

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXXII, Twelfth Session, 2003/1924 (Saka)]

No. 15, Friday, March 7, 2003/Phalguna 16, 1924 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
NOTICES OF MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.....	1-12
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 242 and 243	13-28
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 244-260	28-59
Unstarred Question Nos. 2462-2691	60-342
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	343-348
COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN	
Tenth Report.....	349
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	349-354
ELECTION TO COMMITTEE	
Coffee Board	354-355
MOTION RE: FOURTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES	
Bills—Introduced	355-357
(i) Constitution (Ninety-Fifth Amendment) Bill	355-357
(ii) Prevention of Insult to National Honour (Amendment) Bill	357
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF NOTIFICATION RELATING TO CUSTOMS DUTY.....	358
(i) Re: Law and Order Situation in the State of Bihar	364-370
(ii) Re: International Women's Day	371-387
GENERAL BUDGET, 2003-2004 —GENERAL DISCUSSION	
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNTS (GENERAL), 2003-2004	
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL), 2002-2003	
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL), 2000-2001	390-464

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Kharabela Swain	407—411
Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	411—418
Shri Chandra Vijay Singh	419
Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab	420—422
Shri Rupchand Pal	422—429
Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal	429—433
Shri Ramji Lal Suman	433—439
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	439—446
Shri Ramesh Chennithala	446—453
Shri Radha Mohan Singh	453—459
Shri Sunder Lal Tiwari	459—462
Shri Nawal Kishore Rai	462—464

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 7, 2003/Phalguna 16, 1924 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Sir, women have raped in West Bengal...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me go through today's agenda. You please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

11.01 hrs.

RE: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

MR. SPEAKER: Let me tell you what is the business before the House.

I have received different notices today. Some notices are in the form of Adjournment Motion. Some notices are in the form of request for the suspension of Question Hour and some notices are regarding Privileges matters. All these items of business are important according to me. Some issues have already been discussed in the House; some are yet to be discussed. Though I cannot accept the Adjournment Motions, yet if the Members insist that their Adjournment Motions should be taken up today, I will permit them to explain to me why their Adjournment Motions should be taken up. I will allow one after the other. Now Shri Prabhunath Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is also with me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity during Zero Hour. Shri Prabhunath Singhji has given a Notice

on Adjournment Motion, hence he has been given an opportunity to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Sir, FIR has been registered against three MPs in West Bengal. The comrade of CPI (M) has committed rape deliberately there....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: During the 'Zero Hour' you can take up this issue. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will permit you during 'Zero Hour'. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, I want to raise a very important issue through you. Shri Kameshwar Singh, the President of Samata Party in Punpun area was murdered in broad day light yesterday at 10.30 a.m. on the National Highway No. 83. Nothing like law and order exists in Bihar. Murder and abduction have become an industry in Bihar. I would like to tell you that one and half lakhs heinous crimes are annually committed in Bihar. 14-15 murders, 4-5 rapes and 8-9 cases of abduction take place daily. Three and a half lakhs...(Interruptions) incidents of dacoity and then five thousand incidents of kidnapping have taken place. I would like to tell you that in 25 cases hostages have been released on the instructions of the Supreme Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav. Such inefficient and corrupt Government is ruling there. There is no law and order. The Congressmen take money per month from them for support. I would like to submit to the Union Government to immediately dismiss such an inefficient Government and to take action to arrest murderers of Shri Kameshwar Singh...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak on it during Zero Hour. Don't speak on it right now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon'ble Minister is sitting here. More than one thousand political murders have taken place there. Despite one thousand political

murders Union Government is not taking any action by terming law and order as State's subject. Hon'ble Minister of Law is sitting here. It is a sensitive issue. The party Presidents are being killed. Every party worker who expresses his opposition to the Government is also being killed...(Interruptions) Congress is supporting RJD...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singhji, you resume your seat. I have listened to you. You can raise the issue during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity to speak during Zero Hour which is yet to take place. Mulyam Singhji, you please speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): So what if he is a senior Member? I am also a junior Member. Why an opportunity is not given to me to speak? It is not correct....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me apprise you about the rules in this matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you wish him, you should also wish Mr. Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, though there was no need for me to speak here but as this question is directly related to me, I rise to speak. This matter was also raised by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Kunwar Akhilesh Singh. The seriousness of the matter lies in that the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has threatened me and Member of Parliament Shri Ram Gopal Yadav. The Rajya Sabha MP from UP and the Member of Legislative Council can spend their funds anywhere in Uttar Pradesh. A raid was carried out in the Choudhary Charan Singh Degree College, Hebra (Itawa) whose principal is Shri Ram Gopal Yadav and he is also a Rajya Sabha MP. The raid was also conducted at the S.S Memorial College in my village Sefai. Raid was also carried out at the college in Bhaktiyarpur whose Manager is Shri Ram Gopal Yadav. The responsibility of spending funds under MPLADS and MLALADS lies with DM or CDO. The schools do not have roofs in villages and the students sweeps the pavements...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. I have allowed Shri Mulayam Singhji to speak and he is speaking. His submission be listened.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to make him resume his seat. Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can give Notice in this regard. You should sit down when your leader is speaking. You should cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to request to all of you that I would permit all of you to give Notices to speak.

[English]

Please sit down. When the leader is speaking, every Member should cooperate.

[Translation]

If you don't agree to him, you can also give Notices, I will permit you but everybody wants to speak, you should give Notice, I will give permission for that, I do not have any problem.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Sir, matters relating to only Bihar and Uttar Pradesh Assemblies are being raised daily. Nothing else takes places except the situation in UP and Bihar. What about those Members who come from other parts of the country?...(Interruptions) We also have got the right to raise important matters on the floor of the House. Sir, what is happening in this House? The whole day passes away in raising issues relating to Bihar and UP...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You also can raise the matters by giving Notices, when have I denied you. You have some complaints. I have been receiving complaints from previous week. This does not include the issues involving Bihar and Uttar Pradesh alone. I would ask everybody to give Notices, your Notice will also be taken up. How can I take up a question suddenly without Notice? House will run according to rules. As regards Bihar and UP.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to raise the questions if you give Notice.

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Mulayam Singhji is saying an incorrect thing.

MR. SPEAKER: I am also ready to grant you permission and I have never said 'No' to you.

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is misleading the House.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a procedure for running the House. You people have yourselves framed the rules for its functioning. If you do not follow them then, how will the House run?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that we MPs neither want to interrupt the Question Hour nor want to violate the rules. But the MPs of Samajwadi Party have been threatened, raids are being conducted at our premises, even the day before yesterday raid was carried out...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is making absolutely wrong allegations...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allot time from 11.00 to 1.00 O'clock for UP and Bihar and from 3.00 O'clock to 4.00 O'clock for other States of the country...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people are preventing me from speaking. Please tell me whether you would conduct the House or these people?...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can we keep quiet when charges are being levelled against us?...(Interruptions) Entire work of

the House has been stalled due to this. Please go through this newspaper wherein all these things have been mentioned, please take it.

MR. SPEAKER: Please give it to me later on, I will go through it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, how can this sort of a thing be allowed? This is happening everyday...(Interruptions) They are not allowing the Question Hour to proceed...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, If such things happen, we shall be compelled not to allow the Question Hour proceed...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall call all the leaders when the House meets next week to discuss the matter being raised by the members now. Hon. Members have expressed anger on the issue that only the Subjects of one or two States are discussed in the House.

[English]

I have taken up your point very well. I would call the meeting of the leaders and we may take a decision regarding the Adjournment Motion, whether it should be placed at all or everything should be done after the Question Hour. I would like to take the leaders into confidence. I will look into the matter. But, in the meantime, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav wanted to make some important point. I have permitted him. I would request him to quickly conclude.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: It is not an important thing. Please speak whatever you want to only after the hon. Speaker decides on Monday...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): ... (Interruptions) How can it be?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav will you complete quickly, now?

[Translation]

Please conclude immediately, then I will ask the hon. Minister. I know the subject? Please ask.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please co-operate with the House. Let there be Question Hour also.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): It has been decided by the hon. Speaker that he would be given first chance to speak in the House if Adjournment Motion is passed. It is regarding Bihar then.

[English]

Let him speak first. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: He has concluded his speech.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

He has already spoken.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Prabhunath Singh has given his reply, but first the hon. Minister should give reply...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, none of the conditions are being followed either by the Treasury Benches or by the other side. What is going on? You gave the floor to Shri Mulayam Singh after Shri Prabhunath Singh spoke, and after that you say that if anyone wants to speak, a notice should be given to get permission to speak. We are sitting quietly in the Opposition. Nobody is doing it.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have asked Mulayam Singh ji to speak. Mulayam Singh ji, please conclude you speech immediately.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA (Chhota Udaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order. Everyday one or the other such issues are raised in the Question Hour and time is wasted, we are deprived of asking questions which are in the interest of the common people. It is our right to have answers of the questions asked by us. Nothing would go wrong in one hour. They can ask any question after 12.00 O'clock. Same thing is repeated here everyday. We do not want that question hour be wasted like this...(Interruptions). We are ready to abide by all the decisions made by the hon. Chair. We are not opposing the hon. Chair but the Question Hour should be completed.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member has raised the point of order here. I agree with the point raised by the hon. Member here. If the House so wishes, no other issue would be allowed to be raised from Monday onwards unless the Question Hour is completed.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If the whole House agrees, I have absolutely no problem.

[Translation]

I truly agree with your view point. Question Hour should be completed whether it is Adjournment Motion or Privilege Notice.

[English]

Everything will be discussed after the Question Hour. From Monday, with the consent of the House, I will say that nothing else will be permitted except the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This I can do from Monday. But,

[Translation]

I have granted permission to Mulayam Singh ji, today let him put his point.

[English]

Please go ahead.

[Translation]

Mulayam Singh Ji please speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, direction given by you would be a different matter and all leaders would collectively decide it. We do not prevent any question from being raised here with regard to any State. Those who wish to discuss their State, may do so here. We speak of the entire country, not only about Uttar Pradesh or Bihar. We would not create hindrance if other members raise questions with regard to their States and we assure them of that. The point is that this also becomes an issue of Breach of privilege. Today if any Government put restrictions on our freedom of speech and threaten us that they would imprison us under POTA if we criticise them, we do not care, even if we are imprisoned under POTA...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude your speech.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will have to intervene and you will have to accept if the same situation prevails. This matter is not related only to us, it is a very serious matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Prabhunath Singh had raised this issue first and it was regarding Bihar. Therefore if any reply is to be given, it should first be with regard to Bihar...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath ji had raised a question and I also granted him permission to speak and later on I also said that I would grant him permission to speak on this subject when the Zero Hour starts.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, firstly we had raised the issue of Bihar. And thus the first reply should be with regard to Bihar...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may also decide that whether some Members from the treasury should direct you...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel, I am on my legs and speaking. You should atleast respect the Chair. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed notices for suspension of the Question Hour and I have disallowed notices for Adjournment Motions also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs respond to the issues raised by Shri Mulayam Singh? I am asking whether the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs would like to say something on the issues raised by Shri Mulayam Singh. I am advising you that you can convey this to the Minister concerned.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker Sir, there is no Minister concerning this in the Central Government...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Speaker....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is Shri Prabhunath Singh wanted to speak about some very important atrocity occurred in Bihar.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I gave you permission and you asked the question. After the question I told you that it cannot be taken up as Adjournment Motion. But I would allow you to speak during Zero Hour.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first my issue should be taken up....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. That cannot be a condition. I will settle it during the 'Zero Hour'. I have disallowed all other notices. I have not permitted any notice here. Suspension of the Question Hour is also not granted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I must listen to the House. Hon. Members want that we should take up the Question Hour. How can I continue with this?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, would you allow me also to speak during Zero Hour...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would give you time during Zero Hour also.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Sir, I am on a point of order....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, tell me your point of order.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: I am on a point of order. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you told me yesterday that I will be permitted to speak on an issue during the 'Zero Hour'.

You said that I will be the first person to speak during the 'Zero Hour'. But you have not done that....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today you will be permitted to speak during the 'Zero Hour', not now.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Yesterday you told me that I will be the first person to speak during the 'Zero Hour'. The issue is about fishermen's problems.

MR. SPEAKER: During the 'Zero Hour' I will consider your request.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: It is not enough to consider, you must give me an opportunity to speak....(Interruptions) This has become a House meant for only a few States and a few people who can shout at the top of their voice. Do you think that I should also do that?... (Interruptions) With very great anguish and agony, I want to represent that I have been demanding for an opportunity for several days, but you have not permitted me. All the sundry issues are given prominence, whereas a national issue has been brushed aside....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will permit you without fail today provided there is 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether a new convention of taking up state matters in the House is being set up.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given my ruling in this regard in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you raising this issue? I have already given my ruling on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you were not in the House. I have already given my ruling.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir whenever democracy is murdered or is distorted in any state such issues would be raised in the House....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir as long as anarchy prevails in the states, matters relating to states will be raised in the House....(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all these things are responsible for it. It has become our compulsion to raise such issues.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, matter relating to Bengal is more important than that of Uttar Pradesh. Whatever is happening there, should also be taken up for discussion in the House....(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are trying to save their face....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me inform the House that Question No. 241 has been postponed on the request of the Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already started the Question Hour. I want to go ahead with the Question Hour. On the issue raised recently, I had already given the ruling yesterday. Therefore, no further ruling is necessary.

Shri P. Rajendran, please ask the question.

11.26 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Withdrawal of FCI from Procurement of Foodgrains

*242. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to withdraw the Food Corporation of India from the procurement of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the alternate arrangements proposed for procurement of foodgrains and their distribution;

(c) whether the Government have considered the impact of the decision on supply of foodgrains of deficit and remote State like Kerala in maintaining supply to the Fair Price Shops and Public Distribution System; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. The existing system of procurement of foodgrains for supply to States under TPDS and other Welfare Schemes is proposed to be continued by the Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to how many procurement centres and godowns are working in India. In Cochin and Kovalam, several godowns have been closed down. I want to know whether any procurement centre or godown has been closed down during the last three years in any other part of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member wants to know the total number of godowns in the country. At present 5,696 procurement centres are

functioning. Position of various States has been stated in it. The number of godowns has not been reduced in Kerala. At several places State Governments have been permitted to procure foodgrains. FCI godowns have not been reduced anywhere. Information has been provided in this regard.

[English]

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Sir, a message is being sent to the State Governments that for maintaining the PDS, the States have to procure foodgrains. The State Governments are apprehensive that the Central Government is slowly withdrawing from procuring foodgrains and distributing them through the PDS. Due to this policy, the whole country will be put in agony. The workers are also apprehensive of the fact that they may be retrenched. Several daily waged workers are thrown out of employment in Kozhikode district. In Kozhikode district alone, 240 workers have been retrenched. Throughout the State of Kerala, the workers have been either transferred or retrenched.

In the FCI, more than 60,000 employees are working. Now the State Governments are permitted to procure foodgrains. Now the policy is that the Central Government is going to withdraw slowly from the scene. This will affect the whole country. For the last many decades, the FCI had been performing extraordinarily. My feeling is that my question has not been properly answered.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to convey to the House that what has been told by hon. Minister is unfounded. Procurement has increased hence this facility has been extended this year. FCI has been asked to make more procurement. There is no question of retrenchment. Hon. Member had met me and I am examining the matter raised by him. Procurement by FCI is in full swing. This year 150 lakh tonne food grains will be lifted. Therefore, his apprehension is unfounded.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the Food Corporation of India is supposed to supply foodgrains for programmes undertaken by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

In my constituency in Assam, in various parts, cash components are given. But foodgrains are not available for distribution to the beneficiaries, thereby we are facing

a serious problem. When enough foodgrains are there in the country, why is this situation arising? What corrective steps is the Government of India going to take?

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has asked about decline in foodgrains stock. There is no decline as such and at present we have a stock of 400 lakh tonne rice and wheat.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Every time, we hear the same reply. But when we go to the constituency, we find that foodgrains are not supplied. What is this?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen the reply.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Plenty of foodgrains are available in FCI godowns and state godowns in his state also. Whatever requirement is being received through states all efforts are made to supply grains from other states.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: There might be a privilege motion on this issue. Every time, they reply like this. Sir, you may kindly consider this situation. In Barak Valley in Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakhandi, there are no foodgrains in your godown. Kindly take this position into consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this work has definitely increased a lot in some of the states and whenever the issue of supply from surplus state to deficit state comes up...*(Interruptions)* Please listen, I am replying to your point.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The hon. Minister is talking of the movement of foodgrains by the Railways. We are facing the people. Mr. Minister, you are saying in Parliament that foodgrains are available but the people are not getting the foodgrains. Do not mislead the Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am replying to the very question put up by hon. Member

that there are problems in several states. We have shortage of rail racks in Assam. Yesterday only I had requested the Minister of Railways to provide more racks. Shortage of rail racks is causing deficiency in some states in PDS. We are making efforts to solve this problem. I have noted the problem being faced by his state.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister hails from Bihar. He may not have the information asked for in my particular question. If it is so, he may send it later on. I had been to Behata near Patna on 1st. I hope the information that I got from Behata relates to entire Bihar, though I can not say anything about other states. Paddy, which was supposed to be procured in November was shown as procured in January. In the month of January, it was procured at the rate of Rs. 550 per quintal including a subsidy of Rs. 20. No procurement was made after 11 January and now they are telling that they would make payment at the rate of 528 per quintal. 25 thousand quintal paddy is lying in Behata. I had been to that place and met Asst. Manager who was incharge there. He himself admitted that procurement had not been made for the last one month. Procurement was stopped a month back and now rain has set in and now they are telling that after the rainy season is over they would buy at lower rate. I would like to ask him the number of procurement centres that they have opened in Bihar? Would he get it examined that no farmer had surplus grain after January and that procurement has been made at the rate of Rs. 528 per quintal in place of fixed price of Rs. 550/-? I myself had toured Behata and found people from all the parties present there. The farmers are in trouble there. Would he get this matter examined and inform me about it.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that as per the recommendations of Sen Committee procurement facilities should be extended. Last year, 40 centres were opened in Bihar. All party delegation met and requested for opening of 100 centres. I accepted their demand and 100 centres have been opened there. When FCI has taken up this job at such a large scale there then they may have some problems definitely. One of the problem is non-existence of FAQ system over there i.e. the information about the foodgrains or rice of fair average quality is not there, hence we got the posters and pamphlets distributed and also deployed the employees from all over the country there. I would certainly personally look into the Behata issue raised by hon. Member as to what problem lies there and how can it be overcome. However through you, Sir, I would like to request that there are no roads and market. There is no law and order and even the lives of our employees are under

threat. All these problems are before us but we will move forward for procurement in backward and poor areas despite these problems. I would like to assure on my behalf that full cooperation would be extended in resolving all the problems... *(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You please tell us as to how much procurement has been made. There is no cash in Bihar anywhere.

[English]

SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Thanjavur delta in Tamil Nadu is one of the major paddy growing areas of the country. Now, it has been facing drought. I want to know from the hon. Minister how much paddy has been procured by FCI from Tamil Nadu during last year and at what price; and whether the Government is going to increase the procurement price for paddy keeping in view the drought situation and the adverse condition of the farmers?

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, till date 131 lakh tonnes of paddy has been procured. Hon. Member has sought to know the rate of procurement. The paddy has been procured at the rate of Rs. 550 per quintal and Rs. 580 per quintal (with bonus). As far as Tanjaur district is concerned, the hon. Member would be given the information separately if he want so.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, on the one hand, we have been talking about godowns overflowing with foodgrains in some parts of the country and going to waste. Food-for-Work has been announced and we have been told that there is enough foodgrains. I stand up here to ask the Minister whether he is aware that the godowns in Belgaum district are absolutely empty. There have been SOS and faxes. I am not talking of North-East. You may talk about the problems of movement. In Karnataka, in Belgaum district, all the railway lines are available. There have been SOS and I have handed over the fax to the Minister yesterday that the godowns in Belgaum are lying empty. There is no food to be distributed for the Food-for-Work Programme or even for the PDS and for poorer sections.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is a shame.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The Government seems to be saying here that everything is in plenty. Neither the rakes are made available, nor the movement and nor the FCI is co-operating. I would like to ask if

there is any co-ordination between your different Ministries so that what you are saying is done by the Railways and by the other administration.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as stocks are concerned, rice stock stands at 187.77 lakh tonnes in central pool and wheat stock at 213.21 lakh tonnes i.e. a total of 400.98 lakh tonnes foodgrains is stocked in our godowns at present. Hon. Lady Member has asked about Belgaum... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: You just tell us whether Belgaum has got foodgrains or not.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: I am trying to get the specific information you have sought about Belgaum but rates have not been arranged yet, we would send the foodgrains to Belgaum through Railways rakes... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The question different and the hon. Minister is giving general figures. Every time the Minister cannot treat the Parliament like this... *(Interruptions)* What is this?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: There have been SOS and faxes that have been handed over to the Minister that the godowns are lying empty.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This Ministry must have a co-ordinating team. Why are they not doing so?

[Translation]

He mislead the House everyday sitting here... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Send them by trucks, if there are no rakes to carry foodgrains.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shivraj ji also wants to speak on this subject and before the Minister gives reply to your question, listen to him also.

[English]

He is supplementing your point.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, there is no dearth of foodgrains in our country but it has been seen that foodgrains is not being supplied to some of the states due to which people are facing problems. Dr. Swaminathan has made this suggestion that food banks be created in the states which produce foodgrains as well as those which need foodgrains so that foodgrains may be preserved properly and it be made easily and timely available to the needy persons in the areas facing shortage of foodgrains. I am of the opinion that the Government certainly stands to gain if it ponders over it and take steps in this direction. I would like to know as to whether the government would implement it by considering over it?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not get reply of my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister Sir, you first reply the question asked by Shrimati Margaret Alvaji. And reply the question asked by Shri Shivraj Patilji later on.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask a supplementary relating to Andhra Pradesh...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Where is the leader from Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, there are 28 Members other than the leader. I am asking for a chance to ask a question for the last one week. Unfortunately, I did not get a chance.

MR. SPEAKER: We can have Half-an-Hour Discussion on this subject so that a number of Members will get an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the question asked by hon. Margaret Alvaji, I would like to say that the non availability of rakes is causing problems as far Belgaon issue is concerned. I know that there is shortage of foodgrains but arrangement has been

made and it would be dispatched there. Through you, Sir, I would like to submit that there is acute shortage of rakes there...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, we want Half-an-Hour discussion on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Give me a notice.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: This discussion will never be over and rakes can not be manufactured in two minutes. I am replying the questions, asked by the Members. This is a big challenge for the entire country and the country has vast population. We have made full efforts to increase the capacity for the persons living below poverty line and who are living in remote areas as has been mentioned by Shri Shivraj Patilji but this effort had only been made in Punjab and Haryana before I took over the charge. I have formulated a scheme to set up godown at block level in all the remote areas of the country. As far the problems of storage that you mentioned is concerned...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: There are godowns in my constituency but are lying empty...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I have submitted that it is not so at all the places. I am accepting that the problem exist in your constituency. It is not our mistake because there is shortage of rakes and rakes cannot be manufactured in two minutes. I have talked to the hon. Minister of Railways in this regard yesterday only. I accept that the suggestion made by hon. Shivraj Patilji needs to be implemented. We are formulating a long term plan to set up a storage network in the remote and poor areas of the country so that the storage system could be revamped in those areas.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received names of 15 or 16 Members to ask questions on this subject. So I have decided to permit 'Half-an-Hour' Discussion on it so that more Members can ask question.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is misleading the House. The food for work scheme is undergoing in tribal areas...(Interruptions) The people are waiting to get foodgrains with coupons in their

hands for the last two months but godowns are lying empty...(*Interruptions*) The foodgrains were not sent by the Union Government. The people are wandering with coupons in their hands in my Lok Sabha constituency...(*Interruptions*) 'Food for Work' scheme is running...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You resume your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Hon. Minister is saying that godowns facility would be given but all the godowns are lying empty. He is labelling it as our fault...(*Interruptions*) Whose fault is it? Your Government is in power...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, justice be done to us also. We neither get an opportunity to raise the question during the Question Hour and nor during the Half an Hour discussion. You call on the Members sitting in front rows only...(*Interruptions*) What should we do? Shall we leave the House?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity to ask the question if you give Notice.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJO SINGH: I had given Notice but I did not get the opportunity to ask the question...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Your Notice is not on this subject.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJO SINGH: He only is an expert of all fields...(*Interruptions*) It is not right. We also will have to act like Shri Prabhunath Singhji...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Soft Loan to States

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

(a) whether certain State Governments particularly Gujarat have urged the Union Government for consideration of one time grant of soft loan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed by the Union Government to improve the economy of the States?

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. Some State Governments have requested for soft term loans, but not the Government of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) In response to requests from Maharashtra, J&K, Orissa and West Bengal, for assistance to overcome liquidity problems, Government of India has been assisting by providing Ways & Means Advances and by advancing plan and non-plan assistance to take care of temporary mismatches in receipts and expenditure. Government of India is also implementing the Debt Swap Scheme, beginning in this year for enabling States to prepay outstanding high cost Government of India loans and advances. The Government of India have put in place the States Fiscal Reform Facility 2000-2001 to 2004-05 for incentivising States to draw up their Medium Term Fiscal Reform Programme (MTFRP) to address systemic issues underlying fiscal stress. Borrowing through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) have also been brought within the ambit of Article 293 (3) of the Constitution to enable States towards prudent fiscal management. Government of India have also allocated one time assistance of Medium Term Non-plan loan to some fiscally stressed States subject to these States having drawn up their Medium Term Fiscal Reform Programme (MTFRP) and entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/ Exchange of letters with Government of India.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the Government of India is also implementing the Debt Swap Scheme, beginning this year for enabling States to prepay outstanding high cost Government of India loans and advances.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of Gujarat has participated in the debt swapping scheme put forward by the Central Government.

The States participating in this Scheme during the current year would be enabled to retire Government of India's high-cost debt through additional market borrowing.

The Government of Gujarat has already raised an amount of Rs. 500 crore as additional market borrowing during the current financial year, that is, 2002-2003, and a further amount of Rs. 540 crore is likely to be raised during the current financial year in the second stretch.

This is likely to reduce the burden of the Government of Gujarat to the tune of Rs. 60 crore per annum. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India would consider the proposal of the Government of Gujarat to modify the norms of this borrowing scheme.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member has combined two or three issues here. The focus of the original question is about debt swapping. The original question enquired particularly whether Gujarat had asked for it.

