In our area, the road-N.H.101 from Mohammadpur to Chhapra, the area of Prabhunath Singh ji via Malmalia, which have many pot-holes from Mohammadpur across the 5-7

kilometer stretch of the road and through this road the farmers transport their sugarcane to the Sidbalia sugar factory. They are facing difficulties in transporting their sugarcane. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now ask your question.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: We want to know whether the Government have any scheme to prevent the erosion and water-logging from the rivers coming from Nepal. The second question is-out of all the national highways sanctioned whether you want to get them constructed in a stipulated time frame with provisions of adequate funds. Third, how have the Government given the contract for transmission, and whether or not they want to provide funds for rural electrification and power generation in other areas. Whether the Government propose to do something for those areas of our State which get affected from water logging and drought?

The Government very cleverly tried to link some districts of Bihar. When hundred districts of the country were linked then why did the Government leave our part as per our population. Only eight districts were linked keeping in view that ours is an extremist infested area. Since you are running the Government, you might be knowing that not a single district of North Bihar - East and West Champaran, Sheohar, from Sitamarhi to Kisanganj-is left unaffected from the maoist insurgency. Maoists, naxalites have looted several police stations. Why the Government have not included those districts into it. Insurgents have blown up the railway line also. Why the Government did not prevent such incidents despite noticing them. The people of Bihar want to know clearly by when the Government intends to accomplish its duty. Please tell today by when will you rectify such a state of affairs.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members today expressed their views with regard to the economic package for Bihar i.e. road, water and electricity. This subject is fundamental and very important. I mentioned, this fact because this is a historical tragedy. Not only today but always Bihar has been subjected to abject neglect from the Centre whoever may be at the helms of affairs. This is not a new thing. I would like to put forth arguments and proof to substantiate how Bihar has been subjected to neglect. On what basis the quantum of budgetary assistance being provided to Bihar is determined? That is on the basis of internal resources. Bihar is not left with any capacity to mobilise internal resources. Particularly when Bihar got divided and Jharkhand was carved out, at that time also we had raised serious objections in this House and had withheld the Bill for forty minutes to highlight the fact that this would aggravate the poverty of Bihar in the times to come. Today the condition of Bihar is worst than that of the North-

East. We remain expressing our anxiety in the Parliament about the condition of North-East. But today the burning problem of Bihar is pitiable. That's why I drew your attention towards the fact that historically from the past itself Bihar has been subjected to such a treatment by the Centre. The quantum of budgetary allocation provided for Bihar is based on the fact that Bihar has got numerous internal resources and the Minister of State for planning who is sitting here is a party to it. He also wishes to form this basis that there are ample resources in Bihar. Jhaji rightly said that all the mineral royalty went into Jharkhand. Whatever was existing, went into Jharkhand. Raghuvansh Babu had raised the question. The Engineering College went into Jharkhand. Everything went into Jharkhand. Without changing the absolute formula of Gadgil, Bihar cannot develop because the budgetary allocation provided under it is based on the basis of internal resource mobilisation. When we have got no internal resources, wherefrom will we mobilise it? I want to suggest and demand to the Government and to make a submission to the Union Government that until the size of the budget for Bihar is made on the basis of the needs of the people of the concerned state, that is, Bihar as 52 per cent people are below the line of poverty there, until the size of the plan for Bihar is not made on the basis of poverty, on the basis of population, and on the basis of the needs of the state, Bihar cannot develop. The banking sector. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can ask only one question.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have given a chance to other hon. Members also, please give some more time to me also. This is a very important question. 8 districts of Bihar have been earmarked as extremist infested. Such a situation can also arise there when 36 districts will be declared as extremist infested. At least the Central Government should not encourage extremism. ...*(Interruptions)* My second point is that the distribution of capital, the investment of capital, if you see the C.D. ratio of any bank or any financial institution in Bihar, it is 15% in respect of all the Banks. The ratio in respect of some banks is 16% or 17% but the average ratio is only 15% of the total deposits made by the people of Bihar it means only that much percent of deposited money, is spent there and the 85% money goes to the big metropolitan cities either in Maharashtra or Mumbai, or Kolkata. How the development will take place in Bihar in this way? I have stated a historical fact and I can substantiate what I am saying. Therefore, it is my contention that there are guidelines of the R.B.I. for the development of agriculture sector that 30 to 40% money of a given state should be spent in that state itself. Only 15% money is spent in Bihar and all the money goes outside. There is no cooperation to

[Dr. Devendra Prasad Yadav]

the Banks from the Pradhanmantri Yojna, it is nil. The third point which I would like to raise is regarding the N.H.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can ask only one question under Rule 197.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the condition of the N.H. i.e. 104 is very poor at Bhikhamor, which is the home of the Hon'ble Member, leads from Sitamarhi to Jai Nagar - Ladania - Loukahan - Loukahi-Narhia in Jai Nagar, Madhubani district. The condition of the road is so bad and it is the N.H. at the Indo Nepal border and it was converted to the N.H. from the state Road and while the same was approved by the Central Government but they did not release even a single paisa.

As far the flood, drought, water logging and soil erosion, you might remember that in this very house the issue had been raised for two days when we were lathicharged and hundreds of our colleagues were injured and when on December, 9, 2002, a march to the Parliament was held, the Government had then vigorously responded they would do something but what happened? I would like to tell that the high level dam which was to be built in north Bihar whether on the river Kamla, or the Kosi the Gandak. Joint project offices were to be opened at seven places there for the construction of a high level dam on river Bagmati and in the year 2000 an agreement was reached between Nepal and India in Nepal that after having opened joint project office, a multi-purpose high level dam to be funded by India would be built which would also generate hydro-power. The river kosi alone has the potential of generating 3300 magawat of power.

Since in my calling attention I have raised the issue of power. So I would also like to touch Road, water and power. Such is the position of water that there is no control over floods and crops worth crores of Rupees is destroyed. Every year, out of total 8 crore 30 lakh people, 6 crore people are affected by floods and 2 crore and 30 lakh people remain always in the grip of drought in north Bihar. People in south Bihar are affected by drought and in north Bihar people are affected by floods. Six month's flood and six month's drought has become the destiny of Bihar. A solution can be found to the problem of water in Bihar.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next item on the agenda. Discussion under Rule 193 - also concerns Bihar. Do not exhaust yourself now.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It is a very

important point. I shall conclude in just one minute. People can get electricity at cheaper rates when hydro-power will be generated in Bihar with the assistance of Nepal. In the previous session it was stated that a scheme of D.P.R. with Rs. 24600 crores would be formulated for Bihar. But there has been no progress in this regard. Unless a permanent solution is found to the problems of drought and floods, any structure created for six crore people of north Bihar will crumble. Every year crops worth crores of Rupees is destroyed there.

Every year, relief to the tune of Rs. Five thousand crores and the same amount in form of cash is distributed by the Centre in the name of disaster management. But the whole of the money goes waste. Therefore I request you to make efforts to find a permanent solution to prevent floods instead of doling out money every year. Why the Government have been distributing relief every year in the name of disaster management and making us idle. We do not want to receive alms every year in the name of drought and floods, we do not want relief in this way every year. Every year we discuss the problems of floods and drought in this House which we do not want to do. We should be given an economic package by the Government and a permanent solution be found to these problems. You had stated that Bihar would be given an economic package. It may be clarified why the same is not being given.

In north Bihar agriculture is the, sole means of livelihood. But whole of the land remains submerged and waterlogged. Remunerative prices of crops cannot be had. All the 15 sugar mills have been closed down there. In this way the sources of livelihood have been dried up. There are no opportunities of employment. Number of unemployed is increasing. This is the reason why now Bihar tops the list of the poorest states. 'Makhana' cultivation can be taken up there. There is a tremendous potential of agriculture there. Pisciculture through conventional methods can be undertaken in ponds. Apart from it in fruits by growing mango and lichi and by setting up processing industry there that area can be developed. But nothing of the sort is taking place. Recently a list of 100 backward districts of the country was prepared by the Government. Not a single district of Bihar was included in that list. However some districts of Bihar do have been included as extremism affected districts and it has been stated that they will be developed by providing Rs. 50 crores. I would like to know from the Minister as to what criteria was adopted while preparing the list of 100 backward districts in the country under which not a single district of Bihar was covered? You are stating that some funds will be provided to districts affected by extremism. It means efforts are being made to encourage extremism. You will provide money if we turn extremists. If people live peacefully you will say no money will be provided

because they do not fulfil the criteria. Whether extremism is the criteria to determine the backwardness of a district? Will the extremism affected districts only be considered as backward? There is one standard for the whole country but other standard is being adopted in case of Bihar. There is backwardness in the entire country for which a separate parameter has been adopted but in our case extremism has been made the parameter. Double standards should not be adopted by the Central Government. Bihar has always been neglected. Consequently Bihar is reaching its nadir. The Government, therefore, should sympathetically consider it and immediately announce an economic package for Bihar. Further more, a D.P.R. to the tune of Rs. 24,600 crores should be released for floods and drought forthwith and accomplish the work by expediting it. Only then Bihar can be prosperous. Otherwise a different situation may arise in Bihar for which the Centre will be responsible. I would not like to dwell on that. This is the submission I would like to make and Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to extend my thanks to you. The longest list of the Centre relates to category (C) in which Bihar has been placed. The other categories are increasing day in and day out but it is not so in the case of category (C) Bihar has N.H. - 57, it has also an Express Highway which leads from Silchar to Porbunder. There is no progress on that from Mujaffarpur to Farbisgunj. Funds are allocated and there it is stated that estimates are not received. When estimates are sent, then they are forwarded to the department of finance. A member of Finance asks as to what flood and flood-prone areas are. ...*(Interruptions)* What is the parameter thereof? My request is that funds should be released after changing the category (C) and the condition of the highway should be improved. Mere installing of status is not going to serve any purpose. Resolution and will-power are required to carry out development works. This Government lacks will-power. All know that Bihar is the land of revolutionaries. When a movement starts in Bihar, it turns direction of the whole country. Therefore, I would like to say that if Bihar hots up, you people will feel restless. That is why, I would like to tell the Government not to provoke the people of Bihar any more. Do not mete out step-motherly treatment to Bihar and make it join the main-stream. Give it the opportunity to join the main-stream.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are not more than five speakers in the list as per the rule 197 pertaining to Calling Attention. Four out of them have spoken and have been replied to also. The Hon'ble Speaker has given permission to 3-4 members to ask one question each. Therefore, put one question each, please. Thereafter, the Minister will reply Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Just now hon'ble Members S/Shri Raghuvanshji, Devendraji and Jha Saheb

have raised issues. There are countless problems in Bihar. Even then I want to ask one question whether danger will not emerge in future for the unity and integrity of the country if one state of the country becomes too much developed and the other remains undeveloped. We are all the progeny of mother India. If one part of a country gets paralysed and the other grows stronger and stronger then what will happen to that country. So only the people of Bihar should not be worried for Bihar but the whole country should be worried for it. Therefore, the reply that has been given is not a satisfactory one. When Bihar was divided, at that time the people of Bihar had hoped that when everything had gone to Jharkhand, we would get some assistance, some sort of economic package. We have failed to understand the language the hon'ble Minister has used. It appears that the proverb 'Much cry, little wool' is turning out to be true. We are holding here discussions on road, electricity, hydel-power and irrigation. What sort of things are going on? The Government has closed down the thermal power station at Barauni and the factory at Sindri. HEC, Ranchi has been closed down. The factory at Amjor has been closed down. No new project is getting launched there. From sugar mills to other factories all are getting closed down one after another. The funds for the co-operative societies are not being released. Many factories are being wound up including the Ashok Paper Mill. It is alright for the Southern states to enjoy the rapid development. They are progressing. New technologies are coming up there, but the state like Bihar is remaining backward. Everything is interlinked. I would like to ask whether you would like to separate Bihar from the rest of the country? After some time all the states would say that their money should not go to Bihar. Everything is being done by others. Why it should go to Uttar Pradesh. Everything is being done by others. In this scenario there will be two types of states in our country itself-developed states and undeveloped states. The undeveloped states will be treated differently in the sense of turning a blind eye to the spread of extremism there or to the prevailing insanitary conditions there and at another states people will enjoy the luxuries of heaven. Therefore, I think that this is a serious issue and I do not think that the hon'ble Minister is capable to responding about all these problems. He would simply read out the note received from the Ministry. If this issue has to be seriously discussed upon, then the Prime Minister who is the Chairman of the Planning Commission and all the Ministers of the concerned Ministries should be invited to deliberate on this issue. As meetings are held for the development of north-east and on the spot visits of that area take place and all the Departments make visits, all the ministries make visits, similarly the Prime Minister should call the representatives of all the Ministries. He may call the political personalities and they can call them and if they are not interested to call them then they may not call them but piece meal work will not be enough. If the

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

to give a good package to Bihar, it is alright and its proper monitoring is required. We know that there will be allegations and counter allegations in this regard. The Central Government would ask about the works being done by the state Government. About the National Highways they would say that no tender notices are issued there. These things are not being taken seriously. If these problems are seriously considered then only Bihar can develop. Otherwise Bihar is moving on its own course. No one can say that what will be the future of Bihar. We are the people of Bihar, we can foresee what will be the condition of Bihar in the coming 20-25 years. When we think about it our heart trembles. The government should give a special package for the development of Bihar if it has to be kept as a part of India. Giving small amounts of money in a general way will not work wonders. The Government will have to make a special package for Bihar and will have to look after its implementation as well. For that the Prime Minister himself will have to take personal interest, then only Bihar could be saved. Otherwise we will be holding discussions for the sake of discussions but what will be the future of Bihar, nothing can be said about it.

With these words, I thank you for two minutes you have given to me to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to put up some questions to the hon'ble Minister only as per your orders.

Sir, when the question of the division of Bihar had arisen, we had stood up in its opposition. Devendra Prasadji was also with us. Secondly, Nitishji is also aware of it and also talked to the Deputy Prime Minister and at that time what was said that the state would be suitably compensated for all the losses it would incur. Sir, a committee had been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the review done by the said Committee so far? Whether the Planning Commission has also made a review as to how much loss the state will incur annually since its bifurcation? Simultaneously, I would also like to know that if they have made a review then what schemes they have launched and how much funds they have allocated to Bihar for its development? The Ministry has identified 100 backward districts among them there are no districts of Bihar denoting the fact that Bihar is not backward. On the other hand, 8 districts of Bihar have been earmarked as extremist affected. As such, I would like to submit as to whether every district is required to take a tag of extremist affected district for getting developed? At the same time I would like to submit that there are 34 districts in Bihar out of which about 19 districts are in North Bihar. The Government have not selected a single district out of these 19 districts. Through the Deputy Chairman,

Planning Commission, the issue of compensation was discussed upon. Whether he wants to include Chhapra, Siwan, Gopalganj and other districts of north Bihar so as to speed up the pace of development of those districts also.

About NH he said that funds are provided to the state but the state Government fails to utilise it. We think that he gives purely wrong statements about the funds provided or not. We would like to know that if they provide money and the state Government fails to spend it, then through the NHI which is their agency, why don't they carry out works for those roads which have been declared as NH?

It was the verdict of the Patna High Court also that the Union Government can utilise the services of another agency for carrying out works. About the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, I had asked a question as to whether the services of RITES will be utilized? The state Government was not initially willing for it. Later on it agreed to it. Now RITES is saying that they would not work in Bihar. When RITES has refused, then which agency has been selected which could carry out the work of Pradhan Mantri Gramin sadak Yojana in Bihar. The railway expansion scheme of the Ministry of Railways has been lying pending with the Planning Commission for the last two years. The scheme was for the expansion of Maharajganj Railway line. Would you like to carry out this work after getting this scheme sanctioned expeditiously?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whether the schemes of the railways should also be incorporated in the package?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: That is pending with the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has not given so far any new scheme after making a review and has not submitted the figures of loss or profit that have been incurred by Bihar? If no account is being maintained in that regard, then we would like to know whether the persons retiring from politics or favourite retired officers of the Government are in the planning commission, who have made the Planning Commission as their fortress. Whether the Govt. is considering to dismantle and reconstitute the Planning Commission?

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when it was proposed to give a package to Bihar, all the Members of Parliament jointly submitted a memorandum. The issues relating to the development of Bihar were stated in that memorandum. To remove the disparity created after the division of Bihar and to realise the people of Bihar that they are the same people who played a major role in nation building and freedom movement, we asked the Government of India to take care of rail development and development of irrigation facility over there. Steps to relieve the people of Bihar from

the problems of flood and drought and to improve the condition of roads, restarting of those irrigation schemes, which have been discontinued and to provide employment to thousands of unemployed employees of the sick factories and to implement land reforms properly in a state should be taken. There are lakhs of landless labourers and they have to migrate. Steps should also be taken to improve their condition. Besides, lakhs of weavers have become unemployed due to closure of looms. Steps should be taken to improve the supply of electricity there. It was proposed to give a package for all these things. Prime Minister himself convened a meeting of the Members of Parliament to find out a solution to all these problems and after taking information on each and every problem he asked to clarify the position in this regard, so that Bihar do not move on the path of terrorism. Bihar should not go in such a condition that it becomes the cause of concern for the whole country and for the Government. Whether the Government will make efforts to solve the problem?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ancient Vikramsqila University of India falls in my constituency and it is a very big tourist place. What steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to improve its condition. Among Bihar irrigation projects 20 thousand acres of land could be irrigated with the construction of Ganga Bateswar Pump Canal scheme. Not only the people of Bihar but the people of Jharkhand could also get benefit of it. It may also be clarified whether the Government will make explicit announcement for laying of more loop lines and what steps are being taken by the Government for setting up LPG gas plant in Bhagalpur.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after the division of Bihar its legislative assembly unanimously passed a resolution demanding an economic package of Rs. 1.79,000 crores. What is the fate of that resolution? It appears that the Central Government have not paid attention in this regard. Special package should be given for the revival of old industries lying closed for years in Amzhor of Bihar. The hon. Minister have visited the area. As Shri Ram Vilas Paswan said that by convening a meeting of the officers of various Ministries suggestions for enhancement of revenue could be given. Our Rohtash district was named after the name of Rohit, the son of Raja Harish Chandra. If this district is taken as a project then our revenue can be enhanced. Shiv Mandir situated in a cave and which is a tourist place known as Guptadham can be included in the project. As a result of it revenue will enhance. Similarly Tara Chandi Mandir is situated in a cave. It falls in our area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Arrah-Sasaram rail line was

sanctioned in 1996 but only a stretch of 20 km could be laid till date. This area is a bowl of rice. If this rail line is laid then it will not only benefit the people but also increase the revenue. It can also provide employment to the people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ask question, why are you making a speech?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, similarly there is Inderpuri Hydro-electric project having a capacity of 450 MW. The proposal sent by the Government of Bihar to the Central Government should be got sanctioned. It is pending with the Central Government for long. I would like that the hon. Minister should also get the Kamur Pump Canal Plan completed. My submission is that we should not indulge in making speeches. I am a Member of Lok Sabha for the last four years. Debate is held every time but of no use. Things do not change. The debate stops on that very point from where it starts. I urge upon the hon. Minister that this should not happen this time also. Action should be taken and only then the development of Bihar could take place.

15.00 hrs.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we under Shri Nitish ji submitted a proposal to the Chairman, Planning Commission i.e. the hon. Prime Minister. I would like to ask straightway him many meetings have been held by the Planning Commission in this respect and the decision taken thereon by the Planning Commission alongwith details thereof.

My second question is how many Central Universities are there in Uttar Pradesh? Recently the University of Allahabad has been accorded the status of Central University. Whether in Bihar also Patna University will be granted the status of Central University?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, entire Central Bihar is naxal affected area but there is huge potential of development. Punpun, Dardha, Morhar agricultural project is pending since long. Whether the Government propose to implement the above project.

Some places in Central Bihar can be developed as tourist spots like Banawar Mountain where archives of Ashoka period are found.

There are some such places where tourism can be promoted. All these places are situated in the vicinity of Rajgir, Nalanda and Bodh Gaya. These centres can also be developed. That is a boon for agriculture. Several discussions have already been held to implement Punpun, Dardha, Morhar

[Shri Arun Kumar]

project by the Union Government under a package. Please tell us by when the above project would be completed?

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY (Kathiar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, full discussion has been held on the miserable condition of Bihar. Sir, Bihar is divided the area remained with Bihar is an agriculture base area. I would like to ask straightway whether the Union Government have got any mega plan for setting up agriculture based industry over there? If so, then I would like to say that jute is grown in my constituency Katihar and its adjacent districts there is R.B.H.M jute Mill which is what sick and thousands of labourers work in it. Whether the Government have any scheme for revival of that jute mill? Third question is that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only one question can be asked during Calling Attention Motion.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Here Hon'ble Members have made speeches asking five to six questions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They have given a notice.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the roads in Bihar are in a dilapidated condition and the state Government have displayed boards to disrepute the Government of India stating that this road falls within the jurisdiction of the Government of India. I would like to ask from the hon. Minister what immediate steps are being taken by the Government to improve the N.H. to avoid disrepute? Fourth question is what immediate steps are being taken by the Government to improve electricity supply in Bihar?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Five-six question on Bihar become one question.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon. Minister should reply to the questions instead of reading the written replies. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please give him opportunity to reply. You can raise questions if you are not satisfied.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, I also want to make a submission which is not only for the benefit of Bihar but also for the benefit of other States.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Saroja, this is Calling Attention.

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, I seek your permission to place on

the Table a copy of the Supreme Court judgement which may jeopardise all the discussion that we are having. I would also like to know whether the Government of India has already taken note of the points which are mentioned in the Supreme Court direction.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: How does it relate to Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA: This is for the benefit of everybody. Bihar is an under-developed State and we are all concerned about it.

The recent Supreme Court judgement says:

"In continuation of this Ministry's letter of even number dated 10.7.2003, please find enclosed herewith the copy of the order.

In compliance with the orders of the Supreme Court, the undersigned is directed to convey the Net Present Value for the forest area approved for diversion after 30.10.2002 for non-forestry purpose shall be collected at the rates prescribed by the Supreme Court in their order dated 30.10.2002 issued on 12.11.2002."

Sir, I would like to know whether the Government has taken note of it as this is going to jeopardise the discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Saroja, this is a Calling Attention Motion specifically for a financial package to Bihar for its development purpose. Therefore, whatever may be the judgement, that will be taken care of by the Government. The Minister is specifically directed to answer the questions already asked by the hon. Members.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, I appreciate the concern expressed by the hon. Members about the State of Bihar. If I were to be asked about my own State, probably, I would have also expressed a similar concern.

This is Calling Attention Motion where I have made a statement and the hon. Members are entitled to ask only clarificatory questions on that statement. I am sorry to say that that has not been done. In fact, a debate has taken place. But, to the best of my ability, I will try to answer the questions asked.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have asked a question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is saying that I have given the reply and questions should be asked related to it. The question relates to the financial package and he has not said anything about this, is this our fault?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has not replied to the question that I have asked. I have asked separate questions and he has not replied to any of them. Instead he has been making background for so long and it seemed that he will not come to the point. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you would like a clarification after he has finished then I would give you time to ask a question again.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if it is beyond the hon. Minister to reply then the Prime Minister should reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Prime Minister and hon. Deputy Prime Minister gave assurance in the House and now this will not do if the hon. Minister is going to read from the written replies. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister should come and reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, I seek your protection.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would read out one sentence from the Minister's statement for the benefit of the Members. Let me tell you that if you go through the statement, you will find many things. Under the Special Plan for Bihar, it is said:

"The Central Government has already approved a proposal for investment of Rs. 1000 crore in identified projects to be implemented in the State of Bihar."

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: It was approved in three years and only 77 crore rupees have been given for it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know, it is written over there.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you

are not aware but I know, this calling attention notice has nothing to do with these 77 crore rupees.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is given to every State. Please talk about the financial package which was to be given to Bihar separately. What you are reading does not relate to the financial package. Special package has been discussed here.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the amount is only 77 crore rupees. It is a routine affair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please first listen to the reply to hon. Minister and if you were not satisfied, I would allow you to ask a question again.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to submit that regarding such an important issue, the Prime Minister or the hon. Deputy Prime Minister should reply and Hon. Minister replying would not serve any purpose. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister should reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the impoverished condition of Bihar is not being taken seriously. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Mukherjee is my good friend. We have lots of regard for him but this issue concerns the entire State and not a party. ...*(Interruptions)* that is why we are all together. Its my request that in this case the Government should go out of the way. ...*(Interruptions)* We are all together on the issue of the package. You read out that one thousand crore rupees would be given but only 77 crore rupees were given. What reply can the hon. Minister give, that is why I request you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, he should be asked when that one thousand crore rupees. ...*(Interruptions)* It amounts to misleading. ...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister should take the full responsibility and inform the House how much money has been given? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister should reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me. I have said that it is a calling attention and please listen to the Minister first.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This calling Attention is meant to call the attention of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning to the need for a financial package to Bihar for development works in the State.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me complete.

[Translation]

I would tell you what to do later on. Please listen to him first.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Accordingly the hon. Minister made a statement. That statement is before you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have read out a sentence. I do not know when what was done and what has not been done. You must be knowing better than me as you come from Bihar.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Do you think that the question I raised is irrelevant. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not at all.

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Cabinet Minister for this subject is the hon. Prime Minister. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me first. I have said that please listen to the Minister first. He could only speak two sentences and after that you have not allowed him to speak. That is why I said that please listen to the hon. Minister first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The Prime Minister should reply to such a question. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, look at the seriousness of the issue. The Prime Minister should reply. ...(Interruptions) As per the population of the country, Bihar

stands at second position and it is the poorest State. Why does not the Union Government understand the seriousness of the issue? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Sir, they held the meeting and reviewed the funds released for the package for which the hon. Nitish Kumar ji and all the members of the Cabinet and the Members of Parliament of that time had requested the Hon. Prime Minister. ...(Interruptions) Please tell us whether that meeting was held or not? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Sir, please hold a separate discussion of three hours duration on Bihar. ...(Interruptions) The hon. Prime Minister should reply to it. The discussion on Bihar would not be over by calling attention motion. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the main issue involved therein is that on the day, when the Bill regarding the bifurcation of the state was being passed here, the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister had given the assurance. But so far nothing has come out. No file is sent to his Ministry. I do not think he will be able to reply about it? ...(Interruptions) Therefore, the Hon. Prime Minister should come in the House and reply in this regard and satisfy us as to what is being given to Bihar. The situation of Bihar is deteriorating day-by-day after its bifurcation. Under the situation the House will not be satisfied, unless the Hon. Prime Minister replies to it about it. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, we are requesting him to reply, as the Minister concerned would not be able to satisfy us. We do have sympathy with him and expressing that sympathy we want that the Hon. Prime Minister should come here and reply in this regard. It is a policy matter and only the Cabinet Minister deals it. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: We have heard him earlier also. But what happened after the bifurcation of Bihar? ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Please listen to him. Even then if you do not feel satisfied, we will see it later on. Please listen to him. You are not giving a chance to a Minister to speak here. ...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Shri Vijay Goel ji, we are having sympathy with you and with the concerned Minister also. But he is not able to reply. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: I will give the

answer. Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)* You must have the patience to listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Please listen to him first and may intervene thereafter.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: He has replied to the questions by reading it out. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: The Hon. Minister need not lose his temper. Please tell us something on financial package. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Let me answer the question. Please give me a chance to answer the question. May I proceed? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Even after the completion of his speech, proper reply would not be forthcoming. The Chair should direct either the Deputy Prime Minister or the Prime Minister to reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Calling Attention is addressed to the Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning.