Now so far as debt swapping is concerned, the States are participating. I have already said that through this methodology, by 2004-2005, a minimum of Rs. 83,000 crore of State debts, which are high-cost debts, would be retired. On an average, it is about 13 per cent. If 13 per cent debt is retired and thereafter rescheduled at the current rates, it is really halving the interest liability of the States concerned.

In addition to that, the States have to fulfil certain criteria about the minimum terms etc.

He has enquired about the loan of Rs. 500 crore or Rs. 540 crore. It is a specific issue. That does not really arise from this question.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, in my first supplementary, I asked about modification of the debt swapping scheme in which Gujarat has participated.

My second supplementary is on the same issue. Has the Government of India received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat to modify the norms of additional Central assistance?

In so far as the rehabilitation and reconstruction programme is concerned, it is particularly for the areas affected by the earthquake. Lakhs of houses had been destroyed in the earthquake. The Government has raised this loan for them.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister that so far as GERLP is concerned, would the Government of India like to modify and release the same on the basis of 70 per cent as grant and 30 per cent as loan?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Yet again, this is slightly separate from the central aspect of debt swapping. But on this particular aspect of considering an existing scheme sympathetically and reformulating it so as to further facilitate the relief in the earthquake affected areas of Gujarat, we will certainly consider that particular aspect.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, many States are literally in a financial mess. During the last four years, the Government of Gujarat has had a debt of nearly Rs. 37,000 crore and nearly Rs. 5,000 crore was paid as interest. Due to various natural calamities, the Government of Gujarat has suffered a loss of nearly Rs. 26,000 crore, of which the Government of India had provided nearly Rs. 2,600 crore—only 10 per cent.

The Eleventh Finance Commission had made its formula in such a way that the share of the Government of Gujarat, which, at one stage, was 4.8 per cent has, in fact, come down to 2.02 per cent. So, the funds to the Government of Gujarat are drying up.

Not only that, the Central aid with the Finance Commission and the Planning Commission has come to only 20 per cent of the total Budget of the Government of Gujarat.

Sir, a number of States, including the State of Gujarat, have, in fact, been arguing to put a consignment tax for raising certain incomes for the States. I would like to know whether the Union Government is considering this proposal and whether the Union Government is considering a proposal to expand the tax base of various States. Unless the Union Government expands the tax base, many of the States will certainly remain almost in doldrums and will, year after year, make a deficit Budget and they will, year after year, be borrowing.

I would like to know whether these two proposals are under consideration in order to ease the financial position of the States, including the State of Gujarat.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, again a number of issues have come in.

MR. SPEAKER: You can reply to only one issue.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: But I would endeavour to answer as best as I can. The aspects that have been brought in about the Finance Commission etc. do not really arise from debt swap here. With regard to the question whether there is any proposal with the Government for consignment tax, I have no knowledge of consignment tax proposal that we are considering. If I was considering a consignment tax proposal, as I have just shared all these thoughts with the hon. Members of Parliament, I would certainly have shared this.

Now, what we are considering and what I have shared with the hon. Members is the introduction of Value Added Tax. Value Added Tax and consignment tax are, in fact, completely contrary in concept and in execution.

Therefore, I would set the hon. Members doubt at rest in this particular regard. All other aspects connected with that do not really arise from this Question.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Sir, it has appeared in today's *The Hindus* newspaper that the Chief Justice of Chennai High Court is willing to recommend to the President to invoke Financial Emergency in the State of Tamil Nadu because of the financial mismanagement and other reasons of the State. The Chief Justice of Chennai High Court observed and condemned the financial situation of Tamil Nadu. He has clearly said, "we will have to close down the courts." The Chief Justice has also said, "we will address the constitutional functionaries to invoke the Financial Emergency and we will do it."

In this matter I would like to know whether the Government is going to invoke Financial Emergency because of the maladministration by the State Government of Tamil Nadu. I would like to know whether the Central Government would intervene in this matter or not.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, the Chief Justice of Chennai High Court made some observations because funds are not made available to the courts and even the staff there could not be appointed. When that is the matter concerning the judicial observation, how it becomes a matter of Question Hour? I do not understand this.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I do not know which question to answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Adhi Sankar's question to be answered.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: So, I have to answer the original question!

Sir, I am relieved that I do not have to answer the question with regard to the hon. Chief Justice of Chennai High Court, though I do not think Justices of High Courts ought really be commenting upon the management or otherwise of State's finances because that is not the function of High Courts. It is an observation which I made with all regards to the Judiciary. We very seldom comment on how the Judiciary functions. Therefore, when the hon. Member is basing a question on an observation of the court, I would recommend him to consider this issue as really between the State Government and the political parties concerned, of whichever State it is.

The proper administration or otherwise of the State finances is the responsibility of the Legislature and the Executive, and that is where the responsibility remains.

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Sir, under article 360, the Central Government can intervene in this matter...(Interruptions) My question is about the mismanagement of the Government funds. The Tamil Nadu Government mismanaged the Government funds. Can the Central Government not intervene in this matter under article 360?... (Interruptions)

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Under article 360, the Central Government can interfere in the affairs of the State Government...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN: Sir, it is a State matter...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. The Minister is standing to reply. Why do you not sit down?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Every Member must observe discipline. The hon. Minister is there to reply. He is standing and you do not want to hear him. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete his reply.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, may I answer this? I understand the concern expressed by the hon. Members. It is very public spirited of them to be expressing concern about the finances of their State Government. This is entirely understandable. What I said was this is their function, not the function of the court. I appreciate this concern but no condition has yet arisen to warrant imposition of any financial emergency in that State as yet.

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, only two or three minutes are left now....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked you to put your question. You can put your question.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I am thankful to you...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I will take only one minute...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After Kumari Mamata Banerjee, you can put your question.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Now, this is my turn. You can ask your question later.

Sir, is it a fact that there are so many State Governments which, because of their mismanagement of the financial position, are taking foreign debts; somewhere it is Rs. 72,000 crore and in my State it is Rs. 76,000 crore? In Maharashtra, we have seen how foreign debts are increasing. In my State, West Bengal, it is Rs. 76,000 crore. What is the Government's position in regard to control of foreign funds? The State Government is not repaying the funds. Instead of repaying the funds, they are taking thousands and thousands of crores of rupees. How will the financial position improve? Where will the financial position go? How can we control it?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will endeavour to answer it. The larger question is indeed about the financial situation, debt conditions of various States of the Union. I do not wish to comment on any one State proper or the financial situation of any one State proper...*(Interruptions)* I am answering it. You need not prompt me how to answer it.

So far as the financial position of the States proper are concerned, I appreciate that when she speaks like the previous questioner enquired about the State from where he comes, and she is naturally concerned about the state of finances of her State. This is the very understandable concern. I am also concerned about the state of finances. I have shared my concern of the state of finances indeed with the Finance Ministers concerned, and also with the hon. Chief Ministers concerned.

So far as foreign debt proper is concerned, obtaining foreign debt is a sovereign function. It is not a State function. In any case, foreign debt, as a percentage of the GDP is now on a national basis and not on a State basis. There is an area of concern in regard to the State Government finances. Specifically certain States have been mentioned by the hon. Member. That area of concern is the guarantees that have been given by the State Governments. Those guarantees are now shortly going to start fructifying in the current year itself and we are addressing ourselves to correct that situation.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: I am very much thankful to the hon. Minister for his observation that any observation

of the Court or the High Court Judges cannot be discussed here. I am in full agreement with that and he is right.

While doing so, I want to supplement the question raised by Shri Adhi Sankar and state that this was not at all a mismanagement of finances by the present Govt. On the other hand, the previous Government of the DMK has mismanaged the whole lot, with the result Madam Jayalalitha took over a legacy left by them...*(Interruptions)* She is trying to improve the finances of the State now...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, the AIADMK Government is a corrupt Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over now.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Indian Projects Abroad

*244. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide financial assistance in foreign currency to the Indian projects undertaken in other countries;

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

(c) whether the Government have laid down any norms in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir, it is the Exim Bank, the not the Government that provides financial assistance in foreign currency to projects undertaken in foreign countries.

(b) *Statement-I* containing country-wise break-up for sanctions by Exim Bank, during April 2002-December 2002 in foreign currency, is enclosed.

(c) and (d) It is the RBI that lay norms for Project Export Contracts. A summary of these norms as per *Statement-II* is enclosed.

Statement I**Country-wise break-up for sanctions during April 2002 - December 2002 in Foreign Currency**

S. No.	Country/Region	Project	Amount in Rs. crore (equi)
1	2	3	4
1.	Algeria	Transmission	9.78
2.	Australia	Agri product	1.00
3.	Belgium	Alloy Wheels	3.00
4.	Brazil	Transmission Lines	21.90
5.	China	Chemicals	9.79
6.	Dominican Republic	Vehicles	50.07
7.	East Timor	Pharmaceuticals	4.50
8.	Eastern & Southern Africa	Line of Credit	48.50
9.	Egypt	Autoparts, pipes	33.44
10.	Ghana	Telecom	62.89
11.	Indonesia	Submerged Welded Arc Pipes, Pipeline, Gas transmission	56.47
12.	Iraq	Minerals, gas cylinders	32.98
13.	Kuwait	Refinery	20.90
14.	Mauritius	Construction of Cybertowers, Aircraft/Helicopter	84.47
15.	Mozambique	Machinery of brewery	13.34
16.	Nepal	Cold rolled steel sheets & coils	19.36
17.	Oman	Transmission	12.26
18.	Qatar	Pipeline	5.44
19.	Romania	Line of Credit	48.88
20.	Russia	Line of Credit	121.66
21.	Saudi Arabia	Telecom	4.35
22.	Seychelles	Line of Credit	24.17
23.	Singapore	Chemicals	9.70
24.	South Africa	Vehicles	14.51

1	2	3	4
25.	South Korea	Heat Exchangers	3.00
26.	Sri Lanka	Pharmaceuticals	0.82
27.	Tanzania	Railway, Power	63.67
28.	Tunisia	Transmission Lines	24.17
29.	Turkey	Textile Machinery	3.65
30.	UAE	Agri products Metal balls	96.04
31.	Uganda	Transmission Lines	1.61
32.	UK	Agri products	23.96
33.	USA	Furnishings	4.86
34.	Zambia	Sugar Machinery	12.26
			949.10

Statement II**Brief Summary of the Norms for Project Export Contracts***

- All project export contract need approval under Working Group mechanism.
- Working Group comprises representatives of Exim Bank, Reserve Bank of India, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of External Affairs, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of Indian Ltd. and Commercial Banks.
- 5% to 10% of contract value to be received by way of advance payment and for the balance deferred credit can be offered.
- Period of credit depends on the value of contract and raising finance on matching terms.
- Net foreign exchange outgo not to exceed 25% of the contract value.
- Rate of interest on the deferred credit being offered to overseas buyer should cover fully the cost to the Indian exporter for credit to be availed from banks, so that overall profitability is protected.
- Security for deferred credit by way of letter of credit or guarantee from a bank in the country of imports or third country as acceptable, in case the overseas buyer is a private entity and government guarantee or promissory notes, if the overseas buyer is owned by the Government.

- Externalisation certificate from central banks for prompt release of foreign exchange.
- L/C-cum-overseas borrowing not to exceed 25% of the contract value.

*As laid down by Reserve Bank of India in Memorandum PEM which forms part of Foreign Exchange Management Act.

[English]

Closure of Sugar Mills

*245. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) the number of sugar mills closed down during the last three years and in current year till date, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for the closure of these sugar mills;

(c) the number of sugar mills referred to BIFR for revival during the above period;

(d) the present status of each mill;

(e) whether the Government propose to give additional assistance to these sugar mills to revive them; and

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

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

(a) to (f) The number of sugar mills, State-wise, which did not work during the last three sugar seasons viz. 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 and the current sugar season, 2002-2003 is given in the enclosed statement, information in respect of the causes of closure of sugar mills is not being maintained.

The sick sugar companies of the Private and Public Sectors are covered under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). No case of any sugar factory has been referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the said Act.

There is no proposal under consideration to extend additional assistance for the revival of closed sugar mills.

Statement

State-wise Number of Sugar Mills which did not work during Sugar Seasons 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and current Sugar Season 2002-2003

State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 (Provisional)
Punjab	1	1	1	1
Rajasthan	1	2	2	2
Uttar Pradesh	7	7	6	7
Madhya Pradesh	2	3	3	5
Gujarat	4	5	7	5
Maharashtra	10	7	27	23
Bihar	18	18	18	18
Assam	2	2	3	3
Andhra Pradesh	6	6	6	7
Karnataka	3	3	6	11
Tamil Nadu	0	0	2	3
Orissa	1	4	4	4
West Bengal	0	0	0	1
Total	55	58	85	90

[Translation]

India Development Fund

*246. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the India Development Fund was set up;

(b) the objectives of its constitution;

(c) whether the banks and financial institutions have invested in the India Development Fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

NABARD's Assistance to Cooperative Banks

*247. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes introduced by NABARD to assist cooperative banks functioning in rural areas, State-wise;

(b) whether the assistance rendered has produced the desired result; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) assists cooperative banks under three broad areas viz. refinance facilities, institutional development and promotional assistance to improve their functioning. Under refinance facilities, NABARD provides refinance to cooperative banks for their financing of short term/medium term/long term activities under farm and non-farm sector in rural areas. Such refinance support made available to the cooperative banks State-wise during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement. For institutional development, NABARD encourages cooperative banks to prepare Development Action Plans (DAPs) indicating a clear road map for attaining current and sustainable viability by diversifying and expanding the loan portfolio, mobilizing low cost deposits, improving recoveries, professionalising management, etc. NABARD further provides assistance to cooperative banks for development of their infrastructure, training of employees, etc. As on 31st Dec., 2002, NABARD had sanctioned an assistance of Rs. 55.28 crore to co-operative banks under this facility.

This package of support extended by NABARD has enabled cooperative banks to enhance their credit delivery to agriculture and allied activities in rural areas. The ground level credit disbursed by cooperative banks to agriculture during last three years is as under:

Year	Ground level credit disbursed (Rs. crore)	Growth rate (Per cent)
1998-1999	18259.86	15.05
1999-2000 (Provisional)	20699.67	13.36
2000-2001 (Estimated)	27080.14	30.82

Statement

State-wise refinance disbursed by NABARD to Cooperative Banks during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

		(Rs. lakhs)		
S. No.	Name of the State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A & N Islands	201	149	285
2.	Andhra Pradesh	144756	136126	125978
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	42	116	107
4.	Assam	73	103	159
5.	Bihar	6760	6571	7143
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh*	—	—	10129
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	120	0	0
9.	Goa	723	921	1126
10.	Gujarat	29565	36137	52925
11.	Haryana	97776	114603	127261
12.	Himachal Pradesh	5149	7078	8174
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	1498	1170	572
14.	Jharkhand*	0	0	0
15.	Karnataka	63219	65471	69330
16.	Kerala	23611	17247	37033
17.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	68629	66897	82784
19.	Maharashtra	25750	45656	50178
20.	Manipur	609	0	0
21.	Meghalaya	296	489	515
22.	Mizoram	172	180	603
23.	Nagaland	224	175	228
24.	NCT of Delhi	66	594	593
25.	Orissa	37715	41768	45825
26.	Pondicherry	472	475	642

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Punjab	82123	86163	92397
28.	Rajasthan	62308	65578	70801
29.	Sikkim	0	0	0
30.	Tamil Nadu	83520	83561	92333
31.	Tripura	1119	1445	476
32.	Uttar Pradesh	83509	91695	110494
33.	Uttaranchal*	0	0	0
34.	West Bengal	19553	18311	22355

* Jharkhand included under Bihar, Chhattisgarh included under Madhya Pradesh for 1999-2000 & 2000-2001, Uttaranchal under Uttar Pradesh.

Import of Coconut Oil

*248. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether import of coconut oil has increased during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the domestic edible oil industry has been affected due to the import of coconut oil; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to protect coconut growers in the country?

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

(a) and (b) The requisite information in respect of the import of coconut oil is as under:—

(in MTs)

Year	Quantity
2001-2002	23608
2002-2003 (April-October, 2002)	21268

Source: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

(c) and (d) No adverse impact is reported in this behalf.

Development of Leather Exports

*249. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to promote leather exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the amount allocated, disbursed and utilized for the same during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to monitor export performance of such industries?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Government have taken several measures to promote leather and leather goods exports. Some of the policy initiatives are:

- (i) De-reservation of tanning and footwear sub-sectors from the purview of small scale industry.
- (ii) Neutralisation of the duties suffered on the inputs used in the export production, through duty drawback/Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) scheme.
- (iii) Duty free import facility provided to the leather garment sector, for importing the essential inputs required for export production to the extent of 3% of the previous year's export performance.
- (iv) Duty free import facility provided to all the segments of the leather industry for importing essential embellishments/inputs to the extent of 1% of the previous year's export performance.
- (v) Financial assistance to individual exporters for developing/promoting the market for Indian leather products by participation in the international fairs, undertaking sales-cum-study tours, publicity through printed materials; setting up of warehouses/showroom abroad. Upto January 2003, an amount of Rs. 369 lakhs was allocated and released to individual exporters in the last three years.
- (vi) Financial assistance to the Council for Leather Exports for undertaking trade promotion activities within and outside the country. This includes participation in the important trade fairs/exhibitions, Buyer-Seller-Meets and Trade Delegations. A sum of Rs. 915 lakhs has been allocated to the Council for Leather Exports

during the last three years. Out of this a sum of Rs. 869 lakhs has been released upto January, 2003.

- (vii) Financial assistance to the Council for Leather Exports for implementing a focused approach to marketing of leather exports in select countries during 2002-2003 in as under.

(amount in Rs. lakhs)

	Amount Allocated	Amount Utilised
Latin American Countries	37	37
USA	258	200
Japan	76	50

(d) Monitoring of export performance is done through the Council for Leather Exports, which is the nodal agency for export promotion of leather and leather products. Export performance of the industry is reviewed from time to time in comparison with the target achievement and previous performance. Corrective measures are taken in consultation with the industry so that exports can increase.

Prepayment of Foreign Debt

*250. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

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

- (a) the total external debt of the country as on January 31, 2003;
- (b) whether the Government have decided to prepay the foreign debt in view of strong forex reserves;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the manner in which it is likely to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The latest available data indicate that India's total external debt as at end-September 2002 was US\$ 102 billion.

(b) and (c) The Government has prematurely retired twenty four high cost external loans owed to the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) amounting to US\$ 1688 million and US\$ 1158 million, respectively during the current financial year.

- (d) Does not arise.

Indo-French Dialogue

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

(a) whether India and France had held any discussion on market access issue especially regarding seafood exports and expressed concern over the anti-dumping actions against Indian textile products in the European Union; and

- (b) if so, the outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) During the meeting of the Minister of Commerce & Industry and Mr. Francis Mer, the Minister of Economy, Finance & Industry and Mr. Francois Loos, Minister for Trade & Commerce of the Republic of France held in New Delhi on 7th February 2003, the Indian side highlighted the market access problems faced by India especially in the sectors of marine products and textiles. These issues are being further pursued with the European Commission and also with the EU member countries including France for appropriate resolution.

[Translation]

Reduction in Administrative Expenditure

*252. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

- (a) whether a number of posts ranging from the section officer to the Secretary level have been abolished in the Central Government offices;
- (b) if so, the actual number of posts abolished as on date alongwith Ministry-wise details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which the said move of the Government has helped in reducing its expenditure;
- (d) whether more posts of class IV are being abolished as compared to Group 'A' posts; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) Since 1992 approximately 1.73 lakh posts (including 10 Secretary

level, 9 Additional Secretary level and 135 Joint Secretary level posts) have been abolished constituting a little over 4% reduction with reference to the sanctioned strength as on 1.1.1992.

Based on recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission, around 13000 posts covering posts in all groups have been abolished in various Ministries/ Departments, namely, Information and Broadcasting-1424, Economic Affairs-1903, Public Enterprises-15, Supply-996, Steel-6, Petroleum and Natural Gas-17, Chemicals and Petrochemicals-624, Fertilisers-19, Mines-62, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution-135, Agriculture & Cooperation-214, Shipping-6, Women & Child Development-175, Environment & Forests-779, Culture-12, Commerce-90, Urban Development-6411, Tourism-28, Industrial Policy and Promotion-134. The abolition of these posts is likely to result in annual reduction of expenditure to the tune of Rs. 120 crore approximately. This exercise is an ongoing feature.

Orders were also issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions on 16.5.2001 restricting direct recruitment to 1/3rd of the annual direct recruitment vacancies, subject to the condition that this does not exceed 1% of the total strength of a particular Department. This order is applicable to all categories of posts and so far around 30,000 posts covering all Groups have been identified for abolition.

[English]

Complaints Received by EIC

*253. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Export Inspection Council of India (EIC) is the sole agency to monitor the quality control drills/guidelines/directions/instructions, laid down by importing country specially the European Community/Commission;

(b) whether any complaints regarding quality of products have been received by EIC during the past three years;

(c) if so, the details and nature of the complaints received; and

(d) the remedial measures taken on those complaints?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir. However, Export Inspection Council of India (EIC) is recognised as the competent

authority for issuing certificates of authenticity for Basmati rice and health certificate for fish and fishery products by the European Commission.

(b) The details of complaints regarding quality of fish and fishery products exported to European Union (EU) countries received by EIC are given in the enclosed statement. No quality complaint has however been received by EIC in respect of export of basmati rice to EU countries.

(c) and (d) As may be seen from the statement, the number of complaints received by EIC during the years 2000, 2001 & 2002 are 9, 13, & 50 respectively. These complaints have been reported by the countries of the EU on account of detection of microbiological, chemical and heavy metal contaminants in the consignments of fish and fishery products exported from India.

EIC have devised a detailed complaint handling mechanism under which the processing unit is put on 'alert' and monitoring of the unit, by the officials of EIC/ Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs), is made more stringent, whereby monitoring visits by officials are increased from usual two to four visits per month till the satisfactory testing of ten consecutive consignments. EIC/EAs carry out detailed investigations in each case to ascertain the exact cause and source of the contamination and take further necessary steps with a view to prevent the cause of such contamination.

Government have taken a number of steps to eliminate the incidence of rejection of consignments of fish & fishery products on account of microbiological and chemical contamination, which include:—

- laying down the essential requirements for hygienic handling of seafood at all stages of production, storage and transport to ensure effective compliance of the quality standards;
- prescribing the maximum permissible level of chemicals and heavy metals;
- monitoring by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and the EIC of the processing units to ensure that required standards are followed;
- campaign by MPEDA and other Government agencies in all seafood producing areas to bring quality awareness among the exporters, processors, farmers, feed manufacturers, hatchery owners, etc. and to dissuade them not to use the banned chemicals at any stage; and

- setting up/upgradation of laboratories for the purpose of testing of seafood at major production

centers and improvement/modernisation of fish landing centres and fishing harbours.

Statement

Country-wise Status Quality of complaints relating to exports of Fish and Fishery Products to EU Countries Reported during 2000, 2001 and 2002

Country	2000			2001			2002		
	Chemicals	Microbiological/ Heavy Metals	Total	Chemicals	Microbiological/ Heavy Metals	Total	Chemicals	Microbiological/ Heavy Metals	Total
Spain	0	4/1	5	0	7	7	15	6/1	22
Norway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
France	0	3	3	0	1	1	1	2	3
U.K.	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Italy	0	1	1	0	4	4	3	2	5
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Belgium	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Total	0	8/1	9	0	13	13	29	20/1	50

Losses in STC

*254. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Trading Corporation (STC) has incurred huge losses during the third quarter of 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such losses; and

(c) the specific steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the performance of STC?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per un-audited financial results for the third quarter of the year 2002-03, STC incurred a loss of Rs.

10.09 crore. This was 32% lower compared to an average loss of Rs. 14.78 crore during each of the first two quarters of the financial year. The loss was mainly due to proportionate amortization of Rs. 3.08 crore towards Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) expenses and Rs. 4.83 crore towards diminution in the value of investments made by the Corporation in US-64 units. But for these prior period accounting entries, the loss during the third quarter was only Rs. 2.18 crore. Other reasons contributing to the loss include non-payment of dividend on US-64 units by UTI resulting in a loss of about Rs. 2 crore in one quarter and significant decline in the interest rates leading to lower interest income.

(c) STC has taken new trade initiatives which include import of raw sugar, edible oils, kerosene oil and non-ferrous metals; and export of wheat to Iraq and rice to Philippines. It has also reduced costs by rationalization of branch offices, closure of Dubai foreign office, reduction of manpower through VRS and control of overheads.

Import of Tea from Sri Lanka

*255. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has entered into an agreement with Sri Lanka for import of tea into our country at 7.5% import duty;

(b) if so, the details of such agreement;

(c) whether the agreement has endangered the interest of tea industry in the country especially in the Southern India;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to re-negotiate with Sri Lanka in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Under the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed in 1998, Sri Lanka has been allowed to export a Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) of 15 million Kgs of tea annually to India at preferential duty of 7.5%. The TRQ has been operationalised in May 2000 following a meeting held between the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka on 18-19th April, 2000.

(c) No Sir. The Agreement has not endangered the interest of the tea industry in the country. Under the Agreement, Sri Lanka has been allowed to export to India 15 million kgs of tea annually, at 7.5% basic customs duty. During the year 2000 and 2001, 0.46 million kgs and 0.31 million kgs of tea were imported from Sri Lanka, respectively, under the Free Trade Agreement. During January-December, 2002, 0.60 million kgs of tea has been imported under FTA from Sri Lanka.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Anti-Defection Law

*256. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

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

(a) whether the Government have received several representations regarding amendments in the anti-defection law;

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

(c) whether the Government are actively considering bringing suitable amendments in the anti-defection law; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) A number of recommendations have been made by various bodies including the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution. A statement containing main recommendations is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Certain proposals relating to amendments in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution (anti-defection law) were included in the agenda for the meeting of the political parties on the subject of reform of electoral laws held on 22.5.1998 but the discussion on the issue was deferred. The Government has not decided any subsequent date for discussing the issue with the political parties.

Statement**(1) Recommendations of Dinesh Goswami Committee:—**

- (i) Provisions for disqualification should be limited to cases of (a) voluntarily giving up by an elected member of his membership of the political party to which the member belongs; and (b) voting or abstention from voting by a member contrary to his party's directions or whip only in respect of a motion of vote of confidence or a motion amounting to no confidence or Money Bill or motion of vote of thanks to the President's Address. Further, the Deputy Speaker of the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of a State, the Deputy Chairman of Council of State or Legislative Council of a State or a person occupying the Chair for the time being in the absence of any elected Presiding Officer, as the case may be, should not incur disqualification if he chooses to abstain from voting contrary to his party's directions or whip.
- (ii) The power of deciding the legal issue of disqualification should not be left to the Speaker or Chairman of the House but to the President or the Governor, as the case may be, who shall act on the advice of the Election Commission,

to whom the question should be referred for determination as in the case of any other post-election disqualification of a member;

- (iii) A nominated member of the House should incur disqualification if he joins any political party at any period of time.