[Translation]

I would like to appeal to all of you that calling attention has been addressed to the Ministry of Planning. Even after listening the reply you will not feel satisfied, then it would be recorded as to what is to be done further.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: This Ministry is under the charge of the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: This question is related to 8.5 crore people of Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: May I proceed to answer the question? ...*(Interruptions)* May I answer the question which has been raised here? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, please listen for a moment.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Please issue directive from the Chair that the Prime Minister should come here to reply the questions we have raised. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I from the Chair cannot issue such a directive to the Government.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Your goodself was in the Chair, when the Bill pertaining to the bifurcation of Bihar could not be passed here for two days. This Bill was passed here in the Lok Sabha only after the assurance was given by the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister. After that assurance the Government has turned back. No action has been taken thereon. Now, how can we reconcile on this issue! Therefore, the Prime Minister should be present here. Now, there will be no discussion on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: There will not be no compromise on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are in the Chair. Why do not you understand the feelings of the Members? It is the feeling of the hon. Member from Bihar. I have full regard to the hon. Minister. But the grievance of ours is not going to be resolved from the type of reply given here. It can only be resolved by the concerned Cabinet Minister, who is the Prime Minister and the Chairman of the Planning Commission also. What purpose will be served only by keeping on justifying the replies that has been given. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Shri Paswanji, I will not try to justify the statement. I will try to answer his question put to me. Please give me a chance to answer the question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Vijay Goel ji, it is not Chandni Chowk. Bihar is facing many problems. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: I am going to answer that question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Shri Prabhunath Singh ji and we resorted to boycott in this very House when bill was being passed. At that time it was said that a Cell has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Deputy

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

Chairman of Planning Commission. It is mentioned in the bill that the bill would be passed alongwith the financial memorandum. Go through the proceedings, we had formally raised this issue under the rules. We along with Shri Prabhunath Singhji had raised this issue and all the hon. Members had supported and raised this issue. I am on a point of order, as in the Bill itself any state can be bifurcated with the help of financial memorandum. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Let me answer that question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The Prime Minister would have to reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): I was saying it earlier also. ...*(Interruptions)* I was saying it in the beginning itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had apprised the hon. Prime Minister of it. ...*(Interruptions)* When there was a debate on Bihar, he had asked us as to who had replied to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that should be seen by going through the proceedings. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the proceedings of that day should be seen on which Bihar state was bifurcated. On that day we had raised this question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please go through the proceedings of 9th August, 2002. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you can see the proceedings of 2nd August, 2002. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, I am on my legs. Will you please resume your seat now? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Atleast you should listen to me Please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: If we will not listen to you then to whom we will listen to. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We will definitely listen to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon'ble Minister has said that he will not stick to this reply only. He will reply all further questions asked by you. You tell after hearing the complete reply. He is appealing to you. That is the statement. Besides this he is ready to reply to the question asked by you. He replies after getting ready to reply and if you are not satisfied with his reply then you can also ask further question. How is it possible. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: This issue was raised earlier also. ...*(Interruptions)* Raghuvansh babu had raised it. Shrimati Vasundhara Raje was incharge of the Planning Commission at that time. At that time she had replied to it. When the hon'ble Prime Minister asked that who has replied, we said she has replied. At that moment he said that the hon'ble Finance Minister should have replied to it. We should have replied. What they will reply? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Prime Minister had also desired that the Minister of State would not be able to reply. Once, there was a debate on Bihar, the hon'ble Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not create objection for me.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that a date may be fixed and the hon'ble Prime Minister will reply on that day. ...*(Interruptions)* Another item should be taken up. No controversy should be involved in it. ...*(Interruptions)* You decide about a date according to the hon'ble Prime Minister's convenience inspite of my convenience. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not say that he should give a statement tomorrow itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have tolerated for three years. We will tolerate for three more days also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you adjourn reply to the Calling Attention Notice and tell the hon'ble Prime Minister to reply. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Vijay Goelji is sitting here. Vijay Goelji, it is Bihar not Chandni Chowk. The problems of Bihar and Chandni Chowk are different. So you should understand that problem seriously. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): You get stopped kidnapping in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Who is speaking? ...*(Interruptions)*

15.23 hrs.

(At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh came and stood on the floor near the Table)

15.23¼ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Prabhunath Singh and some other honourable Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

15.24 hrs.

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

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, please control your Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. The Government have been hiding the issue of Bihar for three years. ...*(Interruptions)* So only hon'ble Prime Minister's reply is acceptable. It is not an issue of political parties but it is an issue of existence of entire Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* So every body has raised this issue of cutting across the party lines. Today is the question of existence of

Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* The package to states has been granted by the hon'ble Prime Minister so far. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore certainly the people of Bihar would like the hon'ble Prime Minister's interference in this connection. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister had assured us. ...*(Interruptions)* The proceedings of the year 2000 may be gone through. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is about 3:30 p.m. The Private Members business will commence from 3:30 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not started as yet.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Moreover now hon'ble Minister would not be able to reply. So you adjourn it and direct it to the Prime Minister proceedings. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has come. You should understand the sentiments of Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Prime Minister had himself told that this is not a subject of the Minister of State for planning. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has come. We will decide after listening him for a while.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): At this moment this issue has been raised here now that the statement should be made by the hon. Prime Minister over the issue of poor economy of Bihar. There are certain rules of the House. The Calling Attention notice are admitted in the name of specific Minister. The Lok Sabha Secretariat intimates him that a particular Member of Parliament has given a notice to you over this issue and you send your reply over this issue. When a Member standing here said that

[English]

"I draw the attention of the Minister..."

[Translation]

I draw the attention of the Minister, then the concerned

* Not recorded.

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

Minister gives statement to the MP to whom notices' belongs. A debate is accomplished over his statement. The concerned Minister replies to that debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let her finish.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pappu Yadav, let her complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will listen to you. Why do you do like that?

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The hon. Prime Minister has said that this matter is not under the jurisdiction of Minister of State for Planning. ...*(Interruptions)* The hon'ble Minister of Finance or the Prime Minister may reply to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I am replying to that only. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should be aware that a member never writes in the name of Minister of State. It is always the Minister who writes. ...*(Interruptions)* Sushmaji you were not there. Please have a look at the calling attention form. Minister of State is not written over there, it is concerned Minister over there. Concerned Minister means cabinet Minister, it does not mean Minister of State. Why are you doing this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Hon. Member is saying that the notice was not addressed to the Minister of Planning, it is true. There is no need to look at the notice as Shri Prabhunath Singhji and Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji is saying to see the notice. You have not given the notice to him. I have not said so. You are not letting my point to be completed.

It happens many times that the notice is addressed to some other Minister but Hon. Speaker uses his own discretion and sends the notice to the Minister whom he thinks

appropriate. I am not saying that you have sent notice to him but when it was included in the list of business and order paper and when it reached your residence in the agenda then it was mentioned against his name to which you are objecting now.

My submission is that if you should have approached the hon. Speaker at that time you would have said that his notice is for the Prime Minister, you put the notice for him and now when you have called for his attention and he has stood up then you are saying that we were not attracting his attention, we are attracting the attention of the Prime Minister. No doubt. You could have said that it might be included in tomorrow's or day after tomorrow's list of business but we would attract the attention of the Prime Minister and we will not listen to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We listened to him but his first line showed his inability and then we felt. ...*(Interruptions)* We would listen to the Prime Minister's reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It was his statement that was discussed and now you do not want to listen to his reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please let it finish. I will speak afterwards.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

[English]

Sir, I am on a point of order under Rule 197. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Ram Vilas Paswanji, let me finish. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I want your ruling on my point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Sir, under rule 197 calling attention notice is given under the name of the Minister. The Prime Minister holds this portfolio. The Prime Minister might have said that the Minister of state would reply but I can well assure that the notice was sent in the name of the Prime Minister. The hon. Minister is not right in saying that specific Minister is selected by the Secretariat, it is not the job of Lok Sabha Secretariat. The notice is sent in the name of the Minister, and he can say that the Minister of State would reply. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is not right. This is my point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Prabhunath ji, let me finish my point I will clarify your point. ...*(Interruptions)* Ram Vilas ji you are raising an issue without any information. I have got a paper from Lok Sabha Secretariat. This paper is not from the Prime Minister's Secretariat which is sent to him wherein it is said that reply would come from the Ministry of Planning. What I am saying is that. ...*(Interruptions)* Ram Vilas Paswanji it will not do if you will interrupt like this. Members are saying that we have heard his reply. I am saying that there is difference between reply and statement. They have heard the statement and not the reply. There is a difference between statement and reply. You have heard the statement and not the reply. ...*(Interruptions)* The statement has been discussed. They have heard the Minister's statement.

The statement has been discussed. Now is the turn for reply

[English]

Reply is after the debate and statement is before the debate.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: It would be appropriate if the hon. Prime Minister replies. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time is reserved for private members. I would extend that, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: The reply that the hon. Minister has given. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I would finish in a minute. I would hear your point. You would be satisfied with the Prime Minister's reply? ...*(Interruptions)* I am not allowed to finish. This will not do. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABUNATH SINGH: We rely on you. You would

definitely pave way for the Prime Ministers reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Let the rule be followed. Now what is the rule? Firstly there is the statement of the Minister, then discussion and afterwards the reply by the Minister. There after if the members are not satisfied, then they express their dissatisfaction. My submission is that statement has been read. He has moved calling attention first. He has given the statement which was discussed. Now is the time for reply to the discussion. If you are not satisfied then you can say so. Then we will request the hon. Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to his reply first. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: He has't said any thing in the reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: How do you know that. This is not right. Please listen to his reply first. You can express your dissatisfaction after listening to his reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Reply has got no substance.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: You have heard the statement not the reply. Please let the reply completed.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: His reply reveals his inability.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It is not so.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: You can have a look at the proceedings. Let him reply first.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I said so before you came.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Let him reply.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: We are totally dissatisfied with the Minister's reply.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: That can be decided only after listening to his reply.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): He is expressing dissatisfaction without listening to the reply.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Please listen to the reply first.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: He has not said even a single sentence about the original question in his reply.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Have you seen the reply. Let him give the reply first, if you are not satisfied with it after the reply then you can say so. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We have heard the statement and reply both.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not object to complete the reply. As the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has said that we can think over what is to be done next if you are not satisfied with the Minister's reply. But give him a chance at least.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: You heard the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, now please listen to us and then decide.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Firstly the Calling Attention should be disposed off and thereafter we will have to encroach on the time reserved for Private Member's Business

[English]

Is it the sense of the House to extend the time for this item?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: No, no.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I only want to make a submission.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Please proceed with the Private Members Business.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please talk of time.

[English]

We are not entitle to proceed like this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sushma ji has stated that if the reply of the Minister is not satisfactory, she will request the Prime Minister. The Members from both sides in the House are not satisfied with the reply of the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The reply has not been given as yet.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Here is the reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That was the statement.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Please make the Prime Minister reply and give a ruling for future that it goes in the name of the Minister, not in the name of the Minister of State.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon'ble Prime Minister has written a letter to the hon'ble Speaker. It has been stated therein that here the task of Planning will be looked after by his colleague. Mr. Mukherjee and Mr. Speaker has approved the same. Still, however the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has stated that if her reply fails to satisfy the Members, a reply by the Prime Minister may also be considered.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: We shall consider that when they will not be satisfied.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has requested to listen to the Minister. I would like to submit to her through you, Sir, that a similar point had been raised earlier also. At that time Vasundhara Raje ji had given the reply. When the Prime Minister came to the House, it was brought to his notice that he was not present. The Prime Minister asked by whom the reply was given to. He was informed that Vasundharaji had replied. Then he had stated that instead of Sushmaji either the Minister of Finance should have replied or he himself should have been present. It is what the Prime Minister had stated in the House before all of us. When this point has come up today, the question and reply are different. The question relates to the East and the North-West. Then, how can they be relied upon. The affairs of Shri Judeo Ji was raised in the House. The Hon'ble Prime Minister was not present in the House when the issue was raised. When the point was raised, Sushma ji apprised the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the fact he came to the House and gave the reply. Today, the hon'ble Prime Minister is not available today. His Minister has noted the question. The minister as well as Sushmaji should inform the hon'ble Prime Minister. We did not demand that the reply be given tomorrow itself. The hon'ble Prime Minister may reply as per his convenience. It is a matter of our sentiments and that of our state. The hon'ble Prime Minister may reply when it is convenient for him to do so. We are ready to accept that.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall definitely apprise the hon'ble Prime Minister of the sentiments of the House. The sort of emotions I have been witnessing in the House, I find it undivided. The ruling, the opposition and independents all are speaking in one voice. As regards listening to the hon'ble Prime Minister, we shall decide the time as per his convenience and he will reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is yet to be disclosed of as per the rule of the Calling Attention Motion.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: They themselves are violating the rules. They themselves are asking to do that.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Private Member Business is listed for 3.30 PM. The Business should cease wherever it is. It is our point of order. If the Calling Attention Motion is not disposed off right now, it will remain as it is. You will have to dispose off that a later date. How can it be disposed off today? The Private Member Business may begin at 3.30 PM. As the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has stated that it can be rescheduled for tomorrow. Keeping in view his convenience.

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN: It should be incorporated into the list of Business the day the Prime Minister gives the reply.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It has been adjourned after 3.30 PM.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As per my knowledge we want to set up new convention.

[English]

We have already encroached upon the time of the Private Member's Business.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what about the Private Member's Business? ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We have been making the entire discussion irregular since 3.30 PM.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The solution in accordance with convention and rule is that the hon'ble Minister should arise. With his one-two sentences the Calling Attention Motion could be disposed off and the Hon'ble Prime Minister could make the suo motu statement on the Bihar Package.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in case of a Calling Attention Motion the reply is personal in nature but there is no personal reply on the statement of a Minister. It will, therefore, be in form of a personal reply. So, if the Calling Attention rules have to be amended, the Chair is well within its rights to do that. You may do that. It should be re-incorporated in the list of Business.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Can such a provision be made that the Calling Attention Motion is held again.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The provision can not be made twice as in the same Session on the same subject. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Chair has got the privilege, he can issue directions, you can change that.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak on the interruption going on in the House. The hon'ble Minister has urged for the suo-motu statement. It need not be stated that the Parliament is supreme. Four Members were designated for the Calling Attention. In a Calling Attention Motion, there is no provision for the fifth name after the names of four Members. In a special case the chair got the right to permit the hon'ble Members to ask one question and it has happened today. As far as the question of solution as per convention is concerned, I would like to submit that it is not a new convention. The Private Member's Business was to be taken up at 3.30 PM, you sensed the feelings of the House and it has got this right.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It could not be taken up. You people did not leave time for that.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We agree with what the Minister of Railways has stated. If you have not sought the sense of the House, you can do now. We are with you with regard to the Parliamentary procedure. The Prime Minister should give reply and not a suo-motu statement. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, Shri Nitish Ji is absolutely right. At 3.30 PM the Calling Attention Motion was going on and it has not been disposed off till then. The reply from the Minister was awaited. At 3.30 PM the Private Member's Business starts and the Minister had not replied till then. That means the reply is incomplete. Therefore for reply the next date should be fixed.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It was you who had stated that the reply to the Calling Attention Motion was not possible as it is to be disposed off that very day. It was also said that more than four speakers have spoken.

[English]

That means, the Calling Attention Motion was virtually converted into a discussion. It is not Calling Attention Motion now. It is no more a Calling Attention Motion because so many speakers have spoken.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I do not agree with that.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: That means, virtually it has been converted into a discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not agree with that. We have already listed Calling Attention here. The hon. Speaker said, give chance to three or four Members, as a special case.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: So, as a special case, the Prime Minister will reply.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, what I am going to decide is this. First of all, is it the sense of the House that we regularised the timing for whatever transaction we have done till now for this purpose? Let me first of all know that.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then, I am giving you my findings now. This is not concluded now. The reply to the Calling Attention and its disposal would be done on Monday after the Question Hour.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: No, it is not the next day.

[Translation]

The time will be decided as per the convenience of the Prime Minister so that he could reply to the discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The matter has been disposed off.

[English]

Now, the House will take up the Private Member's Business.

15.49 hrs.

MOTION RE: THIRTY-SEVENTH REPORT OF
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (Nominated): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 10th December 2003."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 10th December 2003."

The motion was adopted.

15.50 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: PRIVATISATION
OF CPUS..... contd.

[English]

Now, the House will take up Item No. 23. Shri Suresh Kurup was on his legs. He can continue his speech.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): There is no Minister for Disinvestment present in the House. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Who is there? There is no Minister. Where is the Minister? ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): The hon. Union Minister has gone abroad. He is in Geneva to attend an international conference. He has already written to the hon. Speaker. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, he has written.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Is the Minister capable of replying to my queries? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes he is capable of.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Is there any Deputy Minister for Disinvestment? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no Deputy Minister here. It is only a two-tier system here. It is only the Minister of State and not the Deputy Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Shri Thirunavukkarasar is an able Minister, but he is not dealing with the Ministry of Disinvestment. That is the question. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is, since he has been already authorised, how do you under-estimate his performance before he gives a reply?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: I have nothing against the hon. Minister. But, as we all know, there is no Minister of State in the Ministry of Disinvestment. So, I do not think the queries raised by us can be answered by the hon. Minister. ... (Interruptions) I am not saying anything personal against him. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Kurup, you are a very senior Member. So, do not pass any aspersion to his performance here. This is not fair on your part.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: I have nothing against him. I am not raising any allegation against the concerned Minister who is here to reply to our queries. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The concerned Minister has written to the hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker has said, 'yes'. The Minister whom he has authorised can act on his behalf.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Even the Cabinet Minister, Shri Arun Shourie, is not capable of replying to the queries raised here. I do not know whether he can reply to our queries. It is an important matter. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): It will be decided by the Government. How can he decide about the capability of the Minister? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: I said, I have nothing against the Minister. It is nothing personal or anything like that. ...(Interruptions)

Is there any State Minister in the Ministry of Disinvestment? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: But he is not dealing with the Ministry of Disinvestment. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It does not matter. He can deal with it now. He has already been authorised. Do you think without preparation he will come here? He has already prepared. He is very much here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Kurup, you were on your legs. You can continue your speech, if you want.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, he is nowhere connected with the Ministry of Disinvestment. This is a very sorry state of affairs. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Shri Suresh Kurup, please take your seat. It is correct that there is no Minister of State in the Ministry of Disinvestment and it is only the Cabinet Minister who is in-charge. Shri Arun Shourie is our Cabinet Minister. He has gone abroad for attending an international conference in Geneva. Since this matter has been partly heard, you have listed this matter today. If the hon. Minister is satisfied with me, we can go on with his argument. I am ready to respond

to him. ...(Interruptions) I am ready to answer him. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will he give an assurance that HNL will not be privatised? ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: How can he? Even Shri Arun Shourie cannot give an assurance like that. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a decision to be taken by the Cabinet or the Government. If a decision has already been taken by the Government he will say yes; otherwise he will say no.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: I have great respect for my hon. friend, but he is not dealing with Disinvestment. He is nowhere connected with it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already been authorised by the hon. Minister and the hon. Speaker has accepted it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, if you are satisfied, then it is all right. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Since it was partly heard in the last Session, as per the schedule it has been listed in today's business. If it is not listed today, then it will not come in this Session and it will come only in the next Session on subsequent Friday. Hence, this Resolution will only come in the next Session.

Sir, since it is listed here for today, I have also come prepared to respond to the debate. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Please do not take it in a personal way. I have great respect for you.

SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Sir, I want to make a suggestion. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is becoming really impatient. Nobody is prepared to hear anybody. It is unfortunate.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, just now we have witnessed that the hon. Prime Minister has authorised another Minister to reply and no one was satisfied. ...(Interruptions) No other Minister in this Cabinet knows as to what is going on in this Ministry of Disinvestment. Does anybody know? Nobody knows. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Kurup, please take your seat. Please hear the hon. Minister.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Nobody knows about it. The Minister is considering it as his private fiefdom. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Kurup, I will allow you to speak. Let the hon. Minister complete his point.

SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Sir, what I am suggesting is that if the hon. Member wants to hear the reply from the Union Minister who is in charge of the Ministry of Disinvestment, then it can be taken up on some other day when he is available here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: No, it is my right to move this now. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Sir, I will give another option. The hon. Member can go ahead with his argument. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: You are not supposed to tamper with the right of a Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: He can go ahead with the argument and the reply can be given by the hon. Minister when he comes back. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, you start the discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not prepared to speak.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, I am prepared to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my humble submission is that Mr. Speaker gave his ruling that the Minister of Disinvestment is not present in the House, the Minister of State is authorized to reply on his behalf. First question is the meaningfulness of the debate when the Cabinet Minister is not present in the House and the Minister of State authorized to reply on his behalf is not concerned with the matter. Hence, the discussion do not have any significance. Had the Cabinet Minister present in the House then the debate would have its significance. Keeping in view the seriousness of the subject, the Minister of State is not in a position to give befitting reply as should have been given.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has been the convention of the House that if the Minister concerned is not present in the

House to reply the discussion then other Minister is authorized to reply the same and they reply here. You know because you are a senior Member. Let the discussion be initiated.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, I would like to repeat that I have nothing against the hon. Minister of State replying or Shri Arun Shourie authorising him for replying to this debate. But, Sir, as everybody in this House knows, even the Cabinet Ministers do not know what is happening in the Disinvestment Ministry. Shri Ram Naik was totally unaware of what was happening in the oil ministry and only when the Supreme Court intervened, the Government could be stopped in its venture.

We have witnessed just now that the hon. Prime Minister has authorised another important Minister to reply; but no one was satisfied. You ask any Cabinet Minister as to what is going on in the Ministry of Disinvestment. They may not be able to reply. That is why I am raising this point here. Anyway, I will continue now. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Please give me one minute. Sir, I have given some alternative suggestions to him. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: So far as the Ministry of Disinvestment is concerned, how it is possible to authorize another Minister of State to reply the debate on disinvestment. One Cabinet Minister do not have consistence with another Cabinet Minister, they talk about controversial issues about each other. It is a serious matter and if the Ministers give different versions on the same matter then what is the meaningfulness of the discussion? I respect the hon. Minister of State. It is not appropriate to have discussion when the concerned Minister is not present in the House. It seems that the Minister of State may be or may not be able to give befitting reply on this issue. When Shri Arun Shourie is not present in the House, there is no much significance of the discussion.

[English]

SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: That is the suggestion that I am telling you. I have already spoken to the hon. Speaker also. If the hon. Member is interested he can carry on with his argument and I am ready to respond.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: I am very much interested.

SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Otherwise, he can continue and the reply can be by the concerned Minister after his arrival, if the hon. Member is interested to listen to him.

This is the second time that this is partly heard. It can be heard in the next Session also. As per rules, there is no bar.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, a decision can be taken in this regard. Let him start his speech so that others may also take part in it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh, who is preventing him?

SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: If he is ready to listen to me, I am ready to answer.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Thirunavukkarasar, please take your seat. Let Shri Kurup continue.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, last week, the representatives of the Hindustan Newsprint Limited and we, Members of Parliament, met the Industries Minister and he said that he was totally helpless and was not aware whether it would be privatised or not. That is why, I am saying that it is such an important discussion which we are raising. I think, the Disinvestment Minister should answer the queries raised by the Members.

Sir, as you are well aware, many times this issue of privatisation is raised in this House and discussed threadbare, but to none of the queries raised in this House by the Members from this side and that side the Minister was capable of replying. Privatisation has become the centrepiece of BJP's economic policy. So, they are bent upon privatising, disinvesting every public sector enterprises. When the major oil companies, HPCL and BPCL, were about to be privatised, it was pointed out inside this House repeatedly that since it was nationalised by an Act of Parliament, the Government should come before this House for privatising these enterprises, but they were not ready to listen. When the Supreme Court intervened and said that Government should come before this House. Sir, you know what the Minister said. He said 'it is a great setback.' In this democratic set up, a Cabinet Minister says that coming before Parliament and seeking the sanction of this august House is a great setback. How can he say that? So, whether it was criticism inside the House, criticism by the Supreme Court or struggle by the masses outside the House, nothing has prevented this Government from going ahead with privatisation. They have answered, but they are not capable of answering any of the queries raised by the Members.

16.03 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

They do not say why profit-making undertakings are being privatised. They do not say clearly what they are going

to do with the money they will fetch. To them, nothing is a strategic industry and everything is in the non-strategic sector. Whatever be the industry, whatever be the importance of the industry, they are bent upon privatising it. Sir, they say that privatisation is panacea for all ills of our economy.

Take for example, Hindustan Newsprint Limited. Sir, as you know, there Central public sector undertaking in my constituency. Right from the beginning, this establishment is making profits. This is the only newsprint factory in India which could export its newsprint outside the country. No other newsprint factory was capable of doing it. Now, Sir, a new de-inking plant has started there. The hon. Speaker, while he was Industries Minister, came all the way to Kerala, all the way to the factory and inaugurated a de-inking plant so that newspapers can again be converted into pulp and used as raw material for the factory and it can face the situation when raw material crunch occurs.

So, more than one thousand workers are there who are working as contract workers. Nearabout 10,000 people are living there who are connected with the allied establishments.

Sir, the Government of Kerala had taken great pains to establish this factory in Kerala. Nearly 687 acres of land was acquired for it, and the Government of Kerala paid the money. Close to 3,800 hectares of forest land was given to this factory for the production of its raw material. Whenever there was a problem in this factory, the Kerala Government used to intervene.