(2) Suggestions emanating from Judgement of the Supreme Court:—

- (i) The Supreme Court in the case of *Kihota Hollohon Vs Zachilhu and others*, [1992 (1) SCALE 338-364(4)] by a majority judgement upheld the validity of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India except paragraph 7 thereof. Paragraph 7 barred jurisdiction of courts in respect of any matter connected with disqualification of a member of House under the Tenth Schedule. The implication of the judgement is that the decisions of the Presiding Officers could be scrutinised by the Courts on the ground that in deciding the issues of defection, they were acting as tribunals.
- (ii) Pursuant to aforesaid judgement of the Supreme Court, a suggestion was made in a conference of the Presiding Officers of various State Legislatures which was presided over by the Speaker held in 1992 that a provision may be made in the anti-defection law to provide for an appellate authority which would hear appeals from the judgement of the Presiding Officers so that decisions of the Presiding Officers were not directly scrutinised by the Courts.
- (iii) Pursuant to the aforesaid suggestion, one of the proposals regarding constitution of an appellate authority was that in case of Members of Parliament, such authority may be President of India who shall obtain opinion of a Committee consisting of three members indicated in section 3(2) of the Judges Inquiries Act, 1968, namely, a Judge of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice of a High Court and a distinguished jurist and shall act according to such opinion. Similar provision was proposed for Members of State Legislatures.

(3) Recommendations of the Election Commission of India:—

Anti-defection law may be amended leaving it to the President and the Governors concerned to decide cases of disqualification under the Tenth Schedule, after obtaining the opinion of the Election Commission.

(4) Recommendations of the Law Commission In Its 170th Report:—

- (i) Omission of definition of legislature party.
- (ii) New definition of political party to include pre-election fronts and coalitions for the purpose of Tenth Schedule.
- (iii) Doing away with the concept of split and merger.
- (iv) The question of disqualification for membership of Lok Sabha/State Legislative Assemblies, after election be entrusted to the President/Governor for decision.

(5) Recommendation of the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution:—

The provisions of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution should be amended specifically to provide that all persons defecting—whether individually or in groups—from the party or the alliance of parties, on whose ticket they had been elected, must resign from their Parliamentary or Assembly seats and must contest fresh elections. In other words such persons should lose their membership and the protection under the provision of split etc. should be scrapped. The defectors should also be debarred from holding any public office as Ministers or any other remunerative political post for at least the duration of the remaining term of the existing Legislatures or until, the next fresh elections whichever is earlier. The vote cast by a defector to topple a Government should be treated as invalid. Further, the power to decide questions regarding disqualification on ground of defection should vest in the Election Commission instead of the Chairman or Speaker of the House concerned.

[*Translation*]

Distribution of Wheat and Rice

*257. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) the additional quantity of wheat and rice allocated to drought hit States from Central Pool to face the prevailing drought conditions in their States;

(b) whether Food Corporation of India propose to export certain quantity of wheat and rice to foreign countries as cost of storing the foodgrains is increasing;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for exporting foodgrains, when several States are hard hit by drought?

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

(a) To tackle the drought situation, 57.68 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been allocated to the drought affected States. The break-up of foodgrains allocated to these States is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The Food Corporation of India does not export foodgrains. However, foodgrains are offered for export purposes to liquidate the surplus stocks and to prevent escalation in food subsidy on account of carrying costs.

(d) The allocation of foodgrains to the drought hit States is not affected due to offer of foodgrains for export on account of surplus foodgrains stocks in the Central Pool.

Statement

The Allocation of Foodgrains to drought affected States under special component of Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana during 2002-03

(Fig. in tonnes)

S. No.	State	Wheat	Rice	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	2000000	2000000
2.	Chhattisgarh	0	236116	236116
3.	Haryana	25000	0	25000
4.	Himachal Pradesh	4232	5768	10000
5.	Jharkhand	20000	20000	40000
6.	Karnataka	0	365000	365000
7.	Kerala	0	10000	10000
8.	Madhya Pradesh	271586	95914	367500
9.	Maharashtra	92640	23180	115800
10.	Orissa	0	400000	400000
11.	Rajasthan	1898420	0	1898420
12.	Tamil Nadu	0	50000	50000
13.	Uttar Pradesh	200000	0	200000
14.	Uttaranchal	19000	31000	50000
Total		2530878	3236958	5767836

[English]

Lok Adalats for Recovery of Loans

*258. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of defaulting borrowers of public sector banks who have to pay more than Rs. 10 crore, bank-wise;

(b) whether the RBI has advised the banks to set up Lok Adalats to recover bank loans;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of the public sector banks which have set up such Lok Adalats so far;

(e) the NPA recovered by each bank during the current financial year till date; and

(f) the other concrete steps taken by the Government to recover NPAs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (f) On the basis of available information, the number of defaulting borrowers of Rs. 10 crore and above and details of recoveries made by the public sector banks during the year 2001-2002 (bank-wise) is given in the enclosed Statement.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks and Financial Institutions to participate in Lok Adalats convened by Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs)/Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs) for settling cases involving Rs. 10 lakhs and above to reduce their stock of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). Accordingly, all Public Sector Banks are participating in the Lok Adalats.

Government of India and RBI have advised the banks to take additional steps such as evolving and implementing recovery policy, filing of suits with civil courts/Debt Recovery Tribunals, compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committee and through non-discretionary and non-discriminatory One Time Settlement schemes. Credit Information Bureau has also been set up to disseminate information on borrowers to the banks. Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) mechanism has been put in place to provide a transparent mechanism for restructuring of corporate debts of viable entities. The Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. has been incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956. The Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 has been enacted recently to facilitate foreclosure and enforcement of securities in cases of default and to enable the banks and financial institutions to realize their dues. RBI have

issued a fresh one-time settlement scheme on 29th January, 2003 for compromise settlement of chronic NPAs upto Rs. 10 crore.

Statement

Bank-wise details of number of defaulting borrowers of more than Rs. 10 crore and recovery of NPAs

(Rupees in lakh)

S. No.	Name of the Bank	No. of defaulting borrowers		Recoveries Made
		Non-Suit filed 30.09.2001	Suit filed 31.03.02	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	State Bank of India	93	134	455935
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	4	10	21833
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	7	14	41490
4.	State Bank of Indore	1	8	16594
5.	State Bank of Mysore	2	15	16966
6.	State Bank of Patiala	7	8	23920
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	2	9	23306
8.	State Bank of Travancore	7	26	23533
9.	Allahabad Bank	6	19	35008
10.	Andhra Bank	6	6	15452
11.	Bank of Baroda	16	49	73144
12.	Bank of India	30	78	106700
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	4	25	21209
14.	Canara Bank	57	119	78229
15.	Central Bank of India	4	58	63544
16.	Corporation Bank	3	10	14349
17.	Dena Bank	13	40	54943
18.	Indian Bank	23	58	58135
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	18	24	36037
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	7	10	23499
21.	Punjab and Sind Bank	3	15	18106
22.	Punjab National Bank	22	56	49991
23.	Syndicate Bank	2	3	17067

1	2	3	4	5
24.	UCO Bank	3	11	37340
25.	Union Bank of India	3	12	33948
26.	United Bank of India	3	9	29400
27.	Vijaya Bank	7	15	18240
Total		353	841	1405917

[Translation]

Payment of Arrears to Sugarcane Farmers

*259. SHRI SUBODH ROY:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

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

(a) whether the sugar mills in public, private and co-operative sectors have not cleared the arrears payable to sugarcane farmers in several States of the country;

(b) if so, the total amount due to farmers in each State;

(c) the time by which the arrears are required to be paid to the sugarcane farmers;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to pacify the agitating farmers in these States;

(e) whether the sugar mills have recently stopped purchasing the sugarcane from the farmers;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) to (g) The available information showing the cane price arrears, State-wise, upto the year 2001-2002 and for the current crushing season viz. 2002-2003 is enclosed at Statements I & II respectively. As per Clause 3 (3A) of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, issued by the Central Government under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, it is obligatory on the part of all sugar mills to pay the price of sugarcane to growers within 14 days from the date of delivery of the cane. The responsibility for ensuring timely payment of cane price dues rests with

the State Governments, who have the necessary powers/field organizations in this behalf.

The following measures have been taken to facilitate the payment of the cane price dues of the farmers:—

- (i) A Buffer stock of 20 lakhs tonnes of sugar has been created for a period of one year so as to enable the sugar mills to receive a subsidy amount of Rs. 412 crores from the Sugar Development Fund. In addition, about Rs. 374 crores would be available from the Banks to the mills on account of the Buffer Stock. Thus, a total amount of Rs. 786 crores would be provided to the mills for clearing the payment of cane price dues to the growers,
- (ii) The sugar factories have been extended relief by way of permitting them to sell equivalent quantity of unlifted levy sugar stocks as non-levy sugar in the open market. So far, a quantity of about 240534.4 M.Ts of unlifted levy sugar stocks pertaining to various seasons, has been permitted to be sold as non-levy sugar in the open market,
- (iii) Advance releases of non-levy sugar have been made to certain sugar mills to enable them to clear the cane price dues of the farmers and to reduce their stocks. During the season 2001-2002, a quantity of 402830.5 M.Ts has been so released,
- (iv) The quantitative ceiling on exports of sugar has been removed and the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) Act, 1982 and the SDF Rules, 1983 amended, enabling reimbursement of the internal transport and neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage on export shipments of sugar.

No report relating to refusal to purchase sugarcane (by the sugar mills from the farmers) has so far been received by the Ministry.

Statement I**State-wise cane Price Arrears Position upto 2001-2002 Sugar Season**

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	State	Arrears upto 2001-2002 sugar season	As on
1.	Uttar Pradesh	85.79	25.02.03
2.	Punjab	65.47	31.01.03
3.	Gujarat	1.40	31.01.03
4.	Karnataka	52.71	31.01.03
5.	Uttaranchal	7.35	31.01.03
6.	Bihar	42.32	31.01.03
7.	Tamil Nadu	7.32	31.01.03
8.	Haryana	16.03	31.01.03
9.	Andhra Pradesh	1.96	31.01.03
10.	Maharashtra	47.83	31.01.03
11.	Orissa	4.06	31.01.03
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6.03	31.01.03
13.	Pondicherry	0.14	31.01.03
14.	Assam	0.14	31.01.03
15.	West Bengal	0.01	31.01.03
16.	Rajasthan	1.18	31.01.03
17.	Goa	—	31.01.03
18.	Kerala	1.28	31.01.03
Total		341.02	

Statement II**The State-wise/Zone-wise Position of Cane Price Payable, Price Paid and Balance Outstanding for Cane purchased during 2002-2003 Season (As on 31-12-02)**

(Rs. in crores)

State/Zone	Total Price Payable for Cane purchased During 2002-03 upto 31-12-02	Cane Price Paid upto 31-12-02	Balance Cane price Payable as on 31-12-02
1	2	3	4
Punjab	172.45	50.07	122.38
Haryana	45.25	1.66	43.59

1	2	3	4
Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00
West UP	101.25	80.69	20.56
Central UP	57.09	25.74	31.35
East U.P.	32.05	24.76	7.29
Total UP	190.39	131.19	59.20
Uttaranchal	3.56	0.00	3.56
Madhya Pradesh	10.96	10.96	0.00
South Gujarat	200.17	161.65	38.52
Saurashtra	5.24	2.29	2.95
Total Gujarat	205.41	163.94	41.47
South Maharashtra	321.89	285.22	36.67
North Maharashtra	155.63	108.48	47.16
Cent-Maharashtra	210.53	165.29	45.24
Total Maharashtra	688.05	558.98	129.07
North Bihar	1.00	0.00	1.00
South Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Bihar	1.00	0.00	1.00
Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	222.02	99.09	122.93
Karnataka	384.95	154.13	230.82
Tamil Nadu	182.54	74.89	107.65
Kerala	1.77	0.00	1.77
Orissa	4.88	2.40	2.48
West Bengal	2.49	0.00	2.49
Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	0.32	0.00	0.32
Goa	2.93	2.08	0.85
All India Total	2118.97	1249.39	869.58

*[English]***Voter Identity Cards**

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

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

(a) the details of progress made in providing Voter Identity Cards by the Election Commission during the year 2002;

(b) the percentage of electorate provided with Identity Cards by the Election Commission so far, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the total cost incurred thereon;

(d) the time by which all the voters are likely to be provided with such cards and its use made mandatory for casting one's vote in an election; and

(e) the steps taken to remove discrepancies noted so far in preparation of such cards?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Election Commission has informed that revision of electoral rolls with reference to 1.1.2002 as the qualifying date in respect of more than two crore and thirty four lakh electors has been done with defect free voter identity cards during the year 2002.

(b) A statement-I enclosed.

(c) The Government has since 1994-95 released a provisional sum of Rs. 434,45,61,710/- to various State/ Union territory Governments for the scheme of issuance of voter identity cards.

(d) The Election Commission has informed that it has fixed a threshold limit of 85% coverage in the first phase of the scheme and it has directed the States and Union territories to complete the issue of voters' identity

cards upto 30.9.2003 in those twenty States/Union territories where intensive revision of electoral rolls was conducted with reference to 1.1.2002 as the qualifying date and 31.12.2003 in respect of the seven States where intensive revision of electoral rolls is being conducted with reference to 1.1.2003 as the qualifying date. In this context, a statement-II containing the names of the States falling under the aforesaid two categories is also enclosed. The Election Commission has further informed that as a step towards achieving coverage of 85% of the electorate, it is continuously emphasizing progressive use of voter identity cards in all the elections for establishing the identity of electors during elections besides allowing other documents for establishing identity in case of electors who do not possess voter identity cards.

(e) The Election Commission has informed that it had carried out verification of the voter identity cards already issued to electors by conducting house to house survey during special intensive revision of electoral rolls in twenty States/Union territories with reference to 1.1.2002 as the qualifying date and in seven States with reference to 1.1.2003 as the qualifying date to obtain the feedback regarding the availability and correctness of the entries in the voter identity cards already issued. The data so obtained is synchronized with the current electoral rolls which will provide necessary inputs to launch focused campaign for issuance of the voter identity cards to the residual electors and to enable corrections, if any, in the cards issued earlier. The Election Commission has also instructed the enumerators and supervisors to take back the voter identity cards of such persons who have expired, and deposit the same with the Electoral Registration Officers.

Statement I

Election Commission of India

Status Report on Progress of Electors Photo Identity Cards

S. No.	States/UTs	Total Electors	Electors issued with defect-free identity Cards	Percent (figures in 4 as % of 3)	EPIC report upto
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50,898,945	32,568,406	63.99	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	638,718	373,452	58.47	—
3.	Assam#	14,426,221	67,479	0.47	—
4.	Bihar	45,453,577	17,092,234	37.60	07.12.02

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Goa	925,555	613,859	66.32	14.05.02
6.	Gujarat	32,475,212	23,177,051	71.37	30.09.02
7.	Haryana [⊗]	12,247,273	10,547,925	86.12	14.01.03
8.	Himachal Pradesh [⊗]	4,058,165	2,371,525	58.44	14.01.03
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6,163,274	2,251,824	36.54	15.02.03
10.	Karnataka	37,231,412	33,388,007	89.68	—
11.	Kerala	22,359,631	18,344,689	82.04	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	35,244,850	21,855,970	62.01	30.06.02
13.	Maharashtra	61,468,890	44,455,999	72.32	—
14.	Manipur [⊗]	1,503,402	1,033,733	68.76	31.01.03
15.	Meghalaya [⊗]	1,280,904	1,031,057	80.49	06.01.03
16.	Mizoram ^{**}	505,587	29,592	5.85	21.02.03
17.	Nagaland	1,006,549	625,996	62.19	—
18.	Orissa	24,925,892	20,790,601	83.41	10.08.02
19.	Punjab	15,817,105	11,963,814	75.64	31.08.02
20.	Rajasthan	33,979,199	23,804,513	70.06	29.10.02
21.	Sikkim	259,993	200,077	76.95	21.09.02
22.	Tamil Nadu	49,327,491	31,662,414	64.19	—
23.	Tripura	1,880,746	1,289,913	68.59	14.10.02
24.	Uttar Pradesh	99,685,000	62,830,538	63.03	15.06.02
25.	West Bengal	45,838,289	42,902,967	93.60	—
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	228,763	195,072	85.27	—
27.	Chandigarh [⊗]	503,930	263,863	52.36	17.02.03
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	118,415	87,922	74.25	31.01.03
29.	Daman & Diu	77,146	45,645	59.17	—
30.	NCT of Delhi	8,176,002	5,658,863	69.21	14.01.03
31.	Lakshadweep	36,847	31,813	86.34	—
32.	Pondicherry ^{**}	614,823	611,479	99.46	06.01.03
33.	Chhattisgarh ^{**}	13,271,510	5,917,329	44.59	22.02.03
34.	Jharkhand	14,692,513	4,673,190	31.81	17.02.03
35.	Uttaranchal ^{**}	5,568,898	2,530,981	45.45	06.01.03
All India Total		642,890,727	425,289,792	66.15	

** The EPIC programme has commenced w.e.f. 17.10.2002.

Issue of EPIC programme is currently not underway in Assam due to some disputes over illegal immigration and citizenship issues.

⊗ Electors figure as on 01.01.2003.

Statement II

List of the States and UTs where Special Revision of Electoral Rolls of an Intensive Nature with reference to 01.01.2002 as qualifying date had been undertaken by the Commission

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Goa
3. Gujarat
4. Haryana
5. Himachal Pradesh
6. Karnataka
7. Kerala
8. Maharashtra
9. Orissa
10. Rajasthan
11. Sikkim
12. Tamil Nadu
13. West Bengal
14. Andaman & Nicobar Islands
15. Chandigarh
16. NCT of Delhi
17. Dadra & Nagar Haveli
18. Daman & Diu
19. Lakshadweep
20. Pondicherry

List of the States where Special Revision of Electoral Rolls of an Intensive Nature with reference to 01.01.2003 as qualifying date has been ordered by the Commission

1. Bihar
2. Jharkhand
3. Chhattisgarh
4. Madhya Pradesh
5. Punjab
6. Uttar Pradesh
7. Uttaranchal

Special Courts to Deal Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955

2462. SHRI LAXMAN SETH:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

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

(a) the details of the number of cases pending in courts registered under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, State-wise;

(b) whether the States where the pending cases under this Act are high, had been asked to set up exclusive special courts for expeditious disposal of cases under this Act;

(c) if so, the names of the States where the pendency of cases remains high; and

(d) the details of exclusive special courts set up so far by these States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from States and will be laid on the Table of the House.

RRB Offices

2463. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN:
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:

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

(a) whether there is any cadre-wise manpower planning in the branches and area offices of Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Cadre-wise manpower planning in the branches and area offices of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) has not been specified. The Board of the RRB is vested with flexible powers to deploy/re-deploy the staff among branches/area offices as per needs/requirements.

*[Translation]***Export of Steel Wire**

2464. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel (iron) wire has been exported from India on a large scale;

(b) if so, the quantum of steel wire exported during the last three years and the names of the countries to which it was exported;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned from this export;

(d) whether the Government give subsidy on export tax to the units exporting steel wire; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The export market for Indian steel (iron) wire include Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Chinese Taipei, Peoples Republic of China, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, North Korea, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE, UK and USA etc. The export performance of steel (iron) wire, covered under ITC Code 7217, 7223, 7229, 7312 and 7313, during the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 is as under:

1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
Quantity (in Tonnes)	Value (in Rs. Crores)	Quantity (in Tonnes)	Value (in Rs. Crores)	Quantity (in Tonnes)	Value (in Rs. Crores)
94822	321.78	114605	431.14	115385	399.14

(Source: Engineering Export Promotion Council).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]***Procurement of Paddy**

2465. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to purchase paddy and rice from the growers in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the quantity of rice and paddy that has been procured till now during the current year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

FCI has not found it feasible to take up procurement of paddy and rice in Andaman & Nicobar Islands due to a number of constraints/limitations. However, the A & N Administration has been asked to examine the possibility of taking up the procurement of paddy/rice under Decentralized Procurement Scheme under which financial support is provided by the Central Government.

*[Translation]***External Aided Projects—Chhattisgarh**

2466. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether external aided projects are being implemented in Chhattisgarh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise?

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

(b) The details are as under:

(Figures in Million)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	DONOR	Agreement Date	Loan Currency	Loan Amt.	Terminal Date of Disbursement	Cumulative Disbursement upto 31.1.03
1.	Chhattisgarh Sericulture	Japan	12.12.1997	J. Yen	2212.00	5.2.2005	618.54
2.	Jharkhand-Chhattisgarh Tribal Development	IFAD	25.06.1999	SDR	16.95	31.12.2009	0.79
3.	Hydrology Project	IDA	22.9.1995	SDR	75.10	31.12.2003	61.97
4.	Integrated Livestock Development	Denmark	5.12.1996	DKK	28.30	31.3.2003	8.31

Abbreviations used:

IFAD International Fund for Agriculture Development

IDA International Development Association

J. Yen Japanese Yen

SDR Special Drawing Rights

DKK : Danish Kroner

NB : The projects at S. 2 and 3 are Multistate projects in which Chhattisgarh is one of the participating States. The figures shown pertain to all the participating States put together.

*[English]***Unfair Trade Practices by MFN Countries**

2467. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries that have been given Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment;

(b) the remedies available with the Government in case of unfair trade practices by MFN countries in exporting goods to India;

(c) whether any unfair trade practices by MFN countries have been detected so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) India has been generally granting MFN status to all its trading partners. In cases, where preferential trading arrangements exist, concessions based on such preferential arrangements are also extended.

In case of unfair trade practices in respect of exporting goods to India, such as dumping by the

exporters or extension of unfair subsidies by the exporting governments, there are trade remedial measures, which are available under our Customs Tariff Act, which are enforced. Details regarding these trade remedial measures which are undertaken after due investigations are published in the government gazette from time to time.

Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987

2468. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a proposal to hold a meeting amongst the Bar, the Bench and the Union Government over the recent amendments to the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 in the matter of establishment of alternative forums to settle disputes;

(b) whether the alternative forums being set up in the nature of parallel courts with overlapping jurisdiction are alleged to erode the credibility and fracture the existing judicial structure;

(c) whether any such meeting has been held or proposed to be held to come to an agreed formula so as to provide quick and easy justice to the people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) There is no proposal to hold any meeting over the recent amendment to the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

(b) No, Sir. The Permanent Lok Adalats under the Act are in addition and not in derogation of different forums provided in the Statutes. They are intended to provide an affordable, speedy and efficient mechanism for weaker sections of society to secure justice.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Amendment to Consumer Protection Act, 1986

2469. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend further the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to encompass e-commerce transactions taking place through the internet and empower consumers against the sellers residing abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the mechanism adopted by the Government to implement the said amendment; and

(d) the time by which these amendments are likely to be made in this Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration of Government to further amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Development of STs

2470. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Gujarat Government for the development of scheduled tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Proposal have been received from the Government of Gujarat, in the current year, seeking assistance under the following Schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs:

(i) Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution.

(ii) Development of Primitive Tribal Group.

(iii) Girls/Boys Hostels for STs.

(iv) Ashram Schools in TSP Areas.

(v) Vocational Training in Tribal Areas.

(vi) Post Matric Scholarship for STs.

(vii) Coaching and Allied.

(viii) Book Bank for STs.

The proposals of the Government of Gujarat for Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution and the Scheme of Book Banks were approved and an amount of Rs. 22.50 lakhs and Rs. 10.25 lakhs respectively have been released to the State Government.

The proposal for development of Kotwalias, a Primitive Tribal Group, received from the Government of Gujarat for Rs. 444.20 lakhs, is to be placed before the Selection Committee.

Some clarifications were sought in respect of Post Matric Scholarships, which are awaited from the State Government. The other proposals are under examinations in the Ministry.

[*English*]

Leave Benefits to RRB Staff

2471. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended the parity of maternity and other special leaves to the Regional Rural Bank staff as available in sponsor banks and revised the leave benefits as allowed by the Award of National Industrial Tribunal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Parity with sponsor bank has not been extended to RRB staff in respect of maternity and other Special leave. Maternity and other leave benefits of the employees of RRBs are governed by the RRBs staff service regulations. In terms of section 30 of the RRBs Act 1976, Board of each RRB has to make regulations in respect of its employees after consultation with the Sponsor bank and National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) with the prior sanction of the Central Government. As per the RRBs staff service regulations, leave admissible to RRB employees include Maternity leave, Casual leave, Privilege leave, Sick leave, Extra-ordinary leave, Special casual leave and special leave. National Industrial Tribunal (NIT) award had allowed parity with sponsor banks in respect of pay and allowances only, which have already been extended to the employees of RRBs.

[Translation]

Assistance through NABARD to Women

2472. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) the assistance being provided to poor women living in rural areas of each State by NABARD through its programmes, State-wise; and

(b) the number of districts covered under these programmes in each State alongwith the programme-wise details of number of women provided assistance during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it provides refinance facilities for approved purposes to the banks in respect of their on lending to the farm and non-farm activities which are gender neutral. However, it also has exclusive promotional schemes for development of women. The State-wise details of the assistance provided under the Assistance to the Rural Women in Non-Farm Development (ARWIND) Scheme and the assistance provided under the Marketing of Non-Farm Products of Rural Women (MAHIMA) Scheme

indicating the districts covered are given in the enclosed Statements I & II respectively. In addition, financial assistance is also extended to the banks for setting up of Women Development Cells (WDCs) in Regional Rural Banks and Co-operative Banks. State-wise details of the 97 such cells supported by NABARD are given in the enclosed Statement-III. Further, under the Self-Help Group programme, about 4,15,330 women SHGs have been formed benefiting about 70,60,613 women.

Statement I

State-wise details of the assistance provided by NABARD under the Assistance to the Rural Women in Non-Farm Development (ARWIND) Scheme (As on 31st March, 2002)

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of Districts Covered	No. of Women Covered
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	175
2.	Assam	1	150
3.	Bihar	1	30
4.	Chhattisgarh	3	273
5.	Goa	1	30
6.	Gujarat	8	1715
7.	Haryana	1	20
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6	515
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	220
10.	Karnataka	5	3285
11.	Kerala	6	581
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1	30
13.	Maharashtra	3	215
14.	Orissa	12	689
15.	Punjab	1	50
16.	Rajasthan	1	170
17.	Tamil Nadu	2	450
18.	Tripura	4	210
19.	Uttar Pradesh	6	500
20.	Uttaranchal	2	110
21.	West Bengal	2	320
Total		75	9738

Statement II

State-wise details of the assistance provided by NABARD under the Marketing of Non-Farm Products of Rural Women (MAHIMA) Scheme (As on 31st March, 2002)

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of Districts Covered	No. of Women Covered
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	50
2.	Delhi	—	20
3.	Gujarat	5	350
4.	Karnataka	5	1130
5.	Kerala	1	400
6.	Madhya Pradesh	2	50
7.	Maharashtra	4	372
8.	Rajasthan	4	232
9.	Uttaranchal	10	2000
Total		25	4604

Statement III

State-wise details of the assistance provided by NABARD under the Women Development Cells in Regional Rural Banks and Co-operative Banks (As on 31st March, 2002)

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of Districts Covered	No. of Women Covered
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	315237
2.	Assam	13	2029
3.	Chhattisgarh	5	21121
4.	Gujarat	2	2515
5.	Haryana	6	13559
6.	Himachal Pradesh	6	—
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	12090
8.	Jharkhand	6	7205
9.	Karnataka	16	52844

1	2	3	4
10.	Kerala	6	623478
11.	Madhya Pradesh	11	5235
12.	Maharashtra	16	52844
13.	Orissa	19	49783
14.	Punjab	5	8123
15.	Rajasthan	4	—
16.	Tamil Nadu	10	372338
17.	Uttar Pradesh	17	46891
18.	West Bengal	10	33310
Total		175	18,73,659

Vacant Posts of Judges in Allahabad High Court

2473. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of judges lying vacant in Allahabad High Court as on 31st January, 2003;

(b) the number of such posts for which action has not been initiated till now;

(c) the reasons for not filling up these posts immediately; and

(d) the time by which Government are likely to fill up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As on January 31, 2003, there were twenty four posts of Judges vacant in the Allahabad High Court.

(b) to (d) Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, including the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court and the Chief Minister and the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and the vacancies anticipated during the next six months. They were last reminded on October 28, 2002.

*[English]***Non-Priority Sector Lending by RRB**

2474. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the original guidelines have been relaxed in the case of RRBs and they have allowed greater non-priority sector bounding and investment recently in the name of viability;

(b) if so, the guidelines in force presently with regard to lending power of RRBs; and

(c) the functional differences between the bank branches of commercial banks and RRBs presently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were established with a view to developing the rural economy by providing credit and other facilities particularly to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and small entrepreneurs in the rural sector. However, sustained viability of operations is necessary if the RRBs are to meet the objectives for which these have been established. Accordingly, the Government/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have taken number of steps to improve viability of operations of RRBs which cover, inter-alia, deregulation of interest rates and widening the range and scope of services. In addition to these, RBI have stipulated that beginning 1st April, 1997, the advances of RRBs to priority sector borrowers should constitute 40% of their outstanding advances as in the case of Commercial Banks. With the overall target of 40% the advances granted to weaker sections of the society should constitute not less than 25% of the priority sector advances (10% of total outstanding advances). In order to enable the RRBs to broad-base their investment portfolio, RBI has accorded parity to the RRBs with commercial banks in regard to the choice of investment avenues subject to observance of exposure norms in force from time to time. These measures have been primarily aimed at improving the viability of the RRBs. At the same time RRBs continue to fulfil their obligation of extending institutional credit primarily to the borrowers in the priority sector.

(c) There is not much functional difference between the commercial bank branches and RRB branches except that the commercial bank branches provide wider range of financial and banking services compared to RRB branches. RRBs have been permitted to operate only within the notified area i.e. mainly in rural areas.

*[Translation]***Family Courts in M.P.**

2475. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether family courts have not been constituted in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether creation of posts for members in some family courts is pending in M.P.;

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

(e) the time by which the family courts are likely to start functioning systematically in all districts of M.P.?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Seven Family Courts have been set up at Bhopal; Jabalpur; Rewa; Indore; Sagar; Ujjain and Gwalior.

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

Textile Package

2476. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of outcome of the 'Textile Package' announced by the Government for fast development of textile industry under the National Textile Policy, 2000;

(b) the future prospects for the development of wool sector;

(c) the details of programmes and schemes being formulated by the Government for the development of this sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the total investment proposed to be made in the wool sector during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOU DA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) Taking note of the new challenges and opportunities presented by the changing global environment including an integration of the world textile and clothing markets by end 2004, the Government of India have announced a National Textile Policy in November 2000 to develop a strong and vibrant textile industry capable of producing

cloth of good quality at acceptable prices as well as of competing with confidence with other textile producing countries for an increasing share of global market. The major outcome of the Textile Package announced for fast development of textile industry under the National Textile Policy-2000 are as under:

- (i) De-reservation of woven readymade garment sector from SSI;
- (ii) Announcement in three consecutive Budgets aiming inter alia at further rationalisation of duty structure in the textile sector and reducing costs of raw material and machinery critical to technology upgradation;
- (iii) Launching of schemes of Apparel Parks for Exports and Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme for upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres;
- (iv) Concerted action for implementation of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and Technology Mission on the Cotton schemes;
- (v) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route in the textile sector with certain exceptions;
- (vi) Launching of a programme as part of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of weaving capacities.

(b) to (d) The ingredients of the strategy for future prospects and the development of wool and woollens in the country comprises:

- (i) increasing production of the indigenous wool and improving its quality;
- (ii) promoting research for better woollen products so that higher value realisation could be achieved; and
- (iii) promotion of export of wool and woollens by improving quality and marketability.

Central Wool Development Board administers programmes for development of wool and woollens in the country through State Governments and their agencies focusing inter-alia on improvement of quality and yield of wool; quality processing of wool; promotional activities and marketing and development of specialised fibers such as pashmina and angora. Research projects for improving products are also undertaken by Wool Research Association. During the 10th Plan period an allocation of Rs. 40 crore have been made for the woollen sector by the Government. No estimation can be made of

investment proposed to be made by the private entrepreneurs in the woollen sector during the 10th Plan period.

[English]

World Bank Loan to A.P.

2477. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conveyed its guarantee on Andhra Pradesh's loan from World Bank last year;

(b) if so, the amount of loan sought by Andhra Pradesh Government from World Bank; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As all loans for projects of Andhra Pradesh as indeed for all other States, from the World Bank last year were taken by Government of India and on-lent by Government of India to Government of Andhra Pradesh, there was no requirement or occasion to provide any guarantee for those loans.

(b) and (c) Does not arise, as no loan to be guaranteed by Government of India was sought by Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Inclusion of Karbis in Scheduled Castes List

2478. DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had received recommendations from Assam Government to include Karbis, Dimasas and Garos living outside autonomous district areas of Assam to be included in the Scheduled Tribes list;

(b) whether it is a fact that only Garos and Dimasas were included in the Scheduled Tribes list during the passing of an amendment Act in the last Session;

(c) if so, the reasons for excluding the Karbis;

(d) whether the Government propose to include Karbis now; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (e) The Government of Assam had recommended that the Karbi, Dimasa and Garo

communities living outside autonomous districts be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The Dimasa and Garos communities, according to the procedure approved for deciding such claims, has become eligible for inclusion. Accordingly, these have been included in the list. The Karbi community, according to the prescribed procedure, has not so far been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. No specific time schedule can be indicated at this stage as the matter involves consultations with the State Government, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Central Economic Intelligence Bureau

2479. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau has been set up and functioning independently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the economic crimes investigated by the Bureau since its inception till date; and
- (d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau was set up in July, 1985 with the main objective of coordinating and strengthening the intelligence gathering activities of various agencies which are concerned with investigation into economic offences and enforcement of economic laws. The Bureau functions under the Department of Revenue.

(c) and (d) Being an intelligence organization, CEIB does not generally investigate economic crimes but collates and passes on the intelligence relating to economic crimes to the agencies concerned, for investigation by the latter.

Law Colleges

2480. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise names of Universities, which have agreed to close down their evening law colleges;
- (b) the names and locations of such colleges which have been closed during 2000 and 2001;

(c) the names and locations of those which are likely to be closed in the next academic year; and

(d) the details of alternate arrangements made by the Government for students of evening law colleges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) As informed by the Bar Council of India, the students of evening law colleges will be permitted to join day course.

[Translation]

Economic Conditions of States

2481. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Aarthik Udarikaran se 'Beemar' Rajyon ki Sthiti Aur Bigadi" appeared in the *Dainik Jagaran* dated January 5, 2003;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The question refers to a captioned news-item based on a study titled "ECONOMIC LIBERALISATION FAILS TO IMPACT 'BIMARU' STATES" released by ASSOCHAM. As per the ASSOCHAM, the analysis of the study was based on data collected from various sources including Central Statistical Organisation (CSO). The paper has analysed the change in the industrial units registered under the Factories Act during 1999-00 over 1991-92.

(c) The sharp decline shown in the number of industrial units during 1999-00 in case of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and U.P. is mainly due to the fact that the paper fails to take into account the number of industrial units registered in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal during 1999-00, which were formerly part of these States respectively. As per official data released by C.S.O. based on Annual Survey of Industry (ASI) 1999-00, the combined total of factories in Bihar and

Jharkhand is 2996, M.P. and Chhattisgarh is 3335 and U.P. and Uttaranchal is 10918. The percent change in the industrial units is not as depicted in the news item. Also, it is not appropriate to adjudge the impact of economic liberalization on the basis of change in the number of industrial units alone.

[English]

Export of Textiles

2482. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target for export of textiles for the Tenth Five Year Plan as compared to actual exports during the Ninth Plan;

(b) whether the Government propose to formulate any new strategy in this respect;

(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 TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) The Working Group on Textiles & Jute Industry for the Tenth Five Year Plan has envisaged an export target of US\$ 31.87 billion in the terminal year (2006-07) of Tenth Five Year Plan period as against the actual exports of US\$ 10,715.0 million in the terminal year (2001-02) of Ninth Plan.

(b) to (d) Government have been taking a number of measures to enable the industry to achieve export targets. Some of the important initiatives are:—

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

(iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms 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 textile products 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.

Notary Public in Kerala

2483. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala has sent any proposal to the Union Government to increase the number of notary public to 1000 in the State;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The proposal received from Kerala was examined and as the quotas for number of notaries in various States/Union territories have very recently been fixed for the purpose of uniformity throughout the country, it has not been found appropriate to revise the same.

Representation From States

2484. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the State Governments to withhold the cuts imposed on their outstanding amount against Central Government;

(b) if so, the details of the issues mentioned in the said representation; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) If a State fails to provide audited Plan expenditure figures for the previous years, a token 1% is withheld from the Normal Central Assistance due to the State in the current year.

(c) Since this is a common Policy applicable to all States, no exception can be made in the case of Assam.

Consumer Court

2485. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Consumer Courts set up in the rural areas of the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to set-up more Consumer Courts in the rural areas of the country, where these Courts are not functioning, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, State Governments and UT Administrations are responsible to set up District Forum in each district. They are also empowered to establish more than one District Forum in a district where it is justified. State Governments and UT Administrations decide the location of the district forum in each district as per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Rules of the respective States/UTs.

Ban on Meat Export

2486. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of meat leads to illegal slaughter and contamination endangering health of people;

(b) if so, whether several sections of people and organization like Animal Rights International have been representing to ban export of meat;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are considering to ban the export of meat; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Representations from organizations like Maharaja Kumarapal Jeevodaya Trust, Chennai, Jain Social Group, Akola, Maharashtra and Animal Rights International, New Delhi have been received for imposing ban on export of meat. As per current EXIM Policy, export of beef is banned. However export of buffalo, sheep and goat meat is free.

Textile Quota Row

2487. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether garment consignments worth more than Rs. 250 crores are being held up in European ports due to quota row;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) According to information furnished by Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPCC), about 21.2 lakh pieces worth Rs. 43.0 crores (approximately) of shirts and pullovers are stuck up at European Ports due to excess shipment over the 2002 quota limits prescribed under the India-EU bilateral Textile Agreement.

(c) The Government promptly approached the European Union for invocation of exceptional flexibilities for clearance of the stuck up consignments. The proposal has since been accepted by the European Union.

Multi Level Marketing

2488. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of complaints/reports of Multi Level marketing/Binary system in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of MNCs involved in this system; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for legalising and regularising this system?

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

Assistance to SSI Units

2489. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks are extending financial assistance to sick Small Scale Industrial Units of Bihar for their revival; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided by banks to these industrial units during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India has issued detailed revised guidelines to Banks in January, 2002 for detection of sickness at an early stage and taking remedial measures for rehabilitation of sick SSI Units identified as potentially viable. The criteria for considering a SSI Unit as sick has been revised to enable banks to detect sickness at an early stage and facilitate corrective action for revival of the Units. As per the revised guidelines, the rehabilitation package should be fully implemented within six months from the date of declaration of unit as potentially viable. RBI has also laid down broad parameters for grant of relief/concessions for revival of potentially viable sick SSI Units depending upon the merits of the case.

(b) The details of assistance provided by scheduled commercial banks to sick industrial units in the State of Bihar during the last three years are as under:

Year ended March	Total sick Units		Potentially Viable Units		Of viable units, those put under nursing programme	
	No. of Units	Amount outstanding	No. of Units	Amount outstanding	No. of Units	Amount outstanding
2000*	26906	167.44	185	11.53	40	6.74
2001*	16423	125.98	120	12.47	19	3.32
2002	15181	100.48	29	4.29	7	0.91

*Inclusive of data relating to Jharkhand State.

Proposals Submitted by State Government of Maharashtra

2490. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra submitted various proposals for grants, assistance and loans;

(b) if so, the details along with the reaction of Union Government thereon with particularly reference to Structural Adjustment loan;

(c) whether the proposal regarding Structural Adjustment loan sent by the State Government has been forwarded to the World Bank; and

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

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

(b) Government of Maharashtra has been requesting Government of India for assistance, including Market Borrowing in view of the States liquidity problem. Government of India has been extending feasible advance releases of the State entitlement as well as Ways and Means Advance to keep the State in liquidity.

(c) and (d) The State Government had also submitted a preliminary proposal for Structural Adjustment Loan. The State does not qualify for such a Structural Adjustment Loan according to the guidelines issued by the Government of India.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance to Bihar

2491. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar Government has sent any proposal to the Union Government in respect of external assistance;

(b) if so, the details of the projects for which the State Government has sought foreign assistance; and

(c) the present status of the said proposal?

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

(b) and (c) The details of the proposals with the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs and their status are as under:

1. Augmenting/improving water supply system/ sewerage and solid waste in Patna: The Ministry of Urban Development has recommended posing the project (costing Rs. 1669.89 crore) for assistance from the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) under FY 2003 loan package.
2. Installation of three MRI machines at Patna and Darbhanga Medical College Hospitals: The proposal was recommended by M/o Health and Family Welfare and was accordingly posed for German assistance in June 2002. However, the Germans have not taken it up for assistance.

[English]

ICICI Safety Bonds

2492. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) the number of safety bonds issued by ICICI during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) the estimated investment made by salaried class in these bonds;

(c) whether ICICI has paid interest to the bonds holders for the last two years;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details and the number of complaints received in this regard during the above period, year-wise;

(f) the number of complaints still pending for disposal along with the reasons for their pendency;

(g) the method being adopted by ICICI in making payment of interest to the bond holders; and

(h) the time by which the interest on the bonds are likely to be paid by ICICI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The number of safety bonds issued and investment made during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)					
2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
No. of issues	Investment	No. of issues	Investment	No. of issues#	Investment
7	2570	9	3271	2	*
				during Jan 2003 and Feb 2003	

* The details of February issue that closed for subscription on March 4, 2003 are yet to be collected.

Issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. after merger.

The above investments were made in Tax savings Bonds issued under Section 88 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, which are mainly subscribed by individual investors, largely belonging to the salaried class. ICICI Bank has informed that they do not maintain separate records of investors belonging to the salaried class.

(c) ICICI has paid interest on all its bonds at the pre-specified periods.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The number of complaints received and complaints pending during the last three years are as follows:

f

Year	Complaints	
	Received	Pending
2000-01	49293	1212
2001-02	66894	1107
2002-03	52493	734

ICICI Bank has informed that they redress the complaints within 10 days of receipt of the same. The aforesaid complaints that are pending are on account of receipt of the same at around the end of financial year and are in the process of redressal.

(g) All interest payment of amount more than Rs. 2500 are sent by registered post. Wherever, ICICI Bank account details have been provided by the investors, the interest is paid/credit to their account by way of electronic transfer.

(h) ICICI have been making interest payments on all its bonds at the pro-specified periods, as applicable, and have never defaulted in its payment/repayment obligations.

National Institute for Tribal Affairs

2493. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a "National Institute for Tribal Affairs";

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of this Institute; and

(c) if not, the time-frame by which the Institute would be set up?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No time-frame can be indicated at this stage.

Notification of Acts

2494. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details alongwith the reasons about the Act passed by the Parliament but not notified by the Government so far;

(b) whether the Government propose to take necessary steps to notify these Acts without delay; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Up-to-date information is not readily available. The same is being collected from various Ministries/Departments and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Credit of \$ 30 Million to China

2495. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China presents a challenge to India in the international market due to its large size of economy;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to face the Chinese challenge;

(c) whether it is also a fact that EXIM Bank has sanctioned a line of credit of \$ 50 million to China;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other countries to whom line of credit has been offered by EXIM Bank and upto what extent?

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

(c) Exim Bank of India has offered a Line of Credit of US \$ 15 million (not US \$ 50 million) to China for financing exports from India.

(d) The Line of Credit has been offered to Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC). The credit will cover 90% of the value of contract. Under the Line of Credit, any item agreed upon between Exim Bank of India and the borrowers, can be exported from India to China. The credit agreement is being negotiated with ICBC.

(e) A list of Exim Bank of India Lines of Credit, currently operative, is furnished in the statement.

Statement*List of Exim Bank of India's Operative Lines of Credit*

(As on March 1, 2003)

Sl. No.	Borrower	Amount of Credit
1	2	3
1.	East African Development Bank (Covering Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda)	US\$ 5 million
2.	Offshore Development Company (Pty.), Namibia	Rs. 20 crores
3.	Banque International Arabe de Tunisie, Tunisia	US\$ 5 million
4.	Korea Development Bank, South Korea	US\$ 20 million
5.	Corporation Andina de Fomento (Andean Development Corporation) (covering Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela)	US\$ 10 million
6.	Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (PTA Bank)	US\$ 5 million
7.	(Covering 16 countries in the eastern and southern African region)	US\$ 10 million
8.	Banco Nacional De Comercio Exterior S.N.C. (Bancomext, Mexico)	US\$ 10 million
9.	Central American Bank for Economic Integration (covering Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica)	US\$ 10 million
10.	Vnesheconombank, Russia	US\$ 10 million
11.	Bank Markazi Jomhuri Islami Iran, Iran	US\$ 20 million
12.	Bonco de Comercio Exterior de Colombia (Boncoldex), Colombia	US\$ 10 million
13.	Bonco Industrial de Venezuela, C.A. (BIV), Venezuela	US\$ 10 million
14.	Banco Bradesco S.A., Brazil	US\$ 10 million
15.	Banca Comerciala Romana (BCR), Romania	US\$ 10 million
16.	Vneshtorgbank (Bank for Foreign Trade), Russian Federation	US\$ 25 million

1	2	3
17.	Seychelles Marketing Board, Seychelles	US\$ 5 million
18.	Iran (Seven Iranian Commercial Banks)	US\$ 200 million
19.	Harton National Bank Ltd., Sri Lanka	US\$ 5 million

Loan Repayment Schedule to Union Government

2496. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether some State Governments viz. Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh; Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have sought relaxation in loan repayment schedule and relief in debt liability due to the Union Government;

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

(c) the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State Governments have sought moratorium on debt, rescheduling of debt and reducing the interest burden on debt.

(c) The Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) has recommended a Scheme of General Debt Relief as part of its report. In 2001-02, an amount of Rs. 4.24 crore was written off in accordance with this Scheme. The recommendations of EFC have since been accepted by Government of India. There is no provision for selective reopening of debt relief beyond the recommendations of EFC.

For streamlining the borrowing programme of States in tune with the fiscal reform scenario, the Government of India has decided that the Medium Term Fiscal Reform Programme (MTFRP) will be the basis for working out the limits of maximum prudential debt on a year to year basis for conveying to the Planning Commission. No further upward revision beyond the ceiling limit should thereafter be permitted by the Planning Commission. The Debt Swap Scheme, formulated recently, aims at enabling States to prepay expensive loans contracted in the past with current low coupon bearing Small Savings and Open Market Loans. In the current year, 20% of Net Small Savings Loans payable to States from September will be

used to prepay past debt. This will be supplemented by Rs. 10,000 crore of Open Market Borrowings for the same purpose.

Payment to Sugarcane Farmers

2497. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that private mill owners are paying a standard minimum price of Rs. 69.50 to sugarcane farmers as against the Supreme Court direction of Rs. 95 per quintal; and

(b) the intervention made by the Union Government to ensure the mills to abide by the Supreme Court order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Central Government fixes the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for every sugar season under the provisions of Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966. There is no direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this regard.

Dumping of Cheap Chemical Products

2498. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether dumping of cheap chemical products from foreign countries like China is a major reason for the deteriorating performance of the indigenous chemical sector industry;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have activated anti-dumping mechanism to ensure check on cheap import by taking up the matter with the designated authorities in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) has received a large number of petitions alleging dumping of Chemical products into the country from various countries including China. On the basis of these petitions, the DGAD has so far initiated anti-dumping investigations into 69 cases pertaining to

chemical products. The present status of these cases is given below:

Cases in which final findings have been issued	53
Cases in which preliminary findings have been brought out and further proceedings are in progress	7
Cases under investigation for preliminary findings	6
Cases initiated but closed	3
Total	69

The imposition of anti-dumping duty provides relief to the domestic industry by counteracting trade distortion caused by dumping and the consequential injury to the domestic industry. However, the imposition of Anti-dumping measures does not restrict imports from the subject countries.

[*Translation*]

World Bank Report on Utilization of Funds under Poverty Alleviation

2499. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the World Bank has made remarks on the improper use of funds made available for the Poverty Alleviation Programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any new guidelines have been issued by the World Bank in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Report of Govindarajan Committee**

2500. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Govindarajan Committee constituted by the Government to examine the existing procedures for investment approval and implementation of projects has submitted its reports to the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of the main recommendations; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on these recommendations?

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

(b) The Committee in part-I of its report has recommended a revised project cycle for public investments and greater professionalisation of preparation, appraisal and post-evaluation stages of public projects. The Committee in part-II of the report has, inter alia, recommended re-engineering of regulatory processes at the Central and State level for simplification of the procedures relating to the grant of various approvals and rationalization of the inspection, record keeping and reporting requirements. The recommendations also envisage greater use of information technology tools in the administration of approvals.

(c) Implementation of these recommendations has been initiated.

*[Translation]***Right to Food**

2501. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently agreed to the request of the National Human Rights Commission for considering right to food as a Fundamental Right;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take immediate steps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The Department of Food and Public Distribution has not received any such request from the National Human Rights Commission.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[English]***Photo Identity Cards**

2502. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the online method to issue photo identity card has been started in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the number of voters who have been issued such photo identity cards so far in Karnataka;

(c) the estimated expenditure incurred on this account; and

(d) the amount released to Karnataka by the Government during year 2002-2003 for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Government of Karnataka has informed that it has started online method of issuing photo-identity cards.

(b) Upto February, 2003, as many as 3,41,13,542 (Three crore forty one lac thirteen thousand five hundred and forty two) electors have been provided with Electors Photo Identity Cards which constitute 90.53% of 3,76,79,400 electors registered in the electoral roll finally published on 6-1-2003 after special summary revision with reference to 01-01-2003 as the qualifying date.

(c) Rs. 18,50,00,000/- (approximately).

(d) A sum of Rs. 22,09,53,000/- has been released to Government of Karnataka till date. No funds have been released to Government of Karnataka during the year 2002-2003 (as the State Government was already having an unutilized sum of approximately Rs. 1,64,55,000/- at the beginning of the financial year).

Infrastructural Facilities for Judiciary of Kerala

2503. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

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

(a) the status of the Centrally sponsored scheme relating to the development of infrastructural facilities for judiciary, which is being implemented in the State of Kerala;

(b) the share of Central contribution and total amount sanctioned and released during 2002-2003;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Kerala for the early release of the 2nd instalment of Central contribution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary, which was started during the year 1993-94, an amount of Rs 18.78 crore has been released to the State of Kerala so far. With the State's matching share, an amount of Rs. 64.02 crore has been spent by the State.

During the current financial year 2002-2003, an amount of Rs. 261.76 lakhs was earmarked for the State of Kerala. The entire amount has been released in two instalments of Rs. 138.38 lakhs and Rs. 123.38 lakhs respectively.

Fake Companies in Orissa

2504. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fake companies in Orissa which have received funds from small investors during the last three years;

(b) whether several such complaints have been received by the Union Government from the State Government of Orissa;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the authority which has been assigned the responsibility to monitor the activities of such companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO

VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As informed by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Department of Company Affairs (DCA), no company has been declared Vanishing Company from Orissa in the last three years.

(b) and (c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) The Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee (CMC) (a joint mechanism of SEBI and DCA jointly chaired by Secretary DCA and Chairman SEBI) is the policy making body for vanishing companies.

In addition to CMC for making policies regarding vanishing companies, seven Regional task forces comprising officials of DCA, SEBI and stock exchanges were constituted to make verification of compliance at the operational level. The objective of the task forces is to identify such defaulting companies and inform the appropriate authorities like DCA, SEBI and Stock Exchanges to take action against them under the relevant laws.

In respect of companies declared vanishing, SEBI has passed orders under Sec. 11B of SEBI Act 1992 against 93 companies and 351 directors debarring them from activities connected with capital market, raising funds from capital markets and dealing in securities, for a period of five years from the date of order.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of Judges In Rajasthan High Court

2505. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

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

(a) the number of posts of judges vacant in the Rajasthan High Court since 2000; and

(b) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Against fourteen vacancies arising in the Rajasthan High Court up to December 31, 2000, 11 posts have been filled up leaving three vacancies since 2000 to be filled up.

(b) Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal

for appointment of a Judge of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of vacancies, including those anticipated during the next six months.

[English]

Corrupt Public Servants (Forfeiture of Property) Bill

2506. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Law Commission has submitted a report recommending enactment of Corrupt Public Servants (Forfeiture of Property) Bill;

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

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The 166th Report of the Law Commission on 'The Corrupt Public Servants (Forfeiture of Property) Bill', which also contained a draft Bill on the subject as well as its main features, was laid on the Table of the House on 27.10.1999. The Report was examined in consultation with legal experts who have expressed their opinion that instead of enacting a separate legislation it would be appropriate if the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 is amended in such a way to make it more deterrent. It was felt that it would be a better way to achieve the objective of rooting out corruption.