I remember in 1987 — I was a Member of this House — there was a serious problem regarding raw material, and the factory was asking for additional land. I was the person representing that constituency. Hence, I accompanied the then General Manager and the Trade Union representatives to meet the then Chief Minister of Kerala Shri E.K. Nayanar. Let me tell you that he did not hesitate even for one moment to allocate additional land for the factory, and the Kerala Government did this only because this was a Public Sector Undertaking. Do you know what was the undertaking given by the Government of Kerala when a case came in the Kerala High Court regarding allocation of forest land to this factory? The Government of Kerala said that they are giving this land to the Hindustan Newsprint Limited only because this is a Public Sector Undertaking.

Sir, my question is this. How can they privatise this factory without consulting the Government of Kerala, and without getting the sanction of the Government of Kerala? What is the guarantee that after this factory is privatised consented to give this land only because this was a major Central Public Sector Undertaking. They wanted that this

[Shri Suresh Kurup]

concern should come into Kerala. And without taking all these things into consideration they are going to disinvest 74 per cent of the Hindustan Newsprint Limited.

There is a great struggle going on in Kerala. The workers were on strike and those bidders who came to the factory could not enter the factory. There is going to be a 'hartal' in the district. A big resistance would be there against this privatisation if the Government does not take note of these things.

Sir, no private party can enter the factory, own this factory, and run this factory. I am quite sure about it. What will happen to the workers? What will be the fate of reservation in the factory? The Government is not answering any of these questions. They are going ahead with privatisation, and they have decided that Hindustan Newsprint Limited should be privatised. In fact, I had raised this discussion to make this House aware about the great struggle that is going on in my district against the privatisation of this factory.

Sir, you may be aware of the issue concerning FACT. It is one of the major Central Public Sector Undertakings in Kerala. It was a Private Sector Undertaking established in 1946. Later it was nationalised by the Government. Now, the Government has decided, as usual, that FACT should be privatised. Sir, repeatedly the Trade Union Representatives, the then Chief Minister and now the Cooperative Minister along with Members of Parliament from Kerala came to Delhi and met the hon. Prime Minister, the Disinvestment Minister, etc. The Government of Kerala is ready to take over the factory in the Cooperative Sector, and keep it in the Cooperative Sector.

However, the Disinvestment Minister is not ready to give a satisfactory reply. There are more than 5,000 workers in FACT, and this factory owns 2,500 acres of land in the suburb of the Cochin city. It has got its network all over India. This factory played a leading role in supplying fertilisers to the farmers of our country, which helped our Green Revolution. The High Court of Kerala, through an order, directed the management to start an Ammonia Plant and this made the factory to go into losses. Now, the Unions and also the management have given specific proposals to the Central Government. We all met the Prime Minister twice, and the Disinvestment Minister several times, but neither the Prime Minister nor the Disinvestment Minister is ready to hear any of these proposals. It is the collective concern of the people of Kerala and it is the concern of the Government of Kerala that FACT should not be privatised; FACT should not go into private hands.

Another thing that I have mentioned in the Resolution is about the Cochin Shipyard. There is a history behind the

establishment of this Shipyard in Kerala. In 1965, when the Central Government tried to shift the location of the Shipyard from Kerala, there was a big agitation. At that time, Comrade Gopalan was the Leader of the Opposition. Under his leadership, all the political parties united and there was a big agitation for establishing this Shipyard in Kerala. Then only, the Central Government relented and the Shipyard was established there. Right from the beginning, it is running on profits and it is still running on profits. This is a prestigious undertaking in Kerala. They are thinking of privatising it.

There are only a handful of Central Public Sector Enterprises in Kerala. Out of them, the three major concerns are the FACT, Hindustan Newsprint Limited and the Cochin Shipyard. I would like to say that the people of Kerala would not allow this Government to privatise these concerns, which are a part of Kerala. These concerns were built up with the money that the people of Kerala have paid. The Kerala Government has contributed tremendously for the establishment of these factories and for the running of these factories. Whenever there was a crisis, the Government of Kerala intervened. Regarding Hindustan Newsprint Limited, the Chief Minister has represented to the Government of India that it should not be privatised.

My point is that they are not consulting the Government of Kerala; they are not seeking the opinion of the Government of Kerala, in spite of the great contribution that the State Government has made for the establishment and running of these factories. If they are not ready to listen to the public opinion and the opinion of the Kerala Government, there will be a great resistance and it will be difficult for any private party to come to Kerala, and to own and run these factories. This is all that I want to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I now call Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very serious issue which is being discussed here, but there is no competent authority, I presume, to respond to the discussion. It is a very sensitive issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already called the name of Shri Ramesh Chennithala, please sit down.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, it is a very serious subject, but neither the Members nor the Ministers are here. What is the use of raising the issue here?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: We have already raised that issue.

PROF. A. K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): We want to take part in the discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a very serious issue concerning the State of Kerala.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: The whole thing has been diluted because of the negligence of the Government.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my hon. Colleague Shri Suresh Kurup. This is a very serious issue which has created a consensus among the different political parties and groups in the State of Kerala.

The Disinvestment Minister, Shri Arun Shourie is not here in the House today. I hope our learned friend and colleague Shri Thirunavukkarasar, who has proved himself to be an able administrator in the State of Tamil Nadu, will convey to the Minister the feelings of the Members of this august House in general and the Members from Kerala in particular because this is a very serious and important matter.

The issue of disinvestment has been discussed by this august House more than 14-15 times. Every time the Members of Parliament have raised very important issues and queries before this Government. Unfortunately, the Disinvestment Minister and the Government could not satisfy the Members who participated in the discussions.

India after Independence, moved to a planned economy. Public sector Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, called them the temples of modern India. The order of the day now is selling out the PSUs and winding them up. Without any direction or without any kind of thinking, these public sector undertakings were closed down indiscriminately. Because of this, the industrial development has been affected very seriously.

We are not aware as to how this Government is selecting the various public sector undertakings for the purpose of disinvestment. What is the criterion that the Government is following for selecting these public sector undertakings? I am sorry to say that the Government of India has no clear-cut policy on disinvestment. There is no transparency in the process of disinvestment. Nobody knows what the Government is going to do with the money that is collected through the process of disinvestment.

Earlier, when Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister, he clearly spelt out the aims and objectives of the process of disinvestment. The amount which was collected through disinvestment process was meant to be used for the weaker sections of the society. It was meant to be used for the social upliftment programmes and social welfare activities. I am sorry to say that this Government and the Minister of

Disinvestment Shri Arun Shourie have not been able to spell out clearly as to how the amount collected through the process of disinvestment be spent.

If the Government is using this money only to make good the budgetary deficit, it is not going to help the millions and millions of the people who are suffering. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the money which is collected through the process of disinvestment is going to be used for the social welfare activities which are very much needed in this country.

There is no policy perspective in this sector. The net worth of central public sector undertakings was Rs.60,300 crore in 1991-92. It went up to Rs.1,61,000 crore in 1999-2000. The net worth that was four per cent in 1991-92, reached ten per cent in 1995-96, and 9 per cent in 1999-2000.

Sir, the public sector employees constitute 70 per cent of the organised sector employment, out of which around half are Government employees, which in 2000-01, 31 per cent of the gross investment was done by the public sector. If you look into the whole aspect of disinvestment, disinvestment worth Rs. 30,000 crore was already done, around two-thirds was done by selling shares to the Mutual Funds. Unfortunately, there is no transparency in the whole process. There is no policy perspective in this regard. A lot of complaints are coming up. A lot of criticism was there not only from our side but also from some of the supporting parties of the National Democratic Alliance. They were also airing their differences regarding the policy perspective of this sector.

Sir, even if we succeed in doing disinvestment worth Rs. 10,000 crore every year, it will take more than 10 years to make any major impact in this sector. However, out of so many related issues, there was a discussion about two units in hand. There is no clear-cut policy, there is no perspective in this. The process is going very slow. As a result of this, there is a total confusion seen in this whole process.

So, Sir, there must be a roadmap. The Tenth Plan document does not throw any light on this critical issue.

Regarding transparency, I was mentioning that there were a lot of complaints and criticisms even from the ruling party Members. The Disinvestment Minister himself publicly announced that a political party in the NDA had tried to intervene in the process of disinvestment of a Mumbai-based hotel. We have already witnessed noisy scenes in this august House on this issue. This is not the only isolated case. There are so many other similar cases which attracted criticisms from various quarters not only in this House but also from outside.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

So, the whole process of disinvestment should be reviewed. A White Paper should be brought before this House in this regard. This House has to be taken into confidence.

My learned friend, Shri Suresh Kurup very rightly pointed out about the judgement of the Supreme Court on disinvestment of oil companies. It is a major set back to this Government. This judgement of the Supreme Court has opened a new chapter. Definitely, this Government has not taken the House into Supreme Court has intervened and stayed the whole process. The judgement about disinvestment of BPCL and HPCL should open the eyes of the Government. The Government should ponder over the whole issue. The Government should take stock of the situation. The Government should prepare a roadmap. The Government should take this House into confidence. Unfortunately, even after the judgement of the Supreme Court, the Government has not opened its eyes. They are not opening their ears and they are not trying to understand the gravity of the situation.

Sir, these three public sector undertakings – the Cochin Shipyard Limited, the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited and the Hindustan Newsprint Limited – are considered to be the prestigious public sector undertakings in my State of Kerala. These three were selected for disinvestment. Shri Suresh Kurup rightly pointed out about the Hindustan Newsprint Limited. Three times I represented the same Constituency which Shri Suresh Kurup is representing now – Kottayam. This Hindustan Newsprint Limited is one of the best units of the Hindustan Paper Corporation. The Hindustan Paper Corporation has so many units. One is NEPA in your State, Mr. Chairman, Sir. It was once upon a time one of the prestigious public sector undertakings. It is standstill now; it is closed down. Another is Nogaon, in Assam, which has been closed down earlier but now earning profit. Another is in Mysore, which is also closed down. The only unit of HPC which is functioning effectively is HNL, which is a profit-making public sector undertaking.

The Kerala Government has helped this public sector unit; there was an acute shortage of raw material. The Kerala Government has stepped in; they helped HNL. They had provided enough raw materials for the smooth functioning of this mill. Thousands of employees are working in this public sector unit. Every section of the employees are now coming together to rescue this unit.

Earlier also, there was a problem because of piling up of newsprint in this factory. It was because of the indiscriminate import made by the Central Government that this unit suffered; there was a total set back. With all these odds, with the help of the workers and with the help of the State Government, HNL survived and now, the Government is coming forward with disinvestment proposal. It is unfortunate.

All other units are closed down or are defunct and only this unit of HPC is working. I do not understand the logic behind privatising or selling out this unit which is viable, which is profit-making and which is running smoothly. No other unit is earmarked for disinvestment. Why the government is doing it in the case of Neapanagar unit? Why is the Government not doing it in the case of Nogaon Paper Mills? Why the Government is not doing it in the case of Mysore Paper Mills? It is because there would not be any takers for them; they are all defunct; they are closed down.

The only unit which is functioning and which is properly making profit is considered and selected for disinvestment. I would totally agree if the whole HPC is going to be dismantled, which would include all the units of Neapanagar, Nogaon, Mysore and Kerala. Unfortunately, all other units were left out; and only HNL was selected for disinvestment. This is unjust. Due to this, all the trade unions and the State Government of Kerala are coming forward and representing before the Prime Minister and the Minister of Disinvestment, to spare this unit which is a profit-making one.

Secondly, FACT is a gigantic industrial unit which is situated in the heart of Kerala. Shri Kurup has mentioned about this. This organisation is giving employment to more than 5,000 people. This is one of the ancient organisations which is in our State. The Kerala Government supported this organisation. They had given enough land; they had given all support to this organisation, and it was making profits.

As was rightly pointed out, because of the Ammonia Plant, this unit became loss-making. There was no effort from the Government. This is the most important point that I wanted to stress here. There was no attempt from the Central Government to give enough support to this organisation so that it could make profit. There was no package which was given by the Government to make this organisation profitable.

Shri Kurup has rightly made this point regarding HNL. There was a proposal for de-inking unit. If a de-inking unit was started in HNL, it would have become more and more profitable because it would have used the raw materials and there would have been no need to import raw materials or to find it out from other sources. De-inking unit was a viable project and it was not accepted by the Government. FACT was not supported by the Government. I would charge that intentionally the Central Government is making this institution sick. The Government, the banks and other financial institutions are not stepping forward to help this institution. Without any financial support how can this institution survive? Systematically and scientifically the Ministry of Heavy Industry is making this organisation sick. The appointment of Managing Directors of FACT and such other organisations will take

months and months so that the organisation is collapsed, becomes sick and the Government can sell it off. This is what is really happening.

Workers' Cooperatives are coming up. I will give you an example. In China, Workers' Cooperatives are coming forward and taking over such undertakings, factories and other small units and are converting them into profit-making units. Why can the Government of India not follow this pattern? When the Workers' Cooperatives are coming forward to take them up, why is the Government of India not accepting it? Take the case of FACT. The State Government of Kerala, the Chief Minister and the union leaders came together to form a cooperative and requested that it should be handed over to them but the Central Government did not agree to it. The irony of the situation is, the Central Government is saying that this cooperative will be considered only as one among the bidders. What does it mean? It means that the Workers' Cooperative Society, supported by the State Government of Kerala will be considered only as one of the private parties coming for the bidding. This is very unfortunate. No responsible Government can take such a stand. No responsible Minister can take such a stand. The workers' cooperative society, private bidder, multinational or a corporate are at different footings. Unfortunately, the whole issue is, the Central Government's not change its stand towards the workers' cooperative society, then FACT and such other big public sector undertakings will be in the hands of the corporates and multinationals.