Priority Sector Lending

2507. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

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

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

(b) the loan given by each Public Sector Bank to priority sector during the last three years, Sector-wise;

(c) the directions issued by the Reserve Bank of India to provide loan facilities to this sector;

(d) whether these directions have not been complied with properly by the banks; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government against the banks which do not complied with these rules properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The credit deposit ratio of public sector banks during the last three years, State-wise, is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The loans given by each public sector bank to priority sector during the last three years, sector-wise is given in the enclosed Statements-II, III, and IV.

(c) A target of 40 per cent of net bank credit has been stipulated for lending to priority sector by public sector banks. Within this, sub-targets of 18 per cent and 10 per cent have been stipulated for lending to agriculture and the weaker sections, respectively.

(d) Public Sector Banks have, as a group, achieved the overall priority sector lending target of 40 per cent. As on the last reporting Friday of March 2002, outstanding advances to priority sector by public sector banks constituted 43.12 per cent of net bank credit. Advances to agriculture and weaker sections formed 15.81 and 7.30 per cent, respectively, of the net bank credit.

(e) Public Sector Banks having shortfall in lending to priority sector/agriculture are allocated amounts for contribution to the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) established with NABARD. The rate of interest on RIDF deposits has been linked to the banks performance in lending to agriculture. Accordingly, banks received interest from NABARD on contribution to RIDF-VIII at rates of interest inversely related to the shortfall in agricultural lending.

Statement I

State Wise CD Ratio

	31.3.2000	31.3.2001	31.3.2002
1	2	3	4
Northern Region			
Haryana	42	43	42*
Himachal Pradesh	27.10	28.87	27.58
Jammu & Kashmir	30	30	30

1	2	3	4
Punjab	39.9	42.3	41*
Rajasthan	48.19	50.56	52.31
Chandigarh	91	90.4	103.2*
Delhi	60.6	62.88	62.11
North-East Region			
Arunachal Pradesh	20.98	21.14	22.01
Assam	33.01	32.61	33.18
Manipur	38.41	40.77	39.00*
Meghalaya	17.83	20.21	21.14
Mizoram	24.9	27.32	29.01
Nagaland	17.75	16.37	18.66
Tripura	30.44	27.82	27.82*
Eastern Region			
Bihar	22.98#	23.18	22.79
Jharkhand	29.05	28.52	27.14*
Orissa	43.78	46.36	47.12
Sikkim	15.9	17.5	16.2
West Bengal	46	42.72	44.00*
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	14.98	24.63	21.89*

1	2	3	4
Central Region			
Madhya Pradesh	47.72	50.10	52.06*
Chhattisgarh	N.A.	38.05	40.70*
Uttar Pradesh	28.90	27.33	27.64
Uttaranchal	N.A.	22.54	22.70*
Western Region			
Goa	35	32.6	32\$
Gujarat	48.42	48.88	47.11
Maharashtra	83.55	84.53	84.85
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	23.61	20.45	18.84
Daman (U.T.)	33.84	27.08	23.54*
Diu (U.T.)	5.07	5.51	5.21*
Southern Region			
Andhra Pradesh	73	70	69*
Karnataka	62.28	60.46	61.50
Kerala	41.28	42.77	44.11*
Tamil Nadu	85	82	79*
Lakshadweep	7.55	9.23	8.15
Pondicherry	51	49	52

* Data as on 31.12.2001.

\$ Data as on September, 2001.

Statement II**Public Sector banks—March 2000**

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	Name of the Bank	Net bank credit	Total PS advances	% of PS to NBC	Total agri	% of total agri to NBC	SSI advances	Weaker sections	% of wk sec to NBC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	State Bank of India	79003.04	32273.67	40.85	13012.85	16.47	12440.76	5218.20	6.61
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	4339.81	2125.10	48.97	702.86	16.20	908.58	356.82	8.22
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	5760.00	2492.50	43.27	985.00	17.10	794.00	600.00	10.42
4.	State Bank of Indore	2765.65	1220.10	44.12	474.96	17.17	427.10	154.21	5.58
5.	State Bank of Mysore	3016.68	1377.34	45.66	527.10	17.47	554.55	358.16	11.87

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	State Bank of Patiala	5363.00	2236.47	41.70	1016.00	18.94	732.00	520.00	9.70
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	3189.68	1460.35	45.78	509.90	15.99	781.03	131.32	4.12
8.	State Bank of Travancore	2573.51	1843.34	71.63	530.58	20.62	519.23	294.55	11.45
9.	Allahabad Bank	8361.00	3572.66	42.73	1321.44	15.80	928.54	575.80	6.89
10.	Andhra Bank	5221.86	2358.06	45.16	915.94	17.54	675.27	558.00	10.69
11.	Bank of Baroda	15548.61	7670.55	49.33	2761.18	17.76	2988.12	1167.94	7.51
12.	Bank of India	16733.45	7567.50	45.22	2722.22	16.27	2891.50	857.73	5.13
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	5339.83	2289.06	42.87	834.01	15.62	693.62	383.27	7.18
14.	Canara Bank	17622.35	7717.38	43.79	2981.97	16.92	2795.95	1610.09	9.14
15.	Central Bank of India	15350.00	6635.26	43.23	1929.46	12.57	2265.43	850.20	5.54
16.	Corporation Bank	6071.65	2561.14	42.18	596.44	9.82	697.99	146.60	2.41
17.	Dena Bank	7080.18	3063.49	43.27	1113.65	15.73	1216.88	227.27	3.21
18.	Indian Bank	6946.25	3190.78	45.94	1251.97	18.02	960.50	605.66	8.72
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	7820.54	3603.81	46.08	1463.15	18.71	1330.07	922.12	11.79
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	9708.00	4080.40	42.03	1403.37	14.46	1638.35	524.39	5.40
21.	Punjab National Bank	22035.00	9833.91	44.63	2880.56	13.07	3512.31	1861.38	8.45
22.	Punjab and Sind Bank	4281.36	2079.05	48.56	714.06	16.68	780.64	266.05	6.21
23.	Syndicate Bank	8760.00	4170.00	47.60	1545.00	17.64	1050.00	895.00	10.22
24.	Union Bank of India	13467.00	5414.04	40.20	1698.88	12.62	2214.36	768.05	5.70
25.	United Bank of India	5634.00	2459.87	43.66	763.00	13.54	643.00	421.00	7.47
26.	UCO Bank	6843.00	2550.00	37.26	794.00	11.60	788.00	461.00	6.74
27.	Vijaya Bank	4107.09	1961.31	47.75	740.00	18.02	560.00	410.00	9.98
Total		292942.54	127807.14	43.63	46189.55	15.77	45787.78	21144.81	7.22

Statement III*Public Sector banks—March 2001*

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Name of the Bank	Net bank credit	Total PS advances	% of PS to NBC	Total agri adv.	% of total agri to NB	SSI Cadvances	Weaker sections	% of wk sec to NBC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	State Bank of India	89105.00	35899.14	40.29	14982.31	15.15	12718.39	6847.25	7.68
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	4991.27	2309.27	46.27	818.76	16.22	869.03	383.36	7.68
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	6677.14	2914.30	43.65	1214.30	18.19	824.49	495.65	7.42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	State Bank of Indore	3381.05	1496.54	44.26	609.19	18.02	459.22	218.89	6.47
5.	State Bank of Mysore	3669.02	1642.93	44.78	571.89	15.58	614.93	431.25	11.75
6.	State Bank of Patiala	6463.00	2603.10	40.28	1136.00	17.58	803.00	647.00	10.01
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	3597.09	1532.88	42.61	614.08	17.07	793.56	144.57	4.02
8.	State Bank of Travancore	3380.00	2117.38	62.64	572.62	16.94	533.10	411.05	12.16
9.	Allahabad Bank	9483.18	4192.40	44.21	1593.98	14.82	928.61	610.04	6.43
10.	Andhra Bank	6668.20	2774.02	41.6	1048.89	15.73	830.05	782.90	11.74
11.	Bank of Baroda	17888.25	8762.50	48.98	3032.81	16.62	3274.35	1266.38	7.08
12.	Bank of India	20175.41	8731.00	43.28	3030.09	15.02	3034.25	1026.80	5.09
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	6725.34	2763.44	41.09	818.26	12.17	984.10	394.32	5.86
14.	Canara Bank	22064.00	9049.85	41.02	3510.76	15.91	3244.55	1911.30	8.66
15.	Central Bank of India	17837.00	7839.65	43.95	2544.91	13.87	2230.23	912.39	5.12
16.	Corporation Bank	6534.55	3178.39	48.64	719.27	11.01	722.22	161.97	2.48
17.	Dena Bank	7223.68	3163.73	43.80	1158.99	13.01	1240.64	263.14	3.64
18.	Indian Bank	8075.60	3282.77	40.65	1453.62	17.49	1020.81	743.70	9.21
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	5829.00	4209.00	49.35	1609.00	18.87	1407.00	1060.00	12.43
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	11482.28	4819.16	41.97	1669.88	12.90	1738.18	480.85	4.19
21.	Punjab National Bank	27170.70	12110.88	44.57	3849.64	14.17	3893.80	2399.93	8.83
22.	Punjab and Sind Bank	4883.16	2276.81	46.63	849.99	13.99	804.26	268.95	5.51
23.	Syndicate Bank	9650.00	4662.00	48.31	1750.00	18.13	1100.00	980.00	10.16
24.	Union Bank of India	15152.75	6759.14	44.61	2050.87	13.53	2343.07	784.23	5.18
25.	United Bank of India	6381.00	2400.00	37.61	765.00	11.99	640.00	390.00	6.11
26.	UCO Bank	8905.00	3009.00	33.79	959.00	10.77	822.00	439.00	4.93
27.	Vijaya Bank	4795.26	2046.68	42.68	751.45	15.67	571.41	350.61	7.31
Total		340887.93	146545.96	42.99	53685.36	15.65	48445.25	24805.33	7.28

Statement IV*Public Sector banks—March 2002*

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Name of the Bank	Net bank credit (NBC)	Total PS advances	% of PS to NBC	Total agri adv.	% of total agri to NBC	SSI advances	Weaker sections	% of wk sec to NBC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	State Bank of India	97614.00	40538.92	41.53	16202.92	15.82	12581.83	7052.10	7.22
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	5643.35	2659.78	47.13	941.67	16.69	955.25	439.67	7.79

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	7703.00	3469.98	45.05	1408.39	18.02	925.62	771.00	10.01
4.	State Bank of Indore	4261.96	1881.18	44.14	768.45	18.03	586.09	296.53	6.96
5.	State Bank of Mysore	4225.61	1739.67	41.17	641.08	15.17	598.33	460.65	10.90
6.	State Bank of Patiala	7653.00	3081.00	40.26	1380.00	17.95	810.00	767.00	10.02
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	4014.39	1747.11	43.52	802.18	19.98	776.94	229.84	5.73
8.	State Bank of Travancore	3921.00	2374.06	60.55	647.91	16.52	572.10	420.95	10.74
9.	Allahabad Bank	10695.48	4722.81	44.16	1928.00	16.72	830.25	752.95	7.04
10.	Andhra Bank	9280.06	3401.21	36.85	1389.07	14.97	888.54	894.00	9.63
11.	Bank of Baroda	21459.51	10336.94	48.17	3561.09	15.81	3280.63	1601.00	7.46
12.	Bank of India	22229.57	10169.59	45.75	3530.59	15.88	3330.38	1600.00	7.20
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	7993.66	3211.26	40.17	1026.62	12.84	900.85	611.00	7.64
14.	Canara Bank	25748.00	10536.00	40.92	3888.00	15.10	3366.00	1930.00	7.50
15.	Central Bank of India	20822.00	8934.61	42.91	3056.84	12.27	2291.34	932.50	4.48
16.	Corporation Bank	8932.67	3583.80	40.12	937.77	10.50	619.74	205.89	2.30
17.	Dena Bank	7581.14	3339.49	44.05	1165.56	12.49	1345.72	252.97	3.34
18.	Indian Bank	8445.31	3986.55	47.20	1526.69	18.08	989.59	845.27	10.01
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	10690.18	5066.37	47.39	1966.06	18.19	1584.32	1295.03	12.11
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	14366.17	5861.97	40.80	1972.62	11.46	1582.25	491.96	3.42
21.	Punjab National Bank	33336.60	14895.90	44.68	5127.70	15.38	4213.70	3263.10	9.79
22.	Punjab and Sind Bank	5230.92	2474.50	47.31	943.15	15.34	860.31	266.12	5.09
23.	Syndicate Bank	10763.00	5005.00	46.50	1945.00	18.07	1070.00	1095.00	10.17
24.	Union Bank of India	18979.36	8374.12	44.12	2887.46	13.81	2439.87	1086.90	5.73
25.	United Bank of India	7504.00	2715.00	36.18	1030.00	11.95	535.00	457.00	6.09
26.	UCO Bank	12172.00	4847.50	39.83	1549.00	12.12	1238.00	569.00	4.67
27.	Vijaya Bank	5688.36	2230.94	39.22	859.17	15.10	570.44	387.47	6.81
Total		396954.30	171185.26	43.12	63082.99	15.81	49743.09	28974.90	7.30

[Translation]

Export of Toys

2508. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the worth of toys exported by India during the each of the last three years;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of toys during the above period;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to promote export of toys; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The export of toys effected from

India and foreign exchange earned during the last three years are given as under:

Period	(Value in US\$ M)
1998-1999	13
1999-2000	14
2000-2001	16

(c) and (d) The Government has taken various measures to promote the export of toys from India which include sponsoring participation in specialized toys fair abroad, fixation of input/output norms and covering of more items under DEPB scheme for toys. The Toy Sector has been brought under the purview of Sports Goods Export Promotion Council for a more focused approach towards export facilitation.

[English]

Industrial Houses to Float Banks

2509. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow industrial houses to float banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard the depositors of banks floated by industrial sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. As per existing guidelines of Reserve Bank of India on entry of new banks in private sector, large industrial houses are not permitted to set up banks.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pending Court Cases

2510. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of constitutional (full bench), civil and criminal cases pending before the Supreme Court of India as on date, separately;

(b) the number of them which are more than three years, five years old and more than five years old;

(c) the number of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court at present alongwith dates from when they fell vacant;

(d) the number of vacancies filled up during each of the last three years; and

(e) the steps have been taken to dispose of the old cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Supreme Court has informed that there are 487 civil and 9 criminal Constitution Bench cases pending for hearing in the Supreme Court of India as on 28.2.2003, as per the statistics furnished by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

(b) The number of Constitution Bench cases pending before the Supreme Court of India as on 28th February, 2003, for more than three years/five years as per the statistics furnished by the NIC is detailed below:

	Actual number of files		
	Civil	Criminal	Total
More than three years old cases	145	1	146
More than five years old cases	88	1	89

(c) Against the approved strength of 26 Judges in the Supreme Court, 25 Judges are in position as on date leaving one vacancy to be filled up. The post fell vacant on 19.12.2002 with the retirement of the Chief Justice of India.

(d) The number of vacancies filled up in the Supreme Court of India during 2000, 2001 and 2002 are as follows:

Year	No. of vacancies filled up
2000	08
2001	04
2002	07

(e) The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court has shown a downward trend. The pendency of cases which was 1,04,936 as on 31.12.1991 has come down to 24,381 as on 1.11.2002. This steep decrease is due to various steps taken by the Supreme Court viz. more

practical categorisation and grouping of cases, non-accumulation of defective matters reservation of more time for old pending cases etc. The other measures include the use of information technology for better Court Management, Case Management and better Docket Management, with the result, the pendency of old cases has been brought down considerably.

Textile Promotion Scheme

2511. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to increase their share under the Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced (in December 2002) modifications in the scope and funding pattern of TCIDS with a view to bringing in urgency in implementation of the scheme. The Central assistance under the scheme was earlier allowed upto 50% of the critical components of the project subject to a maximum of Rs. 20 crores for each area. Under the modified scheme, the Central assistance would be available to the extent of 100% of the critical components of the project in respect of Common Effluent Treatment Plant, improving water supply and drainage facilities and construction of creche building for apparel units, whereas the other components would be funded on 75:25 basis between Centre and States/reputed agencies concerned.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Goods from China

2512. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Cheen ke maal se ate pade hain poorvottar rajyon ke bazar" as appearing in the 'Navbharat Times' dated January 10, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts reported in the newspaper;

(c) whether these goods smuggled into the North Eastern States from China, Korea and Taiwan through Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh are being sold at cheap rates as result of which the economy of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya are being affected adversely; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Governments to check it?

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

(b) Seizures of smuggled goods of Chinese origin have been effected by the jurisdictional field formations of the Customs Department including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in the North-Eastern States. The involvement of Naga extremists in smuggling as reported in the news item has not come to the notice of the Customs Department. The details of the such seizures during last two years and current year (upto January, 2003) is as under:—

Year	No. of cases booked	Value (Rs. in crores)	No. of persons arrested
2000-2001	979	2.180	3
2001-2002	768	3.044	Nil
2002-2003 (Upto January, 2003)	1053	5.802	1
Total	2800	11.026	4

(c) General intelligence available and seizures effected by the Customs Department suggest that the Chinese and Korean goods are being smuggled into India from Myanmar through unauthorised routes bordering North-Eastern States viz. Nagaland, Manipur & Mizoram and are finding their way into the North-Eastern States. However, the quantum of seizure does not suggest that the problem is serious.

(d) All field formations of the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) are vigilant and alert to check smuggling from China into the country.

Export of Handicrafts

2513. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have adopted any new strategy to boost the export of handicraft items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the country-wise value of handicraft items exported during the last two years and foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(d) whether any target has been fixed for the current year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the value of exports of handicrafts from Rajasthan alongwith the schemes to promote it in the State?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The new strategy adopted to boost the export of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets items include: extensive overseas publicity; larger participation in international fairs/festivals and in buyer-sellers meets in India & abroad; sponsoring of sale-cum-study team abroad; holding of workshops and seminar; setting up of Indian Exportation Mart Ltd. at Greater Noida and National Centre for Picture and Photo framing at Saharanpur and Jodhpur; aggressive international market programme for North Eastern States and setting up of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology at Bhadhoi etc.

(c) The country-wise value of handicrafts including carpets & floor covering exported during the last two years and foreign exchange earned therefrom is as per statement attached.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A target of Rs. 10,470 crores has been fixed for the current financial year i.e. 2002-03 for export of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpet and floor covering.

(f) State-wise export data is not maintained. However, the schemes to promote export of handicrafts and hand-knotted carpets in the country including the State of Rajasthan include: organization of buyer-seller's meet; overseas publicity; organization of workshops on design

developments, export marketing and packaging etc.; participation in various international fairs; sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad; organization of Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fairs (Autumn and Spring) and Indian Carpet Expo by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts and Carpet Export Promotion council respectively, annually in New Delhi and setting up of India Exposition mart at Greater NOIDA etc.

Statement

Country-wise exports of Handicrafts including hand knotted carpets during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

		(US \$ in Million)	
S. No.	Name of the Country	2000-2001 @ 45.2143	2001-2002 @ 47.3900
1.	Australia	31.27	26.91
2.	Canada	61.30	56.07
3.	France	85.96	78.06
4.	Germany	289.25	280.86
5.	Italy	83.24	58.05
6.	Japan	68.60	61.49
7.	Netherland	47.97	43.15
8.	Switzerland	28.70	34.84
9.	U.S.A.	700.48	672.11
10.	U.K.	196.73	185.13
11.	Other countries	456.84	445.87
Total		2050.34	1942.54

[English]

Chairman of Public Sector Banks

2514. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the posts of Chairman of a number of public sector banks are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the position as on date, bank-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to fill up these posts?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Credit for Self-Employment Programme

2515. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether thousands of applications for providing credit assistance for self-employment programme in the rural areas are pending clearance with the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the State-wise number of such applications pending with the nationalized banks particularly in Bihar;

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing these applications; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite clearance of the pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) During the recent Conference of the State Ministers of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Public Works convened by Ministry of Rural Development on 27-28 January 2003, some of the participants raised the issue of delays in sanction, gap between the sanction and disbursal of loans and high rate of rejection of loan proposals by Banks under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).

RBI has reported that during 2001-02 under PMRY, Public Sector Banks received 4,19,771 applications, out of which 2,22,542 applications were sanctioned and 57,218 applications were pending. The rejection rate worked out to 47%. Under SGSY scheme out of 1,56,393 applications received as on September, 2002 (both Self Help Groups and individuals combined) by Public Sector Banks (PSBs), the number of loans sanctioned stood at 81091 and the number of rejected application was 17582, which works out to 11.24%. RBI has further reported that the reporting systems under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) do not generate data relating to details of applications pending or rejected. However, the position with regard to pending applications in PSBs in the State of Bihar under self-employment programmes is given below:

Name of the Scheme	No. of applications pending
Swarnjayanti Gram Swa-rozgar Yojana (As on 31.12.2002)	14979
Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (As on 31.12.2002)	616
Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (As on 31.11.2002)	4958

(c) and (d) Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constantly review, monitor and evaluate the progress under the SGSY scheme. The performance of the Banks in regard to sanction and disbursement under the SGSY is also critically reviewed in different fora such as District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) etc., where besides the representatives of RBI, implementing Banks, representatives from concerned State Govt. Departments participate. In addition, the progress of implementation of the scheme is also reviewed by a Monitoring Cell under the chairmanship of Deputy Governor in RBI. The major factors leading to delays in sanction/disbursement of loans are as follows:

- (i) Non-sponsoring of viable loan applications.
- (ii) Lack of necessary infrastructure and backward/forward linkage such as marketing of produced goods, etc.
- (iii) Delay in submission of required documents and completion of prescribed formalities by borrowers.
- (iv) Delay in allotment of shed, power connection, water supply, etc. and
- (v) Poor recovery position.

However, RBI has been advising Banks periodically for further streamlining the financing and in its recent circular dated 4 July 2002, has advised the Banks to dispose of the pending applications within the prescribed time limit of 15 days to reduce the period between loan sanction and disbursement, ensure greater coordination of work at the block level between bankers and Government functionaries, avoid under financing, ensure participation in block and district level meetings and make all efforts to improve recoveries under the scheme.

Primitive Tribal Groups

2516. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:
DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise and area-wise details of tribal population categorised under primitive tribal groups in the country;

(b) the percentage of tribals belonging to these sections;

(c) whether any survey is being carried out for gathering information regarding their social stature and economic conditions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) A *statement* showing the State-wise population of tribals, categorized under primitive tribal groups is annexed.

(b) As per the 1991 census, the Primitive Tribal Groups constitute 3.56% of the Scheduled Tribes population in the country.

(c) and (d) The State Governments/UT Administrations where Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) reside have been requested to conduct a base line survey which will, inter-alia, include information regarding their social and economic condition.

Statement**State-wise Population of Primitive Tribal Groups as per 1991 census**

S. No.	State/UTs	Name of PTG	Population
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Chenchu	40869
		2. Bodo Gadaba	33127
		3. Gutob Gadaba	
		4. Dongria Khond	66629

1	2	3	4	5
		5. Kuttia Khond		
		6. Kolam		41254
		7. Konda Reddi		76391
		8. Kondasavara		—
		9. Bondo Porja		
		10. Khond Porja]	24154
		11. Parengiperja		
		12. Thoti		3654
		Total		286078
2.	Bihar including Jharkhand	13. Asur		9623
		14. Birhor		8083
		15. Birjia		6191
		16. Hill Kharia		151634
		17. Korwa		24871
		18. Mal Paharia		86790
		19. Parhalya		30421
		20. Sauria Paharia		48761
		21. Savar		4264
		Total		370638
3.	Gujarat	22. Kolgha		82679
		23. Kathodi		4773
		24. Kotwalia		19569
		25. Padhar		15896
		26. Siddi		6336
		Total		129253
4.	Karnataka	27. Jenu Kuruba		29371
		28. Koraga		16322
		Total		45693
5.	Kerala	29. Cholanaiyakan		—
		30. Kadar		2021
		31. Kattunayakan		12155
		32. Koraga		1651

1	2	3	4	5
		33.	Kurumba	1820
			Total	17647
6.	Madhya Pradesh including Chhattisgarh	34.	Abujh Maria	—
		35.	Baiga	317549
		36.	Bharia	—
		37.	Birhor	2206
		38.	Hill Korwa	—
		39.	Kamar	20565
		40.	Sahariya	332748
			Total	673068
7.	Maharashtra	41.	Katkari/Kathodi	202203
		42.	Kolam	147843
		43.	Maria Gond	—
			Total	350046
8.	Manipur	44.	Maram Naga	9592
9.	Orissa	45.	Chuktia Bhunjia	—
		46.	Birhor	825
		47.	Bondo	7315
		48.	Didayi	5471
		49.	Dongria-Khond	—
		50.	Juang	35665
		51.	Kharia	—
		52.	Kutia Khond	—
		53.	Lanjia Saura	—
		54.	Lodha	7458
		55.	Mankirdia	1491
		56.	Paudi Bhuyan	—
		57.	Saura	—
			Total	58225
10.	Rajasthan	58.	Seharia	59810
11.	Tamil Nadu	59.	Irular	138827
		60.	Kattunayakan	42761

1	2	3	4	5
		61.	Kota	752
		62.	Kurumba	4768
		63.	Paniyan	7124
		64.	Toda	1100
			Total	195332
12.	Tripura	65.	Riang	111606
13.	Uttar Pradesh including Uttaranchal	66.	Buksa	34621
		67.	Raji	1728
			Total	36349
14.	West Bengal	68.	Birhor	855
		69.	Lodha	68095
		70.	Toto	—
			Total	68950
15.	A & N Islands	71.	Great Andamanese	32
		72.	Jarawa	89
		73.	Onge	101
		74.	Sentinelese	24
		75.	Shompen	131
			Total	377
		All India	Grand Total	2412664

Source: Census of India, 1991.

Sarvapriya Scheme

2517. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the States where the 'Sarvapriya' schemes has been launched and since when;

(b) the allocation of funds made to those States under this centrally sponsored scheme during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the scheme has not been launched in every State; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government of India had launched a scheme entitled 'Sarvpriya' in July 2000. The scheme envisages distribution of eleven selected commodities of daily use to be distributed to the consumers through the existing PDS Retail Outlets and the Retail Outlets of the State Consumers' Cooperative Federations, State Civil Supplies Corporations and the Consumer Cooperative Societies in the State. Initially, the States of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura and Pondicherry participated in the scheme. At present, only the following three States are operating the scheme, namely Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

(c) The scheme is a voluntary one and involves no subsidy. As such, no State-wise allocations of funds are required to be made.

(d) According to the NCCF, the reasons for the Scheme not picking up are:—

- (i) Some States have their own schemes for supply of essential commodities;
- (ii) Reluctance on the part of the State agencies/ State Governments to involve their funds;
- (iii) Fair price shops are not showing interest in the lifting of the stocks due to shrinkage in the clientele on reduction in the number of card holders eligible for drawal of sugar and food grains.

The NCCF has however agreed to include more items of common use to the eleven identified items, provided the State Governments/State agencies agree to place orders for adequate volume. The State Governments have also been requested to dovetail their own schemes and utilize the facilities provided under the Sarvpriya Scheme.

[*Translation*]

Obsolete Technology in Textile Industry

2518. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile industry is facing the problem of obsolete technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Research and Development work is being done with a view to replace the obsolete technology with a modern one;

(d) if so, the details of the schemes being formulated in this regard; and

(e) the name of countries visited by the Minister and officials in this regard alongwith the total expenditure incurred thereon during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOURA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Textile Industry, being one of the oldest industries, suffers from technological obsolescence in most of its segments. However, it is more pronounced in weaving and processing segments.

(c) and (d) In order to facilitate modernization/ technology upgradation of textile mills, Government has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textile and Jute Industries, w.e.f. 1.4.1999 for a period of 5 years, i.e. up to 31st March 2004. The main feature of this Scheme is that it provides a reimbursement of 5% point on the interest charged by the leading agency on a project of technology upgradation in conformity with this scheme. There is no cap on funding under this scheme. With effect from 1st January 2002, an option has been provided to the Small Scale Textile and Jute Industries to avail of either 12 percent Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS-TUFS) or 5 percent interest reimbursement under TUFS. As on 31.12.2002, 2023 applications have been received under the scheme with a project cost of Rs. 15810 crore and a loan requirement of Rs. 9095 crore. 1982 applications have been sanctioned a loan amount of Rs. 6101 crore. Rs. 4203 crore have been disbursed in respect of 1430 applications. The project cost in respect of sanctioned and disbursed cases are Rs. 12384 crore and Rs. 10340 crore respectively.

(e) Taking into account the response of the industry to the above mentioned scheme of modernization, no foreign visits for Minister or officials for the purpose of modernisation of textile industry have so far been done in last two years.

Development of Tribal Areas

2519. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in regard to development of tribal areas in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government are satisfied with the progress made so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements various programmes/schemes for the development of Scheduled Tribes in Rajasthan. The details of funds released to the Government of Rajasthan under the

various programmes/schemes of this Ministry during the last three years (1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The Union Government are generally satisfied with the progress made.

Statement

The funds released to the Government of Rajasthan under the various programmes/schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the last three years (1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002)

		(Rs. in lakhs)		
S. No.	Name of Scheme	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan	2915.24	2915.24	3649.56
2.	Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution	800.29	1700.00	2550.00
3.	Boys Hostels for Scheduled Tribes	319.20	—	—
4.	Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations working for the welfare of STs	24.49	30.21	28.23
5.	Research & Training	1.70	11.03	4.53
6.	Grants-in-aid to STDCCs for MFP	25.00	—	251.61
7.	Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for development of ST Girls in tribal areas	17.51	19.8	30.58
8.	Post Matric Scholarship for ST students	218.31	529.76	580.29
9.	Upgradation of Merit of ST students	—	—	7.05
10.	Book Bank Scheme for ST students	—	—	6.00

[Translation]

High Court Bench In U.P.

2520. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have studied the "Jaswant Singh Commission Report" for establishing a High Court Bench in Western U.P.;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the commission in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps on the recommendations of this report; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the Government intend to implement recommendations of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) In its report dated 30th April, 1985, the Jaswant Singh Commission inter-alia recommended establishment of a permanent Bench of the Allahabad High Court at Agra and two circuit Benches thereof at Nainital and Dehradun by Parliamentary legislation. The Commission also suggested broad principles and criteria to be followed in assessing the expediency and desirability of setting up a Bench of the High Court away from the principal seat and the factors to be kept in view in selecting the venue of the said Bench.

The setting up of a High Court Bench is considered when a complete proposal is received from the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

No specific, complete proposal has been received in this regard from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The

then Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court in his letter of September 16, 2001 conveyed that he endorsed the consistent views held by his predecessors against creation of any Bench of the Allahabad High Court in Western U.P. He said that with the bifurcation of Uttar Pradesh into two States of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal, several districts of Western U.P. have gone under the territorial jurisdiction of Uttaranchal High Court. Under these circumstances, the (then) Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court found no justification for creation of any Bench of the Allahabad High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh.

Agricultural Credit

2521. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn out a detailed strategy and plan for the RBI/NABARD in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture to achieve the target of Rs. 7,50,000 crores for agricultural credit from commercial banks to be disbursed during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The 10th Five Year Plan document has estimated the credit requirement for agriculture at Rs. 7,36,570 crore of which an amount of Rs. 3,59,701 crore is estimated as production credit and Rs. 3,76,869 crore for investment credit. These projections have been made in respect of flow of credit to agriculture and allied activities by all banks viz. commercial banks, co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) against the background for achieving a 4 per cent growth rate in agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The 10th Plan further emphasizes progressive institutionalization for providing timely and adequate credit support to farmers with particular focus on small/marginal farmers and weaker sections of society to enable them to adopt modern technology and improved practices for increasing agricultural production and productivity.

Several measures have been taken by RBI/NABARD for stepping up of lending for agriculture and allied activities by Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). These steps included:

- (i) Advice to Commercial Banks to step up their direct lending to agriculture so as to achieve the target of 18 per cent of net bank credit;

- (ii) Advice to Public Sector Banks to prepare Special Agriculture Credit Plans (SACP) for increasing credit flow to agriculture;
- (iii) Coverage of all eligible farmers by 31st March, 2004 under the Kisan Credit Card Scheme; and
- (iv) Refinance to Banks at concessional rate of interest to enable them to increase the credit flow to agriculture sector.

New Guidelines for Disposal of Civil Cases

2522. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any discernible improvement in the speedy disposal of Civil cases since the enforcement of new guidelines for disposal of CPC cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the major recommendations of Justice V.S. Malimath Committee constituted to suggest reforms to the Cr. PC; and

(d) the amendments the Government propose to make to take care of increasing number of criminal cases stalled due to witnesses turning hostile in the courts leading to acquittal in most of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No specific assessment has been made on the impact of the amendments to the Civil Procedure Code which were brought into effect from 1.07.2002.

(c) The term of the Committee set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. Justice V.S. Malimath to revamp the Criminal Justice System in the country has been extended to 31.03.2003. The Committee has been asked to submit its Report by that date.

(d) The Law Commission of India in its 178th Report has, inter-alia, recommended insertion of a new section namely 164A after section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 with a view to tackling the problem of witnesses turning hostile. The suggested new Section is as follows:

"164A (1) Any police officer making an investigation into any offence punishable with imprisonment for a period of ten years or more (with or without fine) including an offence which

is punishable with death, shall in the course of such investigation, forward all persons whose evidence is essential for the just decision of the case, to the nearest Magistrate for recording their statements.

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

Excise Duty on Hank Yarn

2523. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government for release of at least Rs. 200 crore for weavers' welfare on the lines that has been released to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra; and

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

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

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Inclusion in ST List

2524. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh has requested the Union Government to include Lavana Caste in the Scheduled Tribes List;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) The Government of Himachal Pradesh has recommended inclusion of the Labana community in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The recommendation has been processed as per the modalities approved for deciding such claims. No time frame can be indicated at this stage, as the inclusion of communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes can only be effected through an Act of Parliament.

[English]

Share of State Governments in Export

2525. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the share of State Governments has been declining on export front;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have recently urged the State Governments to be spectra net on export promotion;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps the Union Government have taken/proposed to take to further boost the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Role of State Government is very critical in promoting exports. Government of India has re-emphasised it by suggesting constitution of State Level Export Promotion Committee (SLEPC) at State level to be headed by the Chief Secretary of the State and consisting of officers of Government of India/State Government. Funds are also being made available to State Government for bridging gaps in infrastructure affecting export from the State.

[Translation]

Export of Textiles

2526. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase textile exports;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step in this direction;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the new Textile Development and Regulation Order, 2001 has helped exports of textiles; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:
(a) to (c) Government have been taking various steps to increase 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 would further encourage modernisation.
- (iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms and other important textile machinery 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 textile products 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.

(d) and (e) The Textile (Development & Regulation) Order, 2001 has made the Government machinery more industry friendly and less obtrusive. The salient features of the new order are as follows:—

- presentation of the material has been simplified making for easier comprehension;
- procedures of filing of Information Memoranda on installation of machines in respect of spinning, knitting and powerloom sectors have been combined into one part;
- provisions for requirement of submitting fees alongwith Information Memorandum have been deleted;
- requirement of an acknowledgment to the Information Memoranda, which lead to unnecessary work and repeated visits to the office of Textile Commissioner have been removed;
- some powers of Textile Commissioner to issue directions have been retained so that he may discharge his responsibility in respect of hank yarn obligation order, reverse twist order, Olive green shade and marking on textiles. It has also been made clear that the Textile Commissioner can now insist on markings on the imported textile articles also;
- keeping in view the inadequacy of regulatory machinery available with the Textile Commissioner, powers of the Textile Commissioner to control production and supply have been diluted by and large. With a view to protecting the industrial units from possible harassment by inspectors, it has been provided that powers of search and seizure would be exercised by an officer not below the rank of Assistance Director.

Though not directly affecting exports of textiles, the new order, by providing a more friendly environment, should provide encouragement to textile manufacturers for exports.

[English]

Small Investors of UTI

2527. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether UTI had some time back assured repurchase of all units at Rs. 12/- and give a dividend of atleast @ 10 per cent in July last year;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also undertaken to meet the shortfall;

(c) if so, the action taken to protect the interest of all small investors in UTI; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Government has assured a repurchase price of Rs. 12/- upto 5000 units of US-64 in May, 2003 and thereafter. UTI did not give any assurance to pay a dividend of atleast 10% in July 2002.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Investors of US-64 will be given an option of five years, tax-free tradable bonds in lieu of cash payments at the time of redemption. Secondary market trading in Units of US-64 has also commenced.

Debt Recovery Tribunals

2528. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Debt Recovery Tribunals at present in operation in the country, State wise;

(b) whether these tribunals have appointed receivers for companies which owe a substantial amount to public sector banks and financial institutions;

(c) if so, the details of such companies which owe more than Rs. 100 crore to public sector banks and financial institutions;

(d) the details of companies for whom Debt Recovery Tribunals have appointed receivers during the last three years; and

(e) the details of companies whose assets have been sold by the receivers appointed by the DRTs and the

total proceeds by the sale of these assets in each case?

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

Sugar in U.P. Godowns

2529. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar lying idle in godowns in Uttar Pradesh without being lifted as on date;

(b) the reasons for the glut in the sugar production in the State;

(c) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government have sought Centre's aid to tackle the sugar glut;

(d) if so, the amount of Central Assistance sought; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to help the State to tackle the glut in sugar production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Balance stock of sugar in the sugar factories in the State of Uttar Pradesh as on 22.01.2003 was about 23.30 lakh M.Ts. Sugar stocks keep on changing as sale/dispatch of sugar for non-levy, levy and exports is a continuous process.

(b) The sugar production in the State of U.P. during the four sugar seasons has been quite high due to good agro-climatic conditions. This has resulted in high level of stocks with the sugar mills of the State.

(c) to (e) On the request of the State of U.P., the Central Government has released a quantity of 55000 M.Ts. of advance non-levy sugar in the month of December, 2002. Further, in order to enable the sugar factories to liquidate their stocks, the following measures have been taken:

(i) The sugar factories have been provided temporary relief by way of permitting them to sell equivalent quantity of unlifted levy sugar stocks as non-levy sugar in the open market.

- (ii) Advance releases of non-levy sugar have been made to needy sugar mills to enable them to clear the cane price dues of the farmers and to reduce their stocks.
- (iii) The quantitative ceiling on export of sugar has been removed.
- (iv) The Sugar Development Fund (SDF) Act, 1982 and the SDF Rules 1983 have been amended, enabling reimbursement of the internal transport costs and neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage on export shipments of sugar.

Incentive to Powerloom Sector

2530. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intend to launch capital incentive as a special scheme in the powerloom sector for new automatic and semi automatic looms in order to satisfy the benchmark laid under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme keeping in view the interests of the industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) In order to provide incentive for modernization, w.e.f. January 1, 2002, Government has provided the option to the small scale textile and jute industry including powerloom sector to avail 12% capital credit linked subsidy in lieu of reimbursement of 5% interest on the loans availed for the projects of bench marked technology upgradation under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS). In order to further encourage powerloom sector in upgradation, a capital incentive bench marked to technology and not necessarily linked to credit has been mooted. However, a decision has not been taken.

[*Translation*]

Bureau of Indian Standards

2531. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) takes a long time to issue ISI mark to any product;

(b) if so, whether the Government have given directions to the Bureau of Indian Standards to expedite its process of issuing licences; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The existing time norms for grant of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) licence is 120 days. After an application is received from a manufacturer, the licence to use BIS Standard Mark is granted by BIS after satisfying itself that the applicant, inter alia, has the requisite manufacturing and testing facilities and capabilities to ensure that the product, for which BIS licence is sought, will continuously conform to the specifications laid down in the relevant Indian Standards. The samples of the product taken up during the preliminary inspection of the manufacturing plant should also pass the test conducted by approved independent laboratory. The delay in the process of granting licence occurs only when the applicant/manufacturers are not able to show compliance to the specifications stipulated in the relevant Indian Standards.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. BIS is endeavouring to reduce the existing time norm of grant of licence from 120 days to 100 days through internal measures including delegations of powers to the Branch Offices of the BIS to grant licence.

[*English*]

Nedungadi Bank

2532. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) whether the Nedungadi Bank has been merged with the Punjab National Bank;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the merged agreement and since when it has become effective;

(c) whether the Government have some proposal for merger of such other banks with Public Sector Banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The scheme of amalgamation of Nedungadi Bank Ltd. (NBL) with Punjab National bank (PNB) came into

effect from 1st February 2003. The terms and conditions of scheme inter-alia include that:—

- (i) The business, properties, assets and liabilities of NBL shall stand transferred to PNB;
 - (ii) All contracts, deeds, bonds, agreements, powers of attorney etc. having effect immediately before the date of amalgamation, shall be effective and may be acted upon as if PNB had been a party thereto or as if it had been issued in favour of NBL;
 - (iii) Any suit, appeal, legal proceedings pending shall not abate, be discontinued or be prejudicially affected but shall be prosecuted and enforced by or against the transferee bank;
 - (iv) The books of NBL shall be closed and balanced and balance sheet prepared at the close of business on the date immediately preceding imposition of moratorium and the balance sheet shall be got audited and certified;
 - (v) PNB shall, in consultation with NBL, value the assets and reckon the liabilities of NBL in the manner prescribed in the Scheme. PNB shall discharge the liabilities of NBL and make payment to the creditors and depositors in the manner specified in the Scheme. As regards payment to depositors, Scheme, inter-alia, provides that in respect of every savings bank account, current account or any other deposit account, including the interest to the extent payable under the scheme, the transferee bank shall open with itself a corresponding and similar account and credit the full amount including interest in respect of each of the accounts;
 - (vi) All the employees of NBL shall continue in service and be deemed to have been appointed in PNB at the same remuneration and on the same terms and conditions of service as were applicable to them before the amalgamation.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

International Credit Cards

2533. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether Government are proposing to relax regulations regarding international credit cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other facilities that would be provided following the relaxation in the said regulations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that relaxation to control regulations for International Credit Cards (ICCs) is an on-going process. As per existing instructions, NRIs/PIOs are permitted to settle Credit Cards due out of FCNR/NRE or NRO accounts in respect of ICCs issued by banks in India. In case the Cards have been issued by banks outside India, their dues can be settled only out of balance held in FCNR/NRE accounts. The residents have been allowed to make payment towards expenses, while on a visit outside India, to the extent of the limit of the Card, prescribed by the Card issuing authority. No separate monetary/item-wise ceiling is imposed by the RBI for use of ICCs under FEMA, 1999.

[English]

Impact of Possible Iraq-US War

2534. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

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

(a) whether CII has made study on possible US-Iraq war and its impact on Indian economy;

(b) if so, the details in this regard with the suggestions and remarks given in study report; and

(c) the response of the Union Government with their strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) In its report on the 'State of the Economy for Quarter ending December 2002', the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has made certain observations on the likely impact of a war in Iraq on the Indian economy. According to the report, the impact would depend on the extent of disruption in oil supplies. In case of limited disruption (restricted only to 2 million barrels of oil produced by Iraq daily), no substantial

increase in oil prices is foreseen. However, in the event of disruptions by a greater extent, the effect on oil prices would depend upon the magnitude of the disruption, and the resulting impact on an economy would depend upon its energy use per dollar of GDP, and inter linkages with the world economy. The report points out that the impact of rising oil prices on prices of primary and manufactured products in India, is likely to be moderate, on account of the deflationary environment worldwide and increased competitive pressures in the domestic economy. The report also mentions that financing higher import bills would not be difficult given India's strong balance of payments. However, the report cautions about some fiscal pressures because of a likely increase in subsidies on petroleum products, and a decline in volume of remittances from expatriate Indians in the Middle East.

(c) The country is well equipped to finance higher import bills in the event of steep escalation of global oil prices. While there may be a temporary setback to Indian exports to the Gulf, overall exports are unlikely to be affected for long. Moreover, even if remittances from the Gulf reduce temporarily, given the observed tendency of a current account surplus in the balance of payments, and the comfortable level of foreign exchange reserves, vulnerability of balance of payments to such changes appears limited in the short run.

[*Translation*]

Fake Stamp Papers

2535. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fake stamp papers are in circulation on the lines of the fake currency notes in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last one year and the value of stamp paper in rupees seized during the said period;

(c) the extent of revenue losses suffered by the country due to these fake stamp papers during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Police and public order are State subjects and the State authorities are expected to maintain information on seizures of fake sample paper.

Collection of revenue through stamp papers being a State subject. No centralised information on the number of cases of fake stamp paper seized is maintained by Government of India.

(d) A Working Group to review the security features of Non-Judicial Stamp Paper (NJSP) was setup by Government of India. The Working Group has submitted its report and has recommended various steps for introduction of security features in the Stamp Paper. It is felt that with the introduction of new security features it will be very difficult for the counterfeiters to counterfeit NJSP.

[*English*]

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

2536. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to set up the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes by bifurcating the National Commission for SCs and STs; and

(b) if so, by when alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Recognising that the problems and issues concerning Scheduled Tribes differ from those of the Scheduled Castes the Government has decided to set up a National Commission for Scheduled Tribes by bifurcating the existing National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A Bill, namely the Constitution (Ninety-Fourth) Amendment, Bill 2002, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20.12.2002, which has been referred to the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare for examination.

[*Translation*]

Facilities to Domestic Investors

2537. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide facilities to the domestic investors at par with the foreign investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of investors likely to be benefited therefrom; and

(d) if not, the other steps taken to protect the interests of domestic investors so that they may compete with the foreign investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India has intimated that vide its circular dated 13th January, 2003, RBI has permitted the following relaxations on investments by corporates, individuals and mutual funds:

(i) Corporates

Listed Indian companies are permitted to invest abroad in companies, (a) listed on a recognised stock exchange and (b) which has the shareholding of at least 10 per cent in an Indian company listed on a recognised stock exchange in India (as on 1st January of the year of the investment). Such investments shall not exceed 25 per cent of the Indian company's net worth, as on the date of latest audited balance sheet.

(ii) Individuals

Resident individuals are permitted to invest in overseas companies indicated at (i) above without any monetary limit.

(iii) Investment by Mutual Funds

At present, Mutual Funds are permitted to invest in ADRs/GDRs of the Indian companies and rated debt instruments, within an overall cap of USD 500 million. It has now been decided to permit Mutual funds to also invest in equity of overseas companies indicated at (i) above. It has also been decided to enhance the overall cap to USD 1 billion.

(d) In view of above, does not arise.

[English]

Currency Verification and Procession System

2538. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to install Currency Verification and Processing System (CVPS) in 18 cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which this new system is likely to help the public; and

(d) the steps taken by RBI to improve currency handling in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has installed 48 Currency Verification and Processing Systems (CVPS) in its 18 issue offices at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Belapur (Navi Mumbai), Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kanpur, Kolkata, Nagpur, New Delhi, Mumbai, Patna and Thiruvananthapuram.

(c) The new system which performs the operations of counting, examining and sorting the notes into issueables, non-issueables, suspect and reject and simultaneously shreds the non-issueable notes into small bits are very useful for increasing the note processing capacity of the RBI offices. This will help the RBI to withdraw soiled notes from circulation on an ongoing basis and make available fresh/clean/good notes to the public.

(d) For improving the currency handling in the country RBI has taken several steps which include installation of high speed CVPS in its 18 issue offices to speed up the disposal of soiled notes, advising all banks for installation of ultraviolet lamps for detection of counterfeit notes, asking banks to discontinue the practice of stapling note packets, providing note counting machines and table top note sorting machines initially at their currency chest branches, providing free exchange facility to the public for soiled and mutilated notes.

Revival of TCOs and BITCO

2539. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study on restructuring/revival of IDBI led TCOs including BITCO was made by IDBI;

(b) if so, the salient findings of the study and the measures taken for restructuring of the TCOs;

(c) whether salaries and other statutory payments like P.F. remained unpaid for long to the employees of BITCO;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to clear their dues;

(e) whether restructuring of IDBI by granting financial packages is contemplated; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) had appointed the Moores Rowland consulting Pvt. Ltd. (MRCL) to carry out an independent study on the viability of five IDBI-led Technical Consultancy Organisations (TCOs) including BITCO.

(b) As reported by IDBI, the salient findings of the study pertaining to Bihar Industrial & Technical Consultancy Organisation (BITCO), Jammu & Kashmir Industrial & Technical Consultancy Organisation (J&KITCO), North Eastern Industrial & Technical Consultancy Organisation (NEITCO), Orissa Industrial & Technical Consultancy Organisation (ORITCO) and North East Consultancy Organisation (NECON) are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) IDBI alongwith other institutions is a shareholder of TCOs including BITCO and the day-to-day administration and other staff matters including payment of salaries and PF dues is the sole responsibility of each individual TCO.

(e) Government is contemplating to repeal the IDBI Act, 1964 and convert IDBI into a company under the Companies Act, 1956. Accordingly, Government has decided to corporatise Industrial Development Bank of India and grant it a banking licence. A Bill, Industrial Development Bank (Transfer of undertaking and Repeal) Bill 2002, has been introduced in December, 2002 in Lok Sabha. The Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Finance for examination.

(f) At the time of introduction of the Bill, it was recognized that the liability developing on the IDBI in terms of the differential rate of interest between its earlier borrowings and the current borrowings would need to be separately addressed by Government. Accordingly, in meetings of all stakeholders of IDBI, it has been decided that IDBI would service the interest on its existing borrowings as on the appointed day at 8% and the balance, viz, the amount representing the difference between the contracted rate and 8% would be paid by the Government each year. A provision of Rs. 773.00 crore has been made for this purpose in the Union Budget, 2003-04.

Statement

The summarized findings of the study pertaining to these TCOs are as under:

1. BITCO

Bihar Industrial & Technical Consultancy Organisation (BITCO), situated in one of the more industrially backward States, has been showing a declining trend in performance over the years leading to a serious deterioration in its financial position. It has been facing serious employees problems, including suits filed by the staff against the TCO and vice-versa. It has excess staff with low productivity levels and morale. BITCO also has large outstanding liabilities against extremely meager assets. Some creditors have initiated legal action against the TCO. The internal and external factors impacting its operations indicate that it would be difficult for it to achieve the sustained viability in the future. MRCL has categorized BITCO as a non-viable TCO and stated that it might be closed down since, despite repeated assistance provided by its sponsoring institutions. BITCO had not been able to establish its viability. As MRCL concluded that BITCO's sustained viability was in doubt, it was decided by IDBI to disassociate itself from BITCO.

2. J&KITCO

Jammu & Kashmir Industrial & Technical Consultancy Organisation (J&KITCO) has been adversely impacted by external as well as internal factors. The TCO has a negative net worth and sizeable outstanding liabilities, which are far in excess of its assets. Legal notice has been served on the TCO by a creditor. These inimical factors would make it difficult for the TCO to achieve viable operating levels on a sustained basis. Closure seems to be the only available option for J&KITCO.

3. NEITCO

North Eastern Industrial & Technical Consultancy Organisation (NEITCO) has been facing serious financial problems including scarcity of working capital and severe competition from larger private consultant besides the problem of excess staff with low productivity. In case its creditors agree on a consensus to waive about 80% of their dues, it might be possible for NEITCO to repay the balance out of its future operations over the next five years and be a viable TCO. However, in the absence of the requisite accommodation from its creditors, its closure would be the only available option.

4. ORITCO

Orissa Industrial & Technical Consultancy Organisation (ORITCO) has eroded its net worth and has built up large outstanding liabilities, which are far in excess of its assets. SBI has proceeded to recover its assistance through the Debt Recovery Tribunal. The inimical external and internal factors are likely to adversely impact ORITCO's operations in future. Therefore, for ORITCO too, closure seems to be the only considered option.

5. NECON

North East Consultancy Organisation (NECON) was able to generate profits in the past and consequently has a positive net worth together with investment of Rs. 20 lakh in bonds. It has built up a young and enthusiastic team of professionals who have pro-actively undertaken business development activities to cater to the varied requirements of its clients. This has generated considerable goodwill. NECON, therefore, appears to have reasonable future prospects and may not need any

substantial infusion of funds from external sources. NECON, therefore, has a potential for revival.

World Bank Assistance to Kerala

2540. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any project proposal under the financial assistance of World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance given by the World Bank during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Three project proposals have been received from the Government of Kerala during the last two years the details of which are as under:

Name of the project	Date of signing/ closing	Assistance Amount (in US \$ million)
Kerala Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	4.01.01/ 31.12.06	65.5
Kerala State Transport Project	6.5.02/ 31.12.07	255.0
Kerala State Health System Development Project	The project was received in DEA in Dec. 2002. The project is currently being processed.	162.0 (proposed)

Setting up of New High Court Benches

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

2541. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) At present there are 21 High Courts in the Country.