Finally, I would say something about the shipyard. People of Kerala are emotionally attached to Cochin Shipyard. I remember the former Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi coming to Cochin and launching the first ship constructed in the Cochin Shipyard. People of Kerala are emotionally attached to it. All the political parties have tried their level best to start a new shipyard in the State of Kerala. How can a shipyard become profitable if no order is placed with it? How many orders were placed with Cochin Shipyard? No order was placed with it. The main purpose of a shipyard is to make ship but if the Government of India is not placing any order with it, how can it become profitable? I would say that systematically and scientifically these organisations are being made sick. The Disinvestment Ministry with prior calculations is selling out these institutions which are being run with the public money or the taxpayers' money. This is unjust.

The State of Kerala should be viewed separately because it has no public investment in any of the sectors. We are backward industrially and economically. We are only a consumer State. Our State has only three or four public sector undertakings. If these public sector units are disinvested, it will affect our economic and industrial development negatively.

Therefore, I support the Resolution and I think the

Government would take this aspect into consideration and would shelve this proposal for disinvestment.

PROF. A. K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I fully support the Resolution moved by Shri Suresh Kurup.

As far as disinvestment policy of this Government is concerned, I must, at the outset, say that it has no direction. What is the logic behind disinvestment of profit-making undertakings while the loss-making undertakings are left outside.

Three central public sector undertakings are mentioned in this Resolution. They are: Cochin Shipyard Limited, Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, and Hindustan Newsprint Limited. They are all in the State of Kerala. As far as people of Kerala are concerned, we are morally, economically and emotionally attached to them and are very much concerned about the privatisation or disinvestment of these prestigious undertakings. Already, Shri Kurup, who had spoken earlier, had mentioned in detail the various aspects of these three public sector undertakings.

As far as Hindustan Newsprint Limited of Kerala is concerned, it has been a profit-making undertaking all through its existence. Whenever there was any problem or any issue cropped up regarding this undertaking, the Government of Kerala had come to the rescue of this establishment. Even now when the Government of India has decided to privatise or disinvest this establishment, the Government of India have not sought any opinion or advice from the Government of Kerala. We do not understand why such a very important decision is taken without consulting or seeking suggestions or advice of the Government of Kerala.

In this connection, I would like to state that while the evaluation work of the public sector undertakings which are to be divested is undertaken, their actual or real value is not taken into account. I will give you the example of BALCO. BALCO has thousands of hectares of prime land. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will be knowing more about that. Thousands of workers are working there and even a layman would be able to evaluate it correctly. It was having assets worth more than Rs.5000 crore but it was sold at throwaway price and that too to a black-listed company. What is the interest of this Government in doing things in this manner? That is why, I said it has no direction. When this new economic policy was initiated by the Congress Government, their Party, which was in Opposition at that time, had opposed it very strongly and ardently.

But when they came to the position of Treasury Benches,

[Shri A.K. Premajam]

they have started loving this policy much speedier than the Congress. More ardently and with greater interest, they are following the New Economic Policy. When the New Economic Policy was introduced, we were made to understand that the developments that are brought about as a result of the New Economic Policy will be brought to all the people. Whether they are rich or poor, the benefits would be brought to the hands of all the people and the major portion of the sale proceeds of disinvestment of the public sector undertakings would be actually utilised for the social sector and social welfare activities. But what is happening now? The Government of India led by the BJP, who had raised the *swaraj* and *swadeshi* slogans, are actually selling all our profit-making undertakings to the multinationals who are foreigners. Here, instead of investing the proceeds of sale in social welfare activities, actually they are trying to build up the budgetary deficiencies with these sale proceeds.

I would like to bring another point as a part of this discussion. At the time of the election in 1999, through their manifesto, they had made promises to the people at large that when they come to power, their Government would actually create ten crores of new employment opportunities. What are they doing now? They are actually making people more and more unemployed. When these public sector undertakings, especially profit-making undertakings, are sold away at throwaway price, what are the bidders going to do with the people employed there? We can see the experience of any number of such institutions particularly that of BALCO. What is taking place inside the establishments now? Once these public sector undertakings are sold to the private entrepreneurs or when they are disinvested, the first decision taken is to cut the size of employment at large. And this is being done in Government service also. After this Government has come, we find one thing. After retirement, some posts become vacant. They have not been filled up and they remain like that for one or two years and then such vacancies cease to exist. Already the Government had made it clear that 10 per cent of employees in the Government service would be cut at the rate of two per cent are solving the unemployment problem? Unemployment problem is escalating and when the unemployment problem is escalating, the responsibility of any responsible democratic Government is to solve the problem and give more and more opportunities to the unemployed youth in the country. Instead, with this kind of a disinvestment policy, they are actually adding to the very serious and grave unemployment problem.

Now, for argument sake, if I say that if FACT or Hindustan Newsprint Limited or Cochin Shipyard is disinvested, the first step that the bidders, that is, those who are buying the establishment, will do is to drastically reduce the number of persons employed there. This is what will the Government be

doing? Will the Government be in a position to do anything in this regard? This is closely associated with that also.

Another point is, this Government is withdrawing from all social welfare activities. Everything is being given to the NGOs and other organisations. There is no co-relation between the promises made to the people at the time of election and what they are actually doing now. They said at the time of election that if they would come to power, they will do such and such things. One promise is to provide ten crore employment opportunities.

Now, they are reducing the already existing employment opportunities. Regarding FACT it is already mentioned that it started incurring loss only very recently, after a court judgement. Even then, in essence, it cannot be called or treated as a loss-making establishment because ammonia plant is there. That is an asset. More than 2,500 hectares of prime land is with the FACT. If this is disinvested, this prime land which belongs to FACT will be grabbed by the company and will be divided into pieces and sold. There is no doubt about that. What about the plant itself? Crores of rupees worth plants are there. Five thousand persons are directly employed in that and many more are indirectly employed. They are all going to lose employment.

There is no doubt that bidders who will get control over these establishments or public sector undertakings will definitely throw all employees out and will bring in new employees. Their policy would be 'hire and fire'. They will hire people for a short while and once their aim is achieved, they will throw them away. Thereby, they will be able to increase their profit because they are profit mongers. They have no interest in our country and they have no interest in the welfare of our people.

I do not want to lengthen my speech. My request is that the Government should come forward with an open heart it should review its disinvestment policy.

In fact, I can say, on the basis of the statistics provided by the Government itself, that GDP has not increased much. There is a difference of just 0.01 per cent in GDP between the previous decade, that is, a decade before the new economic policy was introduced and the decade when the new economic policy with liberalisation, privatisation, etc. had been introduced. I am not quoting from my own sources, I am quoting from a reply which has been given to me this week. The difference in the GDP between the decade starting with 1981 to 1991 and the decade between 1991 – when the new economic policy with an element of privatisation was introduced – to 2001 is just 0.01 per cent. Only 0.01 per cent of GDP was added during this period. Where does that

additional GDP of 0.01 per cent go? Does it go to the ordinary people who are toiling in the fields and in the factories or who are starving? Does it go to these people? Who gets the benefit? Actually the benefit goes to the multinationals and economically powerful people.

If this Government adopts these types of policies, then I am sure the whole nation will be derailed as far as the economic conditions go. Naturally, it will derail the social welfare activities which India had been able to undertake after Independence. So far, this Government has neglected the social sector. The Government is just completely shaking off its responsibility. It is just going out of this responsibility. Then, why should there be a Government?

So, under these circumstances, I would very earnestly appeal to the Government and to the hon. Minister who is present here to give specific answers to all the issues which we have raised in this House in this regard on the Resolution. I would also request that this policy should be reviewed. The profit-making undertakings should not be disinvested.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, at the very outset, I would like to say that I strongly support the Resolution moved by Shri Suresh Kurup. Before doing that, I have to make some observations with regard to the functioning of the Private Members' Business.

In all the Houses, both in the State Assemblies as well as in Parliament, one day is specifically set for the Private Members' Business. It is as important as the Government Business. Suppose there is a holiday intervening. Then, there is the practice of converting another day into Private Members' Business day. Why? It is because the Private Members' Business is given topmost priority.

Yesterday, we had a function in the Central Hall of Parliament. The Rajya Sabha was celebrating its 200th Session. There was an assessment made by the hon. Chairman of the Rajya Sabha in which he has categorically assessed that the Private Members' Business - the Bills moved and the discussions that took place inside the House - was given so much of importance. He said that so much importance was given to the business transacted in the Upper House with regard to the Private Members' Business. So, it is self-evident that this Business is a part and parcel of the Business of this House. It has an importance as the Government's Business has. But, unfortunately, I see that there is a tendency that the Government is not giving any credence to the Private

Members' Business that is transacted in the House. It is an irony of fate that the Government which is very much interested in the privatisation process is not at all interested in giving credence to the Private Members' Business. I do not know the reason for it. One thing is that the first one is profitable and this is not profitable. It may be the reason. ...*(Interruptions)*

I am not questioning the authority. It is not a question of observing certain rules. They can say that the hon. Minister is present. It is not a question of the presence of a Minister or the absence of another particular Minister. The important thing is the approach of the Executive to the Private Members' Business. If at all any Minister has any other business, he must cancel the other business and attend to the Business of this House when a particular business pertaining to the subject of that Cabinet Minister is taken into consideration in this House. It is the bounden duty of the Minister in charge of that particular Ministry to be present here. Since they are not attaching any importance to it, nobody is here. Why? Why should we be here? The Government is attaching no importance to this business. If the Government has attached some importance when the Private Members' Business is taken into consideration, if the Cabinet Minister is present, then the other Members will also be present here. Now, it has come to such a stage that the Resolution moved by a Member from Kerala is to be supported by the Members from Kerala only.

There are 545 Members in this House. Kerala is having only 20 Members. It comes to only three per cent of this House. Nobody is interested in this Business. Nobody will come. A Member from Kerala moves a Resolution and mostly another Member from Kerala is supporting it. All the Members from Kerala are here. We have to do it because we cannot lose it. This is the position.

If the Government had taken all these matters seriously, definitely more Members would have been present here. Now, they think that it is only a ritual matter like offering a *pooja* in a temple. We are performing a ritual as if we are doing a *pooja* in a temple.

Sir, I do not have any dispute with you. You are perfectly all right. I do not dispute that fact. But the question that I am raising is about the approach of the Executive towards Private Members' Business. The Prime Minister is expected to be here when Government Business is taken up and he has to reply.

Sir, after all, what is parliamentary democracy? As we all know, tolerance is the essence of parliamentary democracy. The Executive must have tolerance to hear the views expressed here. They may not like it, but the essence of parliamentary democracy is that divergent opinions and

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

different kind of opinions must be expressed here. What is the cornerstone of parliamentary democracy? It is openness, plural society and not one view, but divergent views also will have to be taken into consideration with a tolerant approach. Where is the tolerant approach now?

Now, we are discussing a matter which is against the declared policy of the Government. According to them, that policy may be correct, but even then the Government is bound to hear divergent views. The policy decision is taken by the Government and presented here. But they are not interested in hearing the opposite side. So, why should I be here? Why should I waste my energy? Should it become a futile exercise? With all humility I want to ask this question to the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, Shri Suresh Kurup has drawn the attention of the Government to this point at the beginning of this debate and now you are also drawing the attention of the Government to the same point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, as per rules, they can argue that a Minister is present. If that is the way of doing things, it is all right. I, once again, repeat that if the Executive had taken a serious view of the matter, definitely more Members would have been present here. Now we all know that nobody is interested and nobody is taking a serious view of the matter.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Shri Thirunavukkarasar is a capable Minister.

SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: He is talking about other Members, not about the Minister.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I do not challenge the ability of the Minister. I have the greatest regard for him and I have the greatest regard for the Labour Minister also who is present here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Deputy Speaker has disposed of this matter. Kindly proceed ahead now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, hereafter, they should make a serious attempt to see that Private Members are not treated in this manner, without any seriousness. The Government should, at least, convince us that they are equally serious about Private Members' Business transacted on every Friday. Today, we are discussing Resolutions. The next Friday, we will be discussing Private Members' Bills. Through these Bills and Resolutions, we are bringing up certain policy matters. We are trying to bring about some social change by bringing up Resolutions like this. That is the purpose for which a Private Member's Bill is introduced here and same is the purpose for

which a Private Member's Resolution is introduced. They are introduced here with a specific motive. But, unfortunately, they are not taken into consideration seriously by the Executive. The tendency has gone to such an extent that nobody is interested and nobody takes any serious view of the matters raised here.

Now, the subject of this particular Resolution is a very serious one. We all know that privatisation creates many problems. All the public sector undertakings were instituted and were functioning under a statute.

17.00 hrs.

The State Government as well as the Central Government jointly cooperate in taking over a private undertaking. As Shri Suresh Kurup pointed out, the State Government will be prepared to give even forest land worth crores of rupees. Even properties are surrendered under a Memorandum of Understanding entered into between the State Government and the Central Government for opening a public sector undertaking. When this undertaking is disinvested, nobody takes care of the contribution made by the State Government. Thousands of acres of land worth crores of rupees are lost to the private sector. But who cares? There is no guarantee that the State would get back the land that was donated free-of-cost when the public sector undertaking was started.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: The State Government provided enormous raw materials to the HNL.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Thousands of acres of forest land were given to the Print Factory near Kottayam. Suppose that is disinvested, who will amount. We will have to understand the very serious situation that is arising from this Act.

Even today, we are discussing the way in which the Indian Airlines is to be disinvested. There is a discussion in the Press about the Indian Airlines and the Air India. There is a dispute. It has been mentioned that the Air India will be able to fly its flights to foreign countries at a cheaper rate. Hitherto they were operating at a higher rate. Now they have come forward that they will operate it at a cheaper rate. Now private airlines have also been allowed to operate foreign flights. The sky is open to all for operation. Nobody can fear. Everybody can operate in the skies within the Indian territory. We will also fly. But nobody is concerned how it will end. The security of the State has not been taken into consideration. Even now that discussion is going on in the Press.

Last time, when privatisation of petroleum products was

being discussed, we pointed out that the nationalisation of a petroleum company was done on the basis of a statute passed by this House. In utter disregard of that statute, the Ministry decided to disinvest the entire petroleum business. With what result? The Supreme Court intervened. The process was illegal. You cannot do it without the consent of the Parliament. So, they do not care for the consent of this House in the process of disinvestment. They are not worried. It is not a gift of the Supreme Court. The Supreme court simply pointed out the law passed by the Parliament. The Parliament passed the law for nationalising some foreign companies in India. To nationalise those foreign companies, we had to step in with a Central statute. That fact was not taken into consideration. In their haste of disinvestment process, they have done it. They do not consider about the involvement of the State in all these matters. They are not worried about the interests of the States. They are only concerned about the selling process alone. So, I fear that this will lead to a situation where nobody's position will be safe in India. So, I strongly oppose the policy of the Central Government in the matter of disinvestment.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, I am speaking for record and I realise that the attendance in the House is very poor. I am not speaking simply to criticise the Government. I do not want to take the pleasure in finding faults with the Government just for the sake of finding faults with them. I am not speaking for the publicity also. But I am speaking because I have a very strong conviction in certain matters.

I think, what I feel should form part of the record so that at some time in future, it may be looked into and then it can be assessed in the correct fashion. If what I say here creates an impact on the Government and helps the Government in taking decisions in correct manner, we would certainly be very happy.

Unfortunately, all important issues are being discussed in the period in which the Private Members' Business is being discussed. The important issues should be discussed in the period, which is available for the Government to discuss the important policy matters. When the Government Business period is there, we quarrel, we rivet our attention on petty matters and when there is nobody in the House, we take up the momentous issues.

The last Friday, we discussed the issue of unemployment, self-employment and as to how we can help the citizens in our country to help themselves to provide employment and self-employment. This time, we are considering again one very important policy matter relating to the privatisation.

I would like to make it very clear at the start itself that the Congress Party is not opposed to the concept of private people or private industry contributing towards the development of the economy of the country. It has to be borne in mind that it was the Congress Party, which allowed the entire agriculture to be in the hands of the private persons. It was the Congress Party, which allowed the entire trading activity to be continued by the private persons.

The small trade, the medium trade and the big trade, imports and exports are also with the private sector. Excepting for MMTC and STC and a few other such trading organisations, the entire trade is in the private hands. The industry is in the private hands. The entire industry – small scale industry, medium scale industry, big industry, and the consumer industry – is in private hands. It is only that industry is with the public sector in which the private sector was unwilling to enter into at the initial stages.

When the question of exploring the possibility of drawing oil from the earth was considered, the private sector was not willing and the Government could not have waited for the private sector to develop the intention, the desire and the strength to enter this area. Civil aviation was also in the private sector. When the Government asked the private sector to develop the civil aviation, they had expressed that they were not in a position to spend the money in civil aviation and that is why they would not be able to do that. Only then, the civil aviation industry was nationalised. And when it was nationalised; it was not retained with the Government officers, but it was given under the charge of Shri J.R.D. Tata, who was interested in development of the civil aviation industry.

Aeronautics was developed through the public sector because private sector was not willing to do that. The shipping industry was developed through the public sector because the private sector was not interested in doing that. So, it is only in those areas where the private sector was not interested or where the private sector felt that they could not wait for a long period of time to get the returns out of the investment they were going to make, the public sector units were established. All power generating stations in the country were developed through public sector and not through private sector. There are a few private sector power generating units in India. But, majority of the power generating units in the country were established through public sector. If we had not done that, electricity would not have been available to the farmers, to the industrialists and to the people living in the remote parts of our country. These public sector undertakings did generate electricity, and did give electricity to the people. If they had not done that, this kind of development we find today would

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

not have taken place. Now, if we had waited for the private sector to invest in power generation, we would not have done that.

Sir, in Rajasthan the previous Governments had decided that the power should be generated with the help of the private sector. For 15 years they waited for the private sector to invest in power generation and for 15 years the investment was not done. And not even one single megawatt of electricity was added with all the good intentions of the Government and the Chief Ministers of that time. The policy was wrong. The private sector was not willing to invest and that is why not a single megawatt of electricity was added. When the previous Government, Shri Ashok Gehlot's Government, came there, he very rightly decided — I am sorry for him what he had done was not properly appreciated — that if the private sector was unwilling, the public sector will invest. And he did invest through public sector, and he did establish a capacity to produce nearly 1500 megawatts of electricity within the period within which it was expected to be completed from the date on which the job to establish the power generating units was started, and he saved some money also. Then, at the same time, he said if any private industry is willing to come to Rajasthan to generate power, they would give them the opportunity to do that. But, if they are not going there, they will do it on their own.

Sir, every time, when the power generation question arises in the House, I wanted to ask this question. The 9th Five Year Plan had a target of producing 48,000 megawatts of electricity. And this target was reduced to 28,000 megawatts of electricity. Even this target, which was reduced to 20,000 megawatts of electricity, could not be fulfilled. Why did it not happen? It was because the policy of the Government was to depend upon the investment to be done by the private sector. Once this decision was taken, the Government did not invest in power. Maharashtra Government relied upon ENRON. ENRON power is not available and public sector units are not established.

Then, how do we develop industries? How do we develop agriculture? How do we develop other activities if the power is not available? The Government is responsible for this.

In the past, they had said that where the private sector is unwilling, the public sector would enter and develop infrastructural facilities. Sir, we have banks and banks in our country. But let me say with all the responsibility at my command that these banks were not giving credit facilities to the agriculturists before the nationalisation of banks. When the banks were nationalised, only a sum of Rs. 200 crore of credit facilities was given to the agriculturists, Rs. 200 crore credit facilities to 70 per cent people in the country, and for

the entire agriculture. After the nationalisation of banks, the directions were issued and because the banks were nationalised, those directions were implemented, and today we have a situation in which nearly 70,000 to 80,000 crores of rupees are given as credit facilities to agriculturists. If we had not nationalised the banks, this would not have happened. If this had not happened, we would not have become self-sufficient in foodgrains. Let us not forget it.

Who is going to invest in developing agriculture, irrigation facilities in the country? Is the private sector going to do it? If the private sector is not going to do it and if only 45 per cent of the land in our country is irrigated and the rest of the land is not irrigated, what has to be done? The public sector has to invest. If the public sector of the Government is not investing, we will not have agricultural facilities. I am making all these points to show that we have accepted the principle of mixed economy in which the private sector will have a dominant role to play and the public sector has an important role to play in the areas in which the private sector is not willing to enter. This has to be understood by the Government.

What is the present Government doing? What kind of policy is the Government following? I am sorry to say this, it pains me and I do not want to criticise the Government. If we do not criticise the Government even sitting on these benches, the Government will continue this policy. What kind of policy it is?

You are taking pride in privatising the public sector undertakings. Whose public sector undertakings are they? They do not belong to the Congress Party, nor do they belong to BJP and nor do they belong to the Ministers in the Disinvestment Ministry and the Finance Ministry. Let us understand this. When the public sector undertakings were established, a lot of time, energy and efforts were put in to plan, put in to see that the public sector undertakings came up.

You are sitting there and taking pride in putting your signature on a piece of paper and handing over these public sector undertakings to the biggest bidder in the society. Now, you will be able to do this only with respect to 300 or 400 public sector units that you have with yourself. What will you do afterwards? Why do you take pride and why do you think that intelligence is required to put your signature on a piece of paper? You do not have the capacity and efficiency to see that the public sector undertakings, which were established by your predecessors by putting in all the efforts, run properly. You are not able to make them earn profit. You are not able to introduce new technology and new methods of management. You are not able to attract more funds to these public sector undertakings to produce more. This speaks about your

inefficiency, If we have to criticise the Government for non-performance, we will criticise the Government for non-performance in this manner.

We have these Public Sector Undertakings handed over to you. You are not able to run them properly. You are not only selling the Public Sector Undertakings which are making losses but also you are taking pride in saying that those which make profits should be disinvested. What is your logic? Because you say that in future if they start incurring losses, you would not be able to sell them. What a logic! What an incapacity! You do not have confidence in yourself that you will make them earn profit. What a logic! Everybody writes about it and we are expected to share about it. Simply, this is the trend you are following.

What is the trend today? The trend today is – I am very sorry to say – that the Government and the Public Sector Undertakings should be given to the private sector. I do not mind this. Even private sector is a national sector. But whom are you giving it? You are giving it to the selected ones. Now, we are very careful in not alleging things against you, but do not think that the people outside are shutting their eyes and not finding out what you are doing and why you are doing. A time may come when you will be made to answer as to why you did this. A time Undertakings and gave it to the private sector. If the private sector companies are not working, then you give it to the foreign companies. Is this the way you would like to develop your economy?

Your policy is that the Public Sector Undertakings need to be given to the private sector, and the private sector companies need to be given to the foreign companies. If the foreign companies want to have a control over your activities, what will you do then? What kind of privatisation are you doing? You are privatising the shipyards. If you privatise the shipyards, you take it that you have lost control over the transport over the oceans. If you are privatising Air India and Indian Airlines, you take it that you have lost control over the skies. You are privatising the banks. You have lost control over the financial institutions, like the IDBI.

I am very happy and I am not finding fault at this point of time with the Finance Minister or the Government for that matter. The IDBI was an institution created to help the private industry in the country, for the development of the industry. It is for giving long-term loan and credit facility to the industry. You are now making it into a bank. When it is made into a bank, it will give money for purchasing cars, houses and such other things. But the funds will not be available for the development of the industry and for the development of the private industry in the name of which all the time you have been talking. Now, how will the private industry develop? I do

not understand this. So, you are not only hitting at the banks or the financial institutions, but also you are creating a situation in which the private industry also will not develop. This is not correct.

Then what are you trying to do? You are suggesting that all the nationalised banks in which the Government of India has 51 per cent of the equity should be reduced to 31 per cent. Why are you doing this thing? There are many private banks. Let them increase their activities and go to all parts of the country.

I know that the Ministry of Finance had given directions to all the urban banks saying that 40 per cent of their credit should go to the rural areas and 18 per cent of the credit should be available to the agriculture. This direction of the Ministry of Finance could not be followed. This direction could not create the Sector banks with you. You will be able to tell them that look, here is a section of the society to which the finances are required and you shall have to give the financial facilities. You are not doing it. You are taking pride. Everybody is taking pride by saying that I want to disinvest Rs.10,000 crore worth of Public Sector Undertakings every year. It does not require any intelligence. It does not require any efforts. It requires only insensitivity in the mind, not realising that these Public Sector Undertakings are really built with the money which is given by the people of the country, and you are handing over these Public Sector Undertakings to a few persons.

Now, this kind of insensitivity is not going to help you. People are not going to appreciate it. Those people who are going to get some benefit out of it will appreciate it. They will appreciate it but the common man in the country will not appreciate it. You are not creating jobs, you are not establishing industry, you are not giving money for the industrial development and you are not spending money for developing such other infrastructural facilities like power generation. This will not help you.

That is why, the Government of India has no policy of privatisation. Time and again, we got up on the floor of the House and said from this place that what is your policy. Let us understand. We are not opposed to handing over some public sector undertaking to somebody if it has to be done. But let us understand what is the logic, what is the reason, what is the plan, what is the design behind this kind of activity of ours. They say that we do not have a policy but we will be able to do it. How? I do not understand it. Why are you doing it? Nobody understands it. For instance, Mumbai and Delhi Airports are to be privatised. Why privatise? Is it because the Government of India is not able to do it? May I tell you that this privatisation is for the land and not for anything else? I am not entering into the area of civil aviation.

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

In Mumbai, JRD Tata himself said that some two lakh hectares of land should be given for establishing international airport on the main land and let it be done by the private sector. Why should it not be done by the private sector? Why should the private sector grab the existing international airports in Mumbai authority to get the technology cooperation from anywhere. But you do not allow them grabbed the existing PSUs. It is not a privatising activity, it is a grabbing activity and it is an exploiting activity. We are opposed to it. Any private person with a bold heart coming forward and saying that "I will do this", let him do that. Do not obstruct him from doing that. But what are you doing? Have you realised the fact that by this kind of disinvestment, you are not adding to any capacity at all? If you are handing over the Cochin Shipyard to private persons, you are not adding to any capacity to the ship building capacity of the country. You are just transferring it to them. Now, if a private man, who is going to take it over, is ready to build new shipyard give him the land, give him money and say that you develop an ultra-modern shipyard yourself. That would be adding to the capacity. You will have this capacity and you will have added to that capacity. If you build international airport at Mumbai or Delhi or Kolkata or Chennai or Bangalore, you would have added to that capacity and you would not have limited their capacity. The private sector's capacity to add to the wealth of the country should be utilised and should not utilised in such a fashion that even the existing capacity can be exploited by anybody.