(a) the number of High Courts in the country;

(b) the number of pending cases, High Court-wise;

(b) The number of pending cases High Court-wise is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the High Court Benches;

(c) to (e) The setting up of a Bench of a High Court away from its principal seat is considered on the receipt of a complete proposal from the concerned State Government with the consent of the Chief Justice of that High Court.

(d) if so, the details of the location identified for the purpose in each State; and

The Government has received complete proposals for setting up Benches of the Madras High Court and the Calcutta High Court respectively. Accordingly, it is proposed to establish a Bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai and a Bench of the Calcutta High Court at

Jalpaiguri, after infrastructural facilities like court buildings, accommodation for Judges etc. are provided by the respective State Governments to the satisfaction of the High Court. Since the proposals involve Parliamentary legislation, it is not feasible to indicate a time frame in this regard.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the High Court	Pendency of cases		As on
		Criminal	Civil	
1.	Allahabad	149587	760054	31/3/2002
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10863	152649	31/3/2002
3.	Bombay	27936	265344	30/9/2001
4.	Calcutta	36433	190697	31/3/2002
5.	Delhi	17718	73414	31/12/2000
6.	Gauhati	5629	39413	31/12/2000
7.	Gujarat	19526	120041	31/12/2000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4037	13910	31/3/2002
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1740	31625	31/3/2002
10.	Karnataka	7417	87819	31/3/2002
11.	Kerala	17107	393972	31/3/2002
12.	Madhya Pradesh	48121	84530	31/3/2002
13.	Madras	33258	314562	31/12/2001
14.	Orissa	10598	137168	31/3/2002
15.	Patna	17297	63942	31/3/2002
16.	Punjab & Haryana	44487	188288	31/3/2002
17.	Rajasthan	27718	110406	31/12/2001
18.	Sikkim	20	102	31/3/2002
19.	Uttaranchal	5365	25479	31/8/2002
20.	Jharkhand	5437	9028	31/12/2001
21.	Chhattisgarh	16948	22690	31/10/2002
Total		488130	3062443	

Closure of Adoni Cotton Mills

2542. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Adoni Cotton mills, a unit of NTC situated in the backward Rayalseema Region of Andhra Pradesh, has been closed down owing to serious administrative and financial problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any appeal from the Employees Association has been received for its revival in view of interests of the employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) As per the revival scheme approved by BIFR, the Adoni Mills, a unit of NTC (APKKM) was found to be unviable. The mill has been closed under ID Act after obtaining permission of the Competent Authority and the employees of the unit have been paid under Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(c) and (d) Neither an appeal has been filed by the Employees Association against the orders of BIFR nor any representation has been received by the Government for revival of the mills.

(e) Does not arise.

World Bank Loan

2543. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of objection made by HRD Ministry regarding various finance loans made available by World Bank to India with stringent conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present outstanding loan payable to World Bank along with interest thereon;

(d) whether the internal domestic finance is cheaper than external loan;

(e) if so, whether the Government instructed various Ministries for swapping the external loan at cheaper rate; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The agreements with the external funding agencies reflect mutually acceptable

programme and project conditions. Therefore, the question of any 'stringent or unacceptable' condition in the ongoing loans does not arise.

The World Bank loans are approved and signed by the Government after due inter-ministerial consultations.

(c) The present outstanding loans payable to World Bank is US \$ 25 billion. The loans from International Development Agency (IDA) carry a service charge @ 0.75% per annum. The loans from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) carry variable interest rates. For Currency Pool Loans, current interest rate is 4.87%. For Single Currency Loans, the current rate is 1.55% (pre- 31.7.1998 loans) and 1.79% for subsequent loans.

(d) It would depend on terms and conditions of the external loan, domestic interest rates and exchange rate variations over entire tenor of the loan.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Declaration of SEZs As Sea Ports

2544. SHRI K. YERANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to encourage trade from Special Economic Zones, the Government have declared all such zones as sea ports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) It has been decided to notify specified area within the Special Economic Zones as Inland Container Depot or Container Freight Station. This would, simplify the procedure for import and export by units in Special Economic Zones, on the lines of those being followed in ports.

Impact of US-Iraq War on Trade Balance

2545. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether US belligerent war mongering attitude against Iraq has caused the rise in international oil prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this is bound to put India a further burden on the negative balance of trade; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) International prices of oil have increased recently inter-alia due to rising tension between US and Iraq. A statement of the prices of Indian basket of crude oil in the international market from February 2002 onwards is Annexed. The increase in oil prices will have adverse effect on our balance of trade. The total oil imports (April-January 2003) are US \$ 14349.86 million out of total imports of US \$ 49337.44 million i.e. 29% of total imports and the percentage growth over last year is 22.02%. Government is monitoring the situation on a continuous basis.

Statement

International Prices

Crude Oil

Month	(Indian Basket)
	Value (in \$/bbl)
February 2002	19.54
March 2002	23.30
April 2002	25.02
May 2002	24.99
June 2002	24.05
July 2002	25.17
August 2002	25.84
September 2002	27.84
October 2002	26.89
November 2002	23.68
December 2002	27.08
January 2003	29.56
February 2003 (1st-27th February, 03)	31.23

Payment to Orissa Farmers by FCI

2546. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing exploitation of farmers in Orissa by the rice mill owners;

(b) whether there has also been inordinate delay in the payment by FCI on foodgrains procured from the farmers in Orissa;

(c) whether these acts of mill owners and FCI have led to distress sale in the State; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the FCI authorities by early settlement of dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) No reports of either distress sale of paddy conforming to FAQ specifications or exploitation of farmers by rice mill owners in Orissa have been received during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2002-2003. As on 4.3.2003, a quantity of 3.24 lakh MT of levy rice has been procured by the FCI in the State. There has been no delay in release of payments by the FCI. With a view to ensuring that the benefits of MSP and special drought relief price are passed on to the farmers, instructions have been issued by Government on 23.12.2002 that the FCI shall accept delivery of levy rice in respect of areas where the State Government is having effective MSP operations and there are no reports of distress sale of FAQ paddy below MSP provided the District Collector in respect of the concerned District gives a certificate to the FCI authorities to this effect. In cases where there is no documentation to specify that the millers have paid the special drought relief price to the farmers, a second levy rice price, by deducting the special drought relief price of Rs. 20/- per quintal of equivalent paddy, has been notified.

Revamping RBI

2547. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning for restructuring and revamping the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a Committee has been set up to examine the inherent weaknesses noticed in the Reserve Bank of India's failure to detect at early stages the various scams involving the banking sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

(c) No, Sir.

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

Absorption of VI Batch of GIC Vocational Course

2548. DR. BEATRIX D' SOUZA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7373 dated May 12, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the VI and onward Batches of General Insurance Corporation vocational course are being absorbed as per the Government's assurance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to allot 25% of vacancies to the vocationally trained students having requisite qualification for Assistance Administrative Officers in order to utilize the imparted trainees to the optimum level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Sugar Quota for Punjab

2549. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of Punjab is not being supplied full quota of free sale sugar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the monthly entitlement of free sale sugar and actual supply during the year 2002; and

(d) when the free quota of sugar for Punjab is likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) There are no restrictions on movement of sugar in the country and there are no State-wise quotas. Sugar mills are free to sell their non-levy quotas anywhere in the country.

[Translation]

Online Banking in Bihar

2550. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether nationalised banks have connected their branches in important cities of Bihar through online banking network;

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

(c) the number of cities where banks have been connected/yet to be connected through network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that information relating to connectivity of bank branches in Bihar except Patna is not being collected by them. The position in respect of networking in Patna by public sector banks as on 31.12.2002 is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The consolidated position of networking of branches of public sector banks in 21 commercial centres in India as on 31.12.2002 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Status of networking in Patna by public sector banks as on 31.12.2002

S. No.	Name of the Bank	Total number of branches	Branches identified/planned for networking	Number of branches networked
1	2	3	4	5
1.	State Bank of India	51	33	30
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	4	4	—

1	2	3	4	5
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	—	—	—
4.	State Bank of Indore	—	—	—
5.	State Bank of Mysore	—	—	—
6.	State Bank of Patiala	1	1	1
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	—	—	—
8.	State Bank of Travancore	—	—	—
9.	Allahabad Bank	15	11	9
10.	Andhra Bank	1	1	—
11.	Bank of Baroda	8	—	—
12.	Bank of India	9	9	—
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	1	1	—
14.	Canara Bank	10	10	1
15.	Central Bank of India	18	1	1
16.	Corporation Bank	2	2	2
17.	Dena Bank	1	—	—
18.	Indian Bank	4	—	—
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	2	—	—
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	2	—	—
21.	Punjab National Bank	15	—	—
22.	Punjab and Sind Bank	2	—	—
23.	Syndicate Bank	2	1	—
24.	UCO Bank	4	1	—
25.	Union Bank of India	5	5	—
26.	United Bank of India	7	5	1
27.	Vijaya Bank	3	3	3
Total		167	88	48

Statement II

Position of Networking of Branches of Public Sector Banks in 21 Commercial Centres in India as on 31.12.2002

S. No.	Name of the Centre	Total No. of branches	No. of branches computerised		No. of VSAT installed	Identified/ planned for networking	No. of branches networked	% of branches networked vis-a-vis plan
			Fully	Partially				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Ahmedabad	437	271	133	56	281	168	59.79
2.	Bangalore	661	486	161	79	523	330	63.10
3.	Bhopal	154	106	40	19	95	144	151.58

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4.	Bhubaneshwar	97	59	31	12	76	38	50.00
5.	Kolkata	912	526	302	41	509	339	66.60
6.	Chandigarh	137	100	29	22	89	79	88.76
7.	Chennai	680	581	89	53	483	402	83.23
8.	Guwahati	87	51	28	10	43	11	25.58
9.	Hyderabad	550	399	147	69	435	304	69.89
10.	Jaipur	192	142	45	15	131	39	29.77
11.	Jammu	64	24	23	5	8	16	200.00
12.	Kanpur	271	104	98	9	64	23	35.94
13.	Kochi	122	79	29	17	63	130	206.35
14.	Lucknow	222	141	72	25	134	59	44.03
15.	Mumbai	1200	987	201	99	856	724	84.58
16.	Nagpur	152	101	44	18	116	45	38.79
17.	Delhi	1304	856	389	118	751	617	82.16
18.	Panaji	51	31	14	11	35	13	37.14
19.	Patna	167	102	41	17	88	48	54.55
20.	Pune	279	213	55	18	190	115	60.53
21.	Trivanthapuram	122	88	23	15	52	38	73.08
Total		7850	5439	1991	689	5022	3682	73.32

[English]

Stagnation of Handloom Textiles

2551. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large quantum of handloom textiles have stagnated due to lack of sufficient marketing facilities in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether the families depending upon this industry are facing unprecedented pecuniary situation; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to ameliorate the sufferings of these people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:
(a) No, Sir. However, the Government of Tamil Nadu

has informed that due to a recession in the textile market, there had been an accumulation of handloom goods in the State. The Government of Tamil Nadu has reported that the Weavers' Cooperative Societies and the Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society Ltd. (COOPTEx) have liquidated the handloom stock to a large extent and the stock of Rs. 452.75 crore on 1.4.2002 has been brought down to Rs. 271.90 crore by 31.1.2003.

(b) No such report has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

Unscrupulous Promoters in Stock Exchanges

2552. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI proposes to restrict the unscrupulous promoters from accessing capital market;

(b) if so, the criteria proposed to be adopted by SEBI for debarring bad promoters from the market; and

(c) the procedure that SEBI has for vetting prospects filed by the promoters for raising money from the capital market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been empowered to prohibit issue of securities by a company through prospectus through the SEBI (Amendment) Act 2002. SEBI is to frame the modalities for exercising the said authority which, inter alia, may include the criteria for prohibiting issue procedure and redressal mechanism for an aggrieved party.

(c) As of now, SEBI does not vet any prospectus. It works on the principle of full and fair disclosure so as to ensure an investor can take an informed investment decision. Whenever, an issuer company files any draft prospectus to SEBI through a registered Merchant Banker called Lead Manager, SEBI reviews the prospectus in light of SEBI (DIP) Guidelines, 2000; Companies Act, 1956 and all other applicable Law/Act/Rules/Regulations and give its observations/suggestions on the draft prospectus. The Lead manager is required to address those observations/suggestions prior to filing the final prospectus to Registrar of Companies/Stock Exchanges and subsequent accessing the market. In addition to this, SEBI has also stipulated certain eligibility requirement for the companies intending to access the capital market.

Smuggling of Drugs by Foreigners

2553. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Foreigners smuggling drugs has customs worried" published in the *Hindustan Times* dated 5 February, 2003;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government are considering to review immunity available to diplomats involved in smuggling; and

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

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

(b) A Nigerian national named Chienedue Harrison departing by an Ethiopian Airline flight at IGI Airport, New Delhi on 31.1.2003 was intercepted, and search of his baggage resulted in the recovery of 1090 Gms. of heroin found concealed in the lining of his suitcase. Earlier on 27.1.2003 another Nigerian national, Olayanki Suleiman Habib arriving from Nigeria by an Ethiopian Airline flight was intercepted and search of his baggage resulted in the recovery of about 500 Gms. of Cocaine. Both passengers were arrested.

(c) The Department is keeping vigil on the suspects and surveillance in respect of sensitive flights has been stepped up.

(d) and (e) In accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, it is the duty of all diplomats enjoying such privileges and immunities to respect the laws & regulations of the receiving state. The immunity under Article 37 may be waived by the sending states on the request of the receiving state. Whenever there are cases where diplomats are found to be abusing diplomatic privileges/facilities, the missions concerned are advised to waive the immunity/withdraw the diplomat in question.

Muslim Personal Law

2554. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the constitution of Indian Muslim Personal Law Board;

(b) whether it has a legislative backing or it can be called a representative body of the Indian Muslims;

(c) whether the Muslim Personal Law Board brought out any suggestions for changes in the Muslim Personal Law to bring it in line with the changes brought out by Pakistan and Bangladesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As per the information gathered from publications of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, it was set up in 1972 at a grand *Shariat* Convention held at Bombay, and consists of 201 members.

(b) The Board does not have any legislative backing. It, however, claims to be a representative body of the Muslims of India working for the protection of Islamic law as in force in India under the banner of the 'Muslim Personal Law'.

(c) The Government is not aware of any such suggestions brought out by the Board.

(d) Does not arise.

Catalytic Development Programme

2555. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of catalytic development programme;

(b) the funds provided for under the programme since its inception, year-wise alongwith the total allocation made for Tenth Five Year Plan;

	(Rs. Crores)					
Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Total
Outlay	8.26	7.50	11.00	10.40	15.72	52.88

Total allocation for CDP in X Plan is Rs. 173.73 Crores.

(c) and (d) Most of the components under Catalytic Development Scheme propose financial assistance with the subsidy/assistance to be provided to beneficiaries by both CSB and State Government concerned. Catalytic Development Scheme aims to promote adoption of improved technology practices in various activities like host plantation, seed production, rearing of silkworm, reeling and twisting, weaving, printing and dyeing for enhancement of production and productivity and upgradation of quality of silk. A silk of components of Catalytic Development Scheme during X Plan providing subsidy/assistance is at enclosed Statement.

(e) and (f) Some States have prepared a centrally sponsored scheme called Price Incentive for Reeling

(c) whether under the plan, the catalytic development programme would provide subsidies and assistance to farmers and aim to promote adoption of improved technology practices;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Central Silk Board has recommended the introduction of support price for silk; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the State Governments have utilized these funds for improving the silk production, State-wise?

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

(a) and (b) Central Silk Board (CSB) has been implemented Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) for development of Sericulture in collaboration with the State Governments. The programme supports stake holders in operations ranging from food plant cultivation to marketing of products in mulberry, tasar, eri and muga silk. Technology absorption, investment generation, productivity improvement and employment generation form the basic objective of the programme.

An amount of Rs. 52.88 crores has been allocated by CSB under the programme in the IX Plan, as follows:

(Rs. Crores)						
Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Total
Outlay	8.26	7.50	11.00	10.40	15.72	52.88

Cocoons as a short term market intervention measure under which no central assistance has yet been released.

Statement

List of Catalytic Development Schemes Providing Subsidy/Assistance to Farmers during X Plan (2002-07)

Sl. No.	Sub-Component/Activities
1	2
I. Mulberry Sector/Component	
1.	Reimbursement of cost of saplings to DOS (for Bivoltine)
2.	Supply of rearing appliances/farm equipments to farmers:—

- | 1 | 2 |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>(a) Onfarm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists (for general farmers)</p> <p>(b) Supply of rearing appliances/farm equipments to farmers (for bivoltine farmers)</p> |
| 3. | Providing assistance for drip irrigation |
| 4. | Supply of quality disinfecting materials |
| 5. | Assistance to farmers for construction of rearing houses |
| 6. | Crop Insurance support |
| II. Tasar Sector/Component | |
| 1. | Assistance for augmentation/maintenance of systematic tasar/Oak tasar host plantation |
| 2. | Support to private tasar graineurs |
| 3. | Crop Insurance support for Tasar |
| III. Eri Sector/Component | |
| 1. | Augmentation of Eri food plants with training and startup tools |
| IV. Muga sector/component | |
| 1. | Augmentation of Muga food plants |
| 2. | Support to muga private graineurs |
| 3. | Crop Insurance support for Muga |
| V. Post cocoon Sector/Component | |
| 1. | Supply of multiend silk reeling machines |
| 2. | Support to Reeling Units:— |
| | (a) Interest subsidy on Working Capital loan sanctioned by Bank to reeling units |
| | (b) Incentive for production of bivoltine silk on multiend reeling machines |
| 3. | Installation of Common Facility Centres |
| 4. | Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-operative Societies) for upgradation and popularization of improved reeling/spinning devices |

Textile Quota

2556. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA and the European Union have assured India of the phasing out of textile quota by the end of 2004 to facilitate integration into multilateral trade regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which India propose to tackle the problem and raise it during the forthcoming WTO meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) Till December 31, 1994, the exports of textiles to certain developed countries (e.g. US; member countries to EU; Canada) had been governed by bilateral textile agreements entered into between India and these countries under the aegis of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), outside the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). With effect from January 1, 1995, the quantitative restrictions (import quotas) in the bilateral agreements under the MFA, are being governed by the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) contained in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round negotiations of the GATT. Presently, our textiles and clothing items face restraints in USA, European Union and Canada. As per the ATC, the textile quotas would be phased out and textile sector fully integrated into WTO by 1st January 2005.

Export to Africa and Latin America

2557. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made efforts to increase exports to Africa and Latin America;

(b) if so, the result thereof during the last three years;

(c) the proposal mooted in that regard for 2003-04; and

(d) the details of further plan prepared by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) During the last three years, India's exports to Africa have increased to US\$ 2860.84 millions in 2001-

02 from US\$ 1895.93 million in 1999-2000 registering a growth of 50.89%. During the same period, India's exports to Latin America have increased to US\$ 1455.71 Millions in 2001-02 from US\$ 652.46 million in 1999-2000 registering a growth of 123%.

(c) and (d) For the year 2003-04, the Focus Africa programme has been extended to all remaining 11 countries of the Sub-Saharan Africa having India's Diplomatic Missions and to six countries of North Africa namely, Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. The Government has mooted a proposal for extension of Focus Latin America programme expiring on 31.3.2003. Under these Focus Programmes for Latin America and Africa, planned major export promotion activities, inter-alia, include dissemination of information on export potential of products in those countries, sending trade delegations, organisations specialised exhibitions, participation in major fairs/exhibitions and partly subsidising individual exporter's eligible marketing promotional activities and setting up of offices and warehouses in Latin America and Africa.

[Translation]

Licences for Setting up of Industry

2558. SHRI RAM RATI BIND: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Government and private institutions to whom licences were issued during the last three years for setting up various industries in different States, State-wise; and

(b) the industries for the setting up of which licences are issued by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) A statement showing the list of Industrial Licences issued during the last three years (January 2000 to December 2002) is annexed.

(b) This Ministry issues industrial licences to industrial undertakings, falling under the following categories:

- (i) industries reserved for the public sector;
- (ii) industries retained under compulsory licensing;
- (iii) items reserved for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector;
- (iv) if the proposal attracts locational restrictions.

Statement

State-wise list of Industries which have been issued Industrial Licences between January 2000 to December 2002

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of the Company (M/s)	Brief description of item of manufacture
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Vishnu Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.	Barium Carbonate
2.	Andhra Pradesh	IBP Company Ltd. (PSU)	Site Mixed Industrial Explosives
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Transgene Vaccines Limited	Hepatitis B Vaccine
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Bharat Biotech International Ltd.	Urokinase
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Gland Pharma Limited	Drugs Formulations Exclusively Parenterals (injections)
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Bharat Biotech International Ltd.	Recombinant Hepatitis B vaccine
7.	Andhra Pradesh	Suryavanshi Spinning Mills Ltd.	T shirts, Baby's garments, blouses etc.
8.	Andhra Pradesh	Sri Ram Spinning Mills Limited	Cotton yarn

1	2	3	4
9.	Andhra Pradesh	Concept Foods Pvt. Ltd.	Fruit Bars
10.	Andhra Pradesh	Perfect Knitters Limited	Knitted Garments
11.	Andhra Pradesh	Dr. Reddy's Laboratories	Recombinant Proteins etc.
12.	Andhra Pradesh	Ideal Industrial Explosives Ltd.	Slurry Explosives
13.	Andhra Pradesh	Bharat Biotech International Ltd.	Saccharomyces Boulardii
14.	Andhra Pradesh	GTN Textiles Limited	Twisted and Doubled Cotton Yarn
15.	Andhra Pradesh	Dr. Reddy's Laboratories	Diagnostic Kits
16.	Andhra Pradesh	Hartex Rubber Limited	Cycle Tyres
17.	Andhra Pradesh	Sravva Textiles Limited	Cotton Canvas, Tarpaulins etc.
18.	Andhra Pradesh	Suryavanshi Spinning Mills Ltd.	Cotton Yarn, Blended Yarn etc.
19.	Andhra Pradesh	Saint Gobain Vetrotex (India) Ltd.	Fibre Glass and Articles
20.	Andhra Pradesh	IDL Industries Limited	Industrial Explosives
21.	Andhra Pradesh	GTN Textiles Limited	Cotton Yarn
22.	Assam	Solvay Vishnu Barium Pvt. Ltd.	Barium Carbonate
23.	Bihar	Hindustan Lever Limited	Oral/Dental Hygiene products
24.	Gujarat	IDL Industries Limited	Industrial Explosives
25.	Gujarat	Meghmani Organics	Pthalo Cyanine Blue
26.	Gujarat	Nachmo Textiles	Knitted Fabrics
27.	Gujarat	Ashima Dyecot Limited	Readymade Garments
28.	Gujarat	Esjay International Pvt. Ltd.	Readymade Garments
29.	Gujarat	Inducto Therm (India) Limited	Induction Melting Equipments
30.	Gujarat	Search Chem Industries Limited	Caustic Soda
31.	Gujarat	Coronet Products Private Limited	Plastic Products
32.	Gujarat	Vikrant Auto Suspensions	Laminated Leaf Springs
33.	Gujarat	Grasim Industries Limited	Glass Fibres reinforced cement
34.	Haryana	Niraj Industries (P) Ltd.	Surgical Blades
35.	Haryana	Birla VXL Limited	Readymade Garments
36.	Haryana	Twenty First Century Textiles Pvt. Ltd.	Readymade Garments
37.	Haryana	Vinayak Fabrics Pvt. Ltd.	Knitted Fabrics
38.	Haryana	Usha Fabs Pvt. Ltd.	Readymade Garments
39.	Haryana	Orient Clothing Company Pvt. Ltd.	Readymade Garments

1	2	3	4
40.	Haryana	SPL Industries Limited	Knitted Fabrics
41.	Haryana	Gaurav International	Readymade Garments
42.	Haryana	RLF Limited	Readymade Garments
43.	Haryana	K.K. Kohli & Brothers Pvt. Ltd.	Textile Garments
44.	Haryana	Matrix Clothing (P) Ltd.	Readymade Garments
45.	Haryana	Liberty Group (Marketing Division)	Leather Foot wear
46.	Haryana	Shivalik Prints Limited	Readymade Garments
47.	Haryana	Gupta Exim (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Knitted Garments
48.	Haryana	Sage Metals Limited	Electrical wiring accessories etc.
49.	Haryana	Pearl Styles Limited	Readymade Garments
50.	Haryana	Knitt Craft Apparels International	Readymade Garments
51.	Haryana	V&S Texnits Private Limited	Knitting of yarn
52.	Haryana	Kautilya Industries Private Limited	Knitted Fabrics
53.	Haryana	Shyam Tex International Limited	Knitted Fabrics
54.	Haryana	Drish Shoes Limited	Leather Shoes
55.	Haryana	World Wide Leather Exports Ltd.	Leather Shoes
56.	Haryana	Texport Fashions	Knitted Garments
57.	Haryana	Chunnu International	Knitted readymade garments
58.	Haryana	Dhruv Globals Limited	Readymade Garments
59.	Karnataka	Amritsar Swadeshi Woollen Mills	Readymade Garments
60.	Karnataka	The best Sellers	Readymade Garments
61.	Karnataka	K. Mohan & Co. Exports (Regd.)	Readymade Garments
62.	Karnataka	Arvind Products Limited	Readymade Garments
63.	Karnataka	The Arvind Mills Limited	Readymade Garments
64.	Karnataka	Manipal Apparels	Readymade Garments
65.	Karnataka	K. Mohan & Co. Exports	Garments
66.	Karnataka	Keltech Energies Limited	Industrial Explosives
67.	Karnataka	Jagdale Industries Limited	Pharmaceutical Products
68.	Karnataka	K. Mohan & Co. Exports (Regd.)	Garments
69.	Kerala	Kochi Refineries Limited (PSU)	Isobutane
70.	Madhya Pradesh	Bulk Explosives Private Limited	SME/Bulk Explosives