Now, I come to the issue of turning the IDBI into a bank. You may be there and I may not be there, but you will create a situation in which this bank will not function as the financial institution and the industry will suffer. Why do you not allow the private sector to have their own financial institutions and collect the money and give the money to others? Why should they grab the existing IDBI? Why should they grab this Cochin shipyard? Why should they take over Mumbai or Delhi Airports? Let them develop the capacity. By all means, help them. But here you have no desire, no imagination, no vision as to how the future is going to develop. You are taking pride in handing over the property, which was built by your predecessor, to a few persons in the society at the cost of the majority of the people in the industry, in the trade and the common man also. Now, we are objecting to this.

We are not objecting to the privatisation exercise. I am of the view that any iota of strength which is available with the private individual and which can be him the freedom, give him the strength; inspire him to do it. But you are not doing it. You are just transferring the existing assets of the Government to the private persons and to also only a few private persons in the name of strategic purchasers, that means according to

you the purchasers who are able to take it over and run it properly. This is not correct. You are not doing justice to the country. This is not good governance. This is the declaration of inefficiency of your governance to the people at large that you are not even able to run the public sector undertakings — those public sector undertakings which you have not developed but which others have developed and handed over to you.

You are declaring at the top of your voice, from the top of the South Block that 'We are not capable of running it and you have to make it over'. Tomorrow you will say that — 'we are not capable of running this Government, you have to make them; we are not capable of making the laws, you have to take it over; we are capable of running the defence of the country, you have to take it over'. This is what happened in the past. This is exactly what happened in the past. In the past we gave the land, then we gave the treasury and then we gave the defence machinery to the foreigners and that is why you were ruled for 150 years by others. You yourself were handing it over.

If you are handing over the shipyards, if you are handing over the airports, if you are handing over the banks, if you are handing over even the intelligence agencies to the foreign countries, it would be difficult. You should cooperate. I am not against cooperation. I am against handing over. I am against playing a secondary role in this respect. If you do not have control over the ocean, if you do not have control over the space, if you do not have control over your financial institutions, if you do not have control over the agencies, you will not be successful.

Take the case of Hindustan Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited. We have brought about a Green revolution. How could the Green revolution be brought about? The Green revolution was brought about by using new technology, using new kind of fertilisers, using new kind of agricultural practices. If fertiliser is not available, you allow any private person to produce fertilizer. There is no bar. But why are you handing it over? I would not object to this so much as objecting to handing over the Cochin shipyard to others and about other things also.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: The workers' cooperative of Cochin Shipyard is ready to take it over and run it. Please permit them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Yes. ...*(Interruptions)*

What is the guarantee that these things will work? Have you forgotten that the entire textile industry and jute industry were in private hands? The entire textile industry and jute industry were in private hands. The entire textile industry and

jute industry did suffer in the past and when it was suffering in the hands of the private persons, it was taken over by the Government and the NTC was created. The same thing is going to happen to the sugar cooperatives also in many parts of the country. What is the guarantee that the private sector will not go sick, the private sector will be able to cope up with the difficulties which that industry will be facing? If you have no guarantee of this kind, why are you doing these things? What is making you to do these things?

We are very careful and we are very responsible in not alleging anything against you. But you know that nobody feels that this is done with a clean conscience. I am not saying against any individual as such. You may not get the returns immediately after the transfers. But you may get returns when you need the returns to manage the elections and if you are managing the elections in this fashion you may get the money; but if the people understand this, you will not get the votes. If you get the votes that will be very temporary because the very basis of this is not correct. You are not doing it in a correct manner. This is not done for good reasons. That is why this is happening.

Unfortunately, when nobody is here, we are talking about it and whatever we say will be lost in the thin air—it may be on the record — and the Government would not be required to respond in any fashion. They would say that they did not hear. The Minister may say 'I do not understand. I am not required to reply to it. Why is the time to be wasted in replying to this kind of an argument? This is not in tune with the present times.' Now, what is not in tune with the present time? The policies which you are trying to adopt, let me tell you, are not the policies which in the World Bank and the IMF also, you will find that they are not for this kind of policy. Maybe, you are getting dictates and some suggestions from here and there and you are following them, but if you go there and attend their proceedings also, you will find that this kind of policy is not helping any country. What happened to Mexico? What happened to Brazil? What happened to Argentina? They followed this kind of policy. They have not come out of their economic difficulties.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): Shivraj ji, whatever examples you are giving now, you people had started all these activities and now you are agitated over the entire episode. You have performed all these activities.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Alright. It is very good issue which is to be raised during the election campaign. You have raised a very good question. I would like to reply to it. The

main difference between privatisation policy of the present Government and the one pursued by us is that the Government have adopted a policy of disinvesting the existing public sector undertakings, whereas, our kind of Privatisation encourages private entrepreneurs to invest their money and energy to the maximum possible extent for strengthening the economy of the country. There should not be any variations in that. We had submitted that if Civil Aviation Sector is privatised, then let them conduct as much flights, or construct as much airports as they wish. But we never disinvested public sector undertakings earning annual profit to the tune of Rs. 300 crore, nor did we denationalize such banks which are now providing agricultural loan of Rs. 70,000-80,000 crore as against their earlier position of not being able to give agricultural loan of even Rs. 200 crore. The Government may give permission to open private banks as they desire. I would like to submit here that once I had asked in the meeting of the Committee that whether the Government have issued any direction for opening 40 percent of private banks for rural development and 18 percent for agriculture. But, in reply, the Government showed inability that they do not have branches and thus these banks cannot be opened. So, these directions cannot be followed physically so, what can be done. It is very easy to say this. But, no voice was raised in case of public sector undertakings. No one would like to invest in areas like the foothill of Himalayas, Sindhyari, Vindharyi area, Eastern and Western Coast or the desert of Rajasthan, as no one can earn profit there. Service can be provided there but one can not earn profit.

Vayudoot service had been started for the North-Eastern states and the Government had to incur a loss of Rs. 10 crore for providing this service. The Indian Airlines has been giving a net profit of approximately Rs. 300 crore per annum to the Government after paying the tax. It does not avail any budgetary support, yet the Government are making efforts to privatize the Indian Airlines and have also discontinued with the Vayudoot service. It is regretting that some people of the north-east say that these Hindustanis neither construct roads nor lay railway lines for them and have also discontinued with the single air service operating in this area. This shows as if they are not Indians, or citizens of India. This aspect should be kept in mind. This Government is not even aware of the fact as to how essential it was to operate the Vayudoot service in the North-eastern region even with a loss of Rs. 10 crore as people living there are our own people and that it is a hilly region where there is no facility of rails and even roads cannot be constructed easily and any other kind of air service too cannot be provided, therefore the only air service i.e. 'Vayudoot' should have been continued there. We would have admitted the Government, had they taken steps to integrate the country and the North Eastern states. But unfortunately the Government have discontinued with the Vayudoot service.

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

Private entrepreneurs are not ready to invest in this region, nor can we legally force them to provide their services. But, the Government being representative of the people could have continued with the 'Vayudoot' service in the North-East. Loss of Rs. 10 crore is meagre loss particularly when the Indian Airlines is giving a net profit of Rs. 300 crore per annum. After paying tax. The International Airport Authority is giving a profit of Rs. 150 crore per annum due to its Delhi and Mumbai Airports, but the same profit is being given to others. What is the reason behind it? We have no objection if the Government construct new airports in Mumbai and Delhi as are being constructed in Bangalore. But if Shipyards like those of the Cochin Shipyards or the Calcutta Shipyards are privatised and manufacturing of aircrafts would be stopped then whether it is the right way of governing the country. Infact, no one is snatching our economic sovereignty but it seems as if the Government are themselves unable to bear the burden of economic sovereignty. The Government show their inability to run these undertakings, thus they propose to disinvest. What will they handover to whom? Infact it is the same thing. If the private sector companies can run them, then why not the Government? I feel ashamed when the Government show their inability to run the public sector undertakings. But we are not able to run the PSUs, are we really able to run the Government? The Government are privatizing all the sectors. I am sure, the Government are feeling the same thing as me and my party people are thinking. I would not like to say that they may raise our issue here. But they should check their conscience whether the developments taking place are right or wrong in the long run and their conscience would say 'no' they are wrong. Some Officers, some media persons and some Ministers also say the same thing. We are not against privatization. The Government may utilize every iota of private entrepreneurship but those who want to exploit the situation and take undue advantage of privatization should not be allowed to come forward.

It is regretted that such intelligent people for whom we have great regards

[English]

but you take pride in saying that you disinvested this thing. What did you do? What kind of intelligence efforts were made by you? You were just required to put the signature.

[Translation]

The form a Cooperative Society and run it then we will admit that they are efficient. We have set up huge infrastructure and they are going to dismantle them and are feeling pride in it that I did it. We have about 300 public undertakings. How will the Government manage after selling them? There would be no need for disinvestment if the Government recover NPA or collect taxes in an efficient manner. But the people raising slogan of 'good governance' are creating such situation under

which, neither the tax nor the NPA could be recovered soon. The Government are extending the existing four level courts to five level courts for recovery of taxes. Work which could have been completed in ten years would now perhaps get completed in 12-13 years. Is this what they call good governance or welfare of the country? The mid term assessment report of the Government reveals that neither the deficit nor the debt burden has been lessened, nor has there been proper appropriation of funds released and still they talk of good governance. Infact, it is this which has led to the setting of the public sector undertakings. Disinvestment is the only panacea with this Government. How much will they disinvest? After disinvesting 300 public sector undertakings the Government will get Rs. 5-6 lakh crore, then what would they sell thereafter—the Parliament building, the North Block or the South Block? It is not justified that the Government do not generate power or provide education, or provide new technique to the people, or provide loan from the banks or increase the production of units and govern the country only on the basis of disinvestments. This matter should also be discussed here. I am speaking here in bewilderment. It does not have any point here, still I am speaking deliberately. Four-five members are present in the House, even then, I am speaking because I do not get opportunity to speak on other occasions. Petty issues are raised. I have got an opportunity to express my views on this important issue and this should go on record so that in the coming time, if I do not remain, some other Member who would like to see the record, may know that the views expressed on this issue were correct or not.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister may reply now.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we have no objection to the Minister's reply, but he himself had stated that let the Minister of Disinvestment reply to the debate. We can wait for that reply because the Minister may not have the feel of it. After all, he is briefed, he is quite capable and he will certainly reply, but let it come from the heart and let it come from the core of the problem. If he feels like replying, we have no objection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to decide that.

SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not insisting that I should reply to the debate. It is left to the House. If you feel that the concerned Cabinet Minister should come because you want to hear from him, then you can do like that.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This does not mean that we have any objection to your replying to the debate. We just mean that after all you are holding a brief for him. If he replies,

it would be better. Let him reply. We are not on small issues, we are on basic issues.

SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: I am leaving it to the House. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Members who have spoken and participated in the discussion and yourself have to decide this. If you decide like that, you can take it up next time. If you want me to reply, I am ready to reply.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Let the Disinvestment Minister come and give the reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have started this discussion at 15.50 hours. The time is over for this. We have to extend the time for this, if you are going to take it up in the next session.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It does not matter, Sir. The Minister can reply later on. Since there is hardly ten minutes time, you can either adjourn the House or take up some other resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have to extend the time by half-an-hour so that the Minister can reply.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We are not objecting to you. Please do not disturb.

SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: What is the decision, Sir? Should I start the reply?

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, our contention is that he is not concerned with the Ministry and the Minister himself acknowledged that it would be better if the reply could be given by the Minister concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As per rules, it is difficult because if you have to adjourn this debate, then it will come only in the next Session.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Is there only one Friday and not two?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Friday, the House will be taking up Private Members' Bills and, therefore, it will have to be taken up in the next Session.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Let it come in the next Session.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House can decide it. Is it the pleasure of the House that this debate should be adjourned and taken up in the next Session?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Let it come in the next Session. It can be carried on to the next Session.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, I will put the question formally.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Till then, these institutions should not be sold out.

[Translation]

Sir, they will sell all the three institutions before the reply.

17.47hrs.

MOTION RE: ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the debate on the resolution regarding privatisation of Central Public Sector Undertakings by Shri Suresh Kurup be adjourned to the first day allotted to the Private Members' Resolutions in the next Session."

The motion was adopted.

17.48 hrs.

MOTION UNDER RULE 388

Re: Suspension of Rules 30 and 29

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the provisions of sub-rule (1) of rule 30 and the proviso to rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in their application to the debate on the resolution regarding privatisation of Central Public Sector Undertakings by Shri Suresh Kurup which has been adjourned today to the first day allotted for Private Members' Resolutions in the next Session, be suspended to enable the Resolution to be set down in the List of Business without Ballot as the first item therein."

The motion was adopted.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: The reply of the Minister will be given on that day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Suresh Chandel to move his Resolution. — Not present.

Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury to move her Resolution. — Not present.

Shri Sunil Khan to move his Resolution. — Not present.

The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 15th of December, 2003 at 11 a.m.

17.50 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 15, 2003/Agrahayana 24, 1925 (Saka).

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**Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in
Lok Sabha (Tenth Edition) and Printed by Sunlight Printers, Delhi - 110006**