1	2	3	4
71.	Maharashtra	Kirloskar Mcquay Limited	Compressors, Water Chillers etc.
72.	Maharashtra	Economic Explosives Limited	Detonators
73.	Maharashtra	Solar Explosives Limited	Slurry Emulsion Explosives
74.	Maharashtra	Sudarshan Chemical Industries Ltd.	Pigment Blue
75.	Maharashtra	Defiance Clothing Company	Readymade Garments
76.	Maharashtra	Poona Bottling Company Limited	Beverages
77.	Maharashtra	ADF Foods Limited	Pickles etc.
78.	Maharashtra	Greaves Morganite Crucible Ltd.	Graphite Crucibles
79.	Maharashtra	Upasana Silk Mills Pvt. Ltd.	Knitted Fabrics
80.	Maharashtra	Tata SSL Limited	SWG & Thicker Plated/Coated with Zinc Carbon
81.	Maharashtra	Bharat Forge Limited	Steel Forgings
82.	Maharashtra	Fiat India Private Limited	Motor Cars
83.	Maharashtra	Hassia Redatron Packing Machinery Private Limited	Packing Machinery
84.	Maharashtra	Navneet Publications	Exercise Books etc.
85.	Maharashtra	Garware Wall Ropes Limited	Sports Nets
86.	Maharashtra	Bharat Forge Limited	Front Axle Assemblies
87.	Maharashtra	Vulkan Technologies Private Ltd.	High flexible Couplings
88.	Maharashtra	Soma Papers & Industries Limited	Gummed paper for stamps
89.	Maharashtra	Fiat India Private Limited	Motor Cars
90.	Punjab	Freemans Measures Limited	Steel Tapes
91.	Punjab	Vallabh Fabrics Limited	Hosiery Knitted Cloth
92.	Punjab	Vallabh Knits Limited	Hosiery Knitted Cloth
93.	Punjab	Deekay Knitwears	Readymade Garments
94.	Punjab	Oswal Garments	Hosiery Knitwears
95.	Punjab	Punjab Alkalies and Chemiclas Ltd.	Caustic Soda
96.	Punjab	Garg Furnace Limited	Steel Ingots
97.	Punjab	Nahar Spinning Mills Limited	Pullovers etc.
98.	Punjab	Kangaro Industries Limited	Staples in Strips
99.	Punjab	Garg Acrylics Limited	Acrylic Yarn
100.	Punjab	Mangla Cotex Limited	Hosiery Knitted Cloth

1	2	3	4
101.	Punjab	Reda Associates Limited	Non-worsted yarn
102.	Punjab	Nahar Exports Limited	Cotton yarn
103.	Rajasthan	Isuzu Garments (A Unit of Suzuki Textiles Ltd.)	Readymade Garments
104.	Rajasthan	IDL Industries Limited	Bulk Explosives
105.	Tamil Nadu	Aquasub Engineering	Electrical Stampings
106.	Tamil Nadu	Aquasub Engineering	Submersible Motor
107.	Tamil Nadu	Lakshmi Machine Works Limited	Press Tools etc.
108.	Tamil Nadu	TTK Pharma Limited,	Artificial Heart Valves
109.	Tamil Nadu	Sri Ranganathar Valves Pvt. Ltd.	Industrial Valves
110.	Tamil Nadu	Rogni Garments,	Knitted Garments
111.	Tamil Nadu	Celebrity Fashions Private Limited	Readymade Garments
112.	Tamil Nadu	Cotton Candy,	Readymade Garments
113.	Tamil Nadu	India Dyeing Mills Pvt. Ltd.,	Readymade Garments
114.	Tamil Nadu	Eastman Apparels	Readymade Garments
115.	Tamil Nadu	Surana Textiles Mills Pvt. Ltd.,	Polyester Yarn
116.	Tamil Nadu	Sree K.N.M. Spinning Mills Pvt. Ltd.,	Cotton Yarn
117.	Tamil Nadu	Together Textiles Mills,	Garments
118.	Tamil Nadu	Solo Exports	Readymade Garments
119.	Tamil Nadu	Stallion Garments,	Knitted Garments
120.	Tamil Nadu	Sree Kateri Textiles Private Limited	Cotton Yarn
121.	Tamil Nadu	Rajshree Spinning Mills,	Cotton Yarn
122.	Tamil Nadu	Veejay Syntex Pvt. Limited,	Cotton Yarn
123.	Tamil Nadu	D.V.B. Cotton Mills Pvt. Ltd.,	Cotton Yarn
124.	Tamil Nadu	Hindustan Spinners,	Cotton Yarn
125.	Tamil Nadu	Hindustan Textiles,	Cotton Yarn
126.	Tamil Nadu	Balu Exports,	Readymade Garments
127.	Tamil Nadu	DVB Cotton Mills Pvt. Ltd.	Cotton Yarn
128.	Tamil Nadu	Beechin's Creation Pvt. Ltd.,	Cotton Knitted Garments
129.	Tamil Nadu	Veejay Terry Products Ltd.,	Cotton Yarn
130.	Tamil Nadu	K.N.M. Textiles,	Cotton Yarn
131.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai Bottling Co. Ltd.,	Soft Drinks

1	2	3	4
132.	Tamil Nadu	Forward Leather Company,	Leather Shoe Uppers
133.	Tamil Nadu	Bata India Limited,	Leather Foot Wear
134.	Tamil Nadu	Victus Dyeings	Dyeing of Garments
135.	Tamil Nadu	Yellow Jerseys	Hosiery Fabrics
136.	Tamil Nadu	Greaves Limited	Piston Engines
137.	Tamil Nadu	Network Clothing Company	Hosiery Garments
138.	Tamil Nadu	Pandit Hosiery Mills	Readymade Garments
139.	Tamil Nadu	Chemtech Processors	Hosiery Fabrics
140.	Tamil Nadu	Tamarai Mills Limited	Cotton Yarn
141.	Tamil Nadu	Cibi Tex	Hosiery Fabrics
142.	Tamil Nadu	Sri Krishna Textiles	Cotton Yarn
143.	Tamil Nadu	Baseline Garments Private Limited	Hosiery Garments
144.	Tamil Nadu	Statex Mills	Cotton Yarn
145.	Tamil Nadu	Textool Company Limited	Textile Machinery
146.	Tamil Nadu	Veejay Terry Products Ltd.	Cotton Yarn
147.	Tamil Nadu	Lakshmi Narasimha Textiles	Cotton Yarn
148.	Tamil Nadu	Hindustan Textiles 'B' Unit,	Cotton Yarn
149.	Tamil Nadu	Tubeknit Fashion Limited	Hosiery Garments
150.	Tamil Nadu	Fashion Synccotex Private Limited	Manufacture of Knitted Garments
151.	Tamil Nadu	Textool Company Limited	Cotton Yarn
152.	Tamil Nadu	Super Sales Agencies Limited	Cotton Yarn
153.	Tamil Nadu	Rajave Textiles Private Limited	Cotton Yarn
154.	Tamil Nadu	R.K. Textiles	Fabrics
155.	Tamil Nadu	Sree Mangayarkarasi Mills Private Limited	Cotton Yarn
156.	Tamil Nadu	Dinesh Textiles	Cotton Yarn
157.	Tamil Nadu	Loyal Textile Mills Limited	Knitted Fabrics
158.	Tamil Nadu	The Suguna Mills Limited	Cotton Yarn
159.	Tamil Nadu	KNM Mills Private Limited	Garments
160.	Tamil Nadu	Fine Fit Knitting and Company	Knitted hosiery garments
161.	Tamil Nadu	Devi Karunambigai Textile Mills Ltd.	Cotton Yarn
162.	Tamil Nadu	Sri Palani Murugan Enterprises Limited	Cotton Yarn

1	2	3	4
163.	Tamil Nadu	Sri Vasudeva Textiles Limited	Cotton Yarn
164.	Tamil Nadu	Sua Explosives and Accessories Limited	PETN (Explosives) etc.
165.	Tamil Nadu	Ashwinram Spinning Mills Private Ltd.	Cotton Yarn
166.	Tamil Nadu	Shakti Knitting Limited	Knitted Fabrics
167.	Uttar Pradesh	Bellis Hardware Private Limited,	Builder's Hardware
168.	Uttar Pradesh	Injecto Plast Private Limited	Injection Plastic Parts
169.	Uttar Pradesh	Lohia Packaging Machines	Moulding machine
170.	Uttar Pradesh	TCNS Limited,	Readymade Garments
171.	Uttar Pradesh	HOTZ Industries Limited	Readymade Garments
172.	Uttar Pradesh	S.K. Embroidery Pvt. Ltd.	Readymade Garments
173.	Uttar Pradesh	JPC	Readymade Garments
174.	Uttar Pradesh	Dabur India Limited	Hair Oil
175.	Uttar Pradesh	Superhouse Leather Limited	Leather Foot wear
176.	Uttar Pradesh	Mirza Tanners Limited	Leather Shoes
177.	Uttar Pradesh	Superhouse Leather Limited	Leather Shoes
178.	Uttar Pradesh	Superhouse Leather Limited	Leather Garments
179.	Uttar Pradesh	Superhouse Leather Limited	Readymade Garments
180.	Uttar Pradesh	Superhouse Leather Limited	Leather Shoes
181.	Uttar Pradesh	Precise Laboratories Limited	Hair Oil
182.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	To-Day's Writing Products Limited	Ball pen
183.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nufab India Limited	Casual Wear
184.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Hindustan Lever Limited	Oral/Dental Hygiene products
185.	West Bengal	Hindustan Heavy Chemicals Limited	Ferric Alum
186.	West Bengal	Mallcom (India) Ltd.,	Hand Gloves
187.	West Bengal	R G Saga Exports Private Limited	Hackle Pliers etc
188.	West Bengal	Rupa & Co. Limited	Garments
189.	Chhattisgarh	Nav Bharat Explosives Company Private Limited	Explosives
190.	Delhi	Cornell Overseas Limited,	Readymade Garments
191.	Delhi	Knitcraft Overseas,	Readymade Garments
192.	Pondicherry	Kaufmann Leather Works Pvt. Ltd.,	Trunks, Suitcases, etc.
193.	Jharkhand	IBP Company Limited (PSU)	Industrial Explosives

1	2	3	4
194.	Locations in more than one State	Premier Explosives Limited	Industrial Explosives
195.	Locations in more than one State	Delhi Irons & Metal Works Limited	Readymade Garments
196.	Locations in more than one State	Sarla Fashion Garments	Readymade Garments
197.	Locations in more than one State	Indian Explosives Limited	Bulk Explosives
198.	Locations in more than one State	Indian Explosives Limited	Bulk Explosives

PSU: Public Sector undertakings

[English]

Quota of Garlic for Import

2559. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has received a substantial quota of garlic from Ministry of Agriculture for import in July, 2002;

(b) whether the Government instead of importing the garlic quota, allotted the quota to some co-operative societies, which finally sold them in the domestic market at a high premium instead of importing them;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have ordered any inquiry into the matter;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action being taken by the Government to ensure that import quota is not misused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Licences for the import of fresh garlic are issued within the ceiling indicated by Ministry of Agriculture every year. Ministry of Agriculture had recommended import of 15,000 MTs of fresh garlic in July, 2002 through the following four organizations:

Sl. No.	Name	Quantity (MTs)
1.	The Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation	5,000
2.	NCCF	5,000
3.	NAFED	2,500
4.	Karnataka State Cooperative Federation of India Ltd., Bangalore	2,500

Licences were accordingly issued to these organizations for stock and sale purpose. Government does not directly import fresh garlic.

(d) to (f) These import licences are non-transferable. Action can only be taken against a licensee as per the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulations) Act, 1992 for violation of conditions of a licence. No enquiry has been ordered by the Government in this matter.

It may be mentioned that to allow the market forces to operate freely, the item fresh garlic has been brought into free category from the restricted category w.e.f. 17.1.2003. Further, to protect the interest of domestic farmers, the import duty on this item has been raised to 100% from 30% w.e.f. 15.1.2003 i.e. prior to bringing the item in the free category for import. These actions have been taken in consultation with Ministries of Agriculture and Finance.

Seizure of Smuggled Cigarettes

2560. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs Authorities have seized smuggled cigarettes in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the value of the seized cigarettes during each of the last three months, location-wise; and

(c) the details of cigarette brands so seized?

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

(b) and (c) The value & details of cigarette brands seized during each of the last three months, location-wise is as per the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Month	No. of cases of smuggling of cigarettes booked	Location where the seizure(s) effected	Name of the Brand of the cigarettes seized	Value of seized cigarettes (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
November, 2002	1	Cochin	555	—
	1	Vizag City	Marlboro	.009
	10	Sumer Panisagar Aizawl, Pallel	Peacock, Jet Golden, Triangle Far Star, Fine	1.630
	1	Simraha Rly. Stn.	Winner	.015
	2	Mahadipur, Rd.	Gold Leaf/Rider	.610
	1	Hotel Park, Chennai	Cigarettes Nensons & Hedges Marlboro Light Davkhoff	.200
	4	Chennai Rly. Stn. Anna Intl. Airport CSI Airport	555 State Express Filter Benson & Hedges Marlboro Light	.570
	20		Marlboro, 555	2.120
	4	IGI Airport	State Express Dunhill, Mildseven	.670
December, 2002	8	Dawki Numaligarh Aizawl	Peacock, Jet Golden Triangle Fine, Winbody Golden Tiger Sunmoon, Surma	1.280
	5	Bagdal/Indo-Nepal Border/Kolkata	Good Leaf/Shikar/Khukri/Rider	3.770

1	2	3	4	5
	7	Anna Intl. Airport	Benson & Hedges Marlboro	.600
		CSI Airport	555	
	11		Marlboro, 555	.990
		IGI Airport	State Express	
	4		Dunhill Mildseven	.490
January,	1	Vizag Port	Marlboro	.005
2003	12	Pynursia	Peacock, Jet	1.510
		Balat	Golden, Tiger	
		Rangia	Fine, Will	
		Lumding	Gold Tiger, Rainbow,	
		Dimapur	Tiger	
		Moreh Pallel	Gold Leaf	
		Imphal	Nasser Gold	
	2	Ranaghat/Bagda	Rider/Gold King	0.90
	4	Anna Intl. Airport	555 Marlboro	.500
	24	CSI Airport		
			Marlboro, 555	5.070
	1	CFS Mulund	State Express	
			Marlboro, 555	104.770
	1	Pune	State Express	.180
			Marlboro, David Off	
			More, Gudung Garam,	
			Pine Lite King Edward	
	8	IGI Airport	Dunhill/Mildseven	1.170
Total	132			127.764

Construction of Godowns

2561. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether under a Centrally sponsored scheme financial assistance is given to the States for construction of godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the criteria for providing such assistance; and

(c) the State-wise details of assistance provided under this scheme during the last three years and the number of godowns constructed in each State during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b)
The scheme has been discontinued from 01-04-2002.

(c) The required information is given in the *Statement* enclosed.

Statement

Statewise details of Financial Assistance Provided under the "Construction of Godowns" Scheme during the last three years

Financial Year	State/UT	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)	For construction of godowns	Total capacity (in Metric Tonne)
1999-2000	Kerala	207.50	5	10000
	Orissa	1540.38	96	58500
	Uttar Pradesh	668.40	12	24000
2000-2001	Mizoram	83.48	4	2504
	Rajasthan	120.82	7	11400
	Uttar Pradesh	248.40	8	15700
2001-2002	Chhattisgarh	169.94	6	10600
	Gujarat	43.09	5	3000
	Himachal Pradesh	70.78	3	1500
	Kerala	179.75	4	8000
	Madhya Pradesh	274.61	16	21900
	Manipur	56.88	1	1250
	Sikkim	8.05	1	300
	Tripura	35.07	7	500
	Pondicherry	15.06	1	500

Facilities to the Tribals of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2562. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide greater facilities to the tribals of Andaman and Nicobar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the backward population there has been recognized/included in the SC/ST List;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements various schemes/programmes for the welfare and development of tribals in all the States/UTs, including the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. A list of the schemes/

programmes is enclosed as Statement. These Schemes do not provide for any extra facilities to the tribals of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(c) to (e) As per the Constitution (Andaman & Nicobar Islands) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1959, the following communities have been notified as Scheduled Tribes:—

1. Andamanese, Chariar, Chari, Koa, Tabo, Bo, Yere, Kede, Bea, Balawa, Bojigiyab, Juwai, Kol
2. Jarawas
3. Nicobarese
4. Onges
5. Sentinelese
6. Shompens

No Community is specified as a Scheduled Caste in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as per the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union territories) Order, 1951.

Statement

Major Schemes/Programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes

1. Special Central Assistance to the Tribal Sub Plan
2. Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution
3. Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes
4. Boys Hostels of Scheduled Tribes
5. Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas
6. Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs
7. Research & Training
8. Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for Minor Forest Produce
9. Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of ST Girls in Tribal Areas.
10. Vocational training in Tribal Areas
11. Village Grain Bank Scheme
12. Development of Primitive Tribal Groups
13. Post Matric Scholarship for ST Students
14. National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for STs
15. Coaching and Allied Scheme for STs
16. Upgradation of Merit of ST Students
17. Book Bank Scheme for ST Students
18. State Tribal Development Finance Corporation
19. Exchange of Visits by Tribals

New Venues for Trade Fairs

2563. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified some other venues to conduct trade fairs like India International Trade Fair being held regularly at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import Restriction on Drugs

2564. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union Commission (EUC) has proposed to the Government for consultations on the justification for import restrictions on certain drugs under the EXIM Policy;

(b) whether the restrictions imposed by the Government constitute infringement of World Trade Organisation (WTO) in any way;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of the medicines on which the import restrictions have been imposed by the Government;

(e) whether any consultations have been held as requested by the EUC; and

(f) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (f) On 23 December 2002 the European Communities requested consultations with India under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the World Trade Organization regarding import restrictions maintained by India on more than 100 products, including certain medicines, under its Export and Import Policy 2002-2007. The medicines restricted for import include Penicillins and its salts, 6-APA, Rifampicin, 3 Formyl Rifa SV (Rifa int), Rifa S/Rifa S Sodium (Rifa int), 1-Amino-4 methyl piperazine, medicaments containing penicillin or derivatives thereof.

These import restrictions are maintained by India under Articles XX and XXI of GATT 1994. Subject to certain conditions, restrictions under Article XX of GATT 1994 are normally permitted for certain purposes including (i) protecting public morals; (ii) protecting human, animal, plant life or health; (iii) relating to importation or exportation of gold or silver; (iv) for securing compliance with domestic laws or regulations; (v) for protection of national treasures of artistic, historic or archaeological value; and (vi) for conservation of exhaustible natural resources etc. Import restrictions under Article XXI of GATT 1994 are permitted for protection of essential security interests.

India and the European Communities have held consultations in this case on 17th February 2003 under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the WTO during which certain clarifications on these import restrictions sought by the EC were provided by India.

[Translation]

Revenue from States

2565. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of revenue collected from States through direct and indirect taxes during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the share given to States during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) State-wise collection of direct taxes revenue during the last three years is enclosed as Statement-I.

Data on State-wise collection of duties from central excise duty are not maintained. Details of revenue collected from the Central Excise Commissionerates covering the States, during the last three years, are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

It is not possible to attribute the collection of revenue from customs duty to individual States.

(b) Statement-III showing the share of Direct & indirect taxes and duties released to each State during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement I

State-wise Collection of Direct Taxes during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	States	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1807.74	2481.07	2584.13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.08	5.01	2.84
3.	Assam	360.52	681.13	508.70
4.	Bihar	439.64	606.32	348.31

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	591.20
6.	Goa	146.57	208.72	180.27
7.	Gujarat	2388.77	2714.28	2640.99
8.	Haryana	409.47	569.48	712.77
9.	Himachal Pradesh	122.72	203.99	160.00
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	400.10
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	112.82	162.80	215.90
12.	Karnataka	2854.05	3564.97	4027.53
13.	Kerala	857.26	1017.09	1101.92
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1294.24	1630.29	1236.61
15.	Maharashtra	23442.39	26501.28	25745.16
16.	Manipur	4.66	13.43	10.75
17.	Meghalaya	20.21	24.06	44.93
18.	Mizoram	0.47	0.31	0.21
19.	Nagaland	7.59	3.55	4.48
20.	New Delhi	9427.79	10165.74	11141.27
21.	Orissa	705.64	807.88	801.54
22.	Punjab	927.56	1098.28	1051.73
23.	Rajasthan	730.06	766.15	847.79
24.	Sikkim	0.31	1.00	2.87
25.	Tamil Nadu	3747.04	4493.71	4496.53
26.	Tripura	16.25	22.28	26.19
27.	Uttar Pradesh	4028.36	5894.51	1569.56
28.	Uttaranchal	—	—	4000.49
29.	West Bengal	2770.87	3301.11	3386.79

Statement II

Collection of Central Excise Duty from Excise Commissionerates falling within the States during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

Provisional (Rs. crore)

S. No.	States	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4628	5161	5706
2.	Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura & Arunachal Pradesh	1081	1499	1220

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bihar	1159	1126	1254
4.	Jharkhand	1608	1827	1631
5.	Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and the U.T. of Chandigarh	2416	2797	3124
6.	Haryana and the U.T. of Delhi	5250	6117	6363
7.	Goa	521	627	744
8.	Gujarat and the U.Ts. of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	9212	10194	11394
9.	Karnataka	4255	4842	5495
10.	Kerala and U.T. of Lakshadweep	1983	2100	2256
11.	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	2880	3029	2969
12.	Maharashtra	13034	13127	13599
13.	Orissa	812	924	842
14.	Rajasthan	1644	1842	1921
15.	Tamil Nadu & the U.T. of Pondicherry	5749	6749	6728
16.	Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal	5192	5759	6153
17.	West Bengal, Sikkim and the U.T. of the Andaman & Nicobar	2981	3435	3503

Statement III

The Release made to the States for the year 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

(Rs. in crore)

States	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	3343.30	3996.31	4061.50
Arunachal Pradesh	318.08	115.67	113.61

1	2	3	4
Assam	1448.78	1682.93	1705.88
Bihar	4962.59	6937.36	6176.67
Chhattisgarh	—	509.94	1271.15
Goa	95.92	105.34	107.82
Gujarat	1665.04	1587.80	1503.53
Haryana	525.27	563.35	503.13
Himachal Pradesh	819.45	330.54	325.07
Jammu & Kashmir	1326.24	619.31	609.60
Jharkhand	—	579.26	1603.19
Karnataka	2132.78	2573.83	2623.40
Kerala	1535.22	1594.13	1614.26
Madhya Pradesh	3261.64	4075.31	3439.30
Maharashtra	2608.66	2796.51	2468.75
Manipur	387.80	177.56	176.04
Meghalaya	341.76	166.46	164.83
Mizoram	325.04	91.23	88.04
Nagaland	526.04	96.78	90.80
New Delhi	295.55	330.00	325.00
Orissa	1777.10	2603.97	2638.61
Punjab	638.59	725.98	611.32
Rajasthan	2184.82	2836.61	2882.36
Sikkim	125.71	90.69	91.04
Tamil Nadu	2667.00	2852.45	2870.07
Tripura	529.55	236.32	233.63
Uttar Pradesh	6978.71	10104.17	10199.58
Uttaranchal	—	132.90	352.29
West Bengal	2984.41	4235.59	4318.72

Scheme for Nutritious Food

2566. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are implementing several schemes to supply nutritious food the needy poor;

(b) if so, the States identified for these schemes;

(c) whether in view of the large number of schemes where Government propose to integrate these schemes and implement a single scheme; 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) No scheme is being implemented to supply nutritious food.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

[English]

Offtake of Foodgrains

2567. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether offtake of foodgrains from the Central pool during the current year has increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the offtake of foodgrains during the last three years. State-wise?

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

(b) The Government have taken a series of steps for the purpose.

(c) The offtake of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during the last three years viz. 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

TPDS Offtake from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

(Figures in Lakh Tonnes)

S. No.	States/UTs	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 (upto Jan., 03)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19.86	17.35	16.81
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.31	0.51	0.64

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	3.80	5.74	8.59
4.	Bihar	6.05	4.88	5.89
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.79	2.68	0.75
6.	Delhi	0.13	1.14	2.24
7.	Goa	0.10	0.10	0.13
8.	Gujarat	4.08	5.05	4.32
9.	Haryana	0.45	0.94	2.05
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.57	1.66	1.54
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.15	3.45	4.32
12.	Jharkhand	0.87	2.98	2.83
13.	Karnataka	11.97	13.30	14.96
14.	Kerala	5.14	5.53	4.93
15.	Madhya Pradesh	6.57	7.63	9.01
16.	Maharashtra	10.20	14.01	14.43
17.	Manipur	0.21	0.26	0.48
18.	Meghalaya	0.32	0.57	0.70
19.	Mizoram	0.46	0.47	0.63
20.	Nagaland	0.23	0.48	0.62
21.	Orissa	6.64	5.88	4.83
22.	Punjab	0.13	0.54	0.91
23.	Rajasthan	3.34	6.73	7.70
24.	Sikkim	0.08	0.19	0.23
25.	Tamil Nadu	12.04	10.66	12.43
26.	Tripura	0.60	0.86	1.23
27.	Uttar Pradesh	12.10	14.04	14.00
28.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.69
29.	West Bengal	9.33	7.68	9.86
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.20	0.17	0.19
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.02
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.04	0.05	0.04
33.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.04	0.03	0.01
35.	Pondicherry	0.12	0.10	0.11
Total		117.81	135.67	148.12

(P) Provisional

[*Translation*]

Import of Garlic

2568. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of garlic imported during each of the last three years, country-wise and value-wise;

(b) whether the Government had imposed import duty on garlic;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to include garlic under duty free category; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Year-wise and country-wise details of quantity and value of garlic imported during the last three years are contained in the publication, "Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India: Vol.-II (Imports)-Annual Number" published by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) Copies of the same are available in the library of the Parliament.

(b) and (c) Clearance of the imported consignment is permitted only on payment of the applicable rates of import duties as fixed by the Government from time to time.

(d) and (e) Duty free imports of garlic is allowed against a licence issued under the Duty Exemption Scheme of the EXIM Policy of the Government for export purposes.

[*English*]

Revamping of RRBs

2569. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the recommendations made by the expert committee to revamp the functioning of RRBs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) A Working Group to suggest amendments in the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 was constituted in July 2001. The Group has since submitted its Report and the same is under examination in consultation with Sponsor Banks and State Governments.

Food for Work Programme

2570. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has agreed to gear up its machinery to implement the food-for-work programme by releasing Rs. 20 lakh for each taluk;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has released Rs. 171 crore to the drought relief works;

(c) if so, the total amount of aid received by the Karnataka Government so far;

(d) the number of persons benefited by food-for-work programme in the State;

(e) whether the Union Government have been regularly releasing the foodgrains to the State for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The Food for Work Programme has been discontinued from 1.4.2002.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A sum of Rs. 189.18 crore has been released to the State Government so far for drought relief.

(d) During the year 2001-02, two crore mandays of employment were generated under the Food for Work Programme.

(e) Foodgrains for drought relief are released as and when such assistance is requested by the State Governments.

(f) A quantity of 3.65 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been allocated to the State Government under the Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana.

Declaration of Rubber as an Agricultural Product

2571. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to recategorise rubber as an agricultural product;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The Government have already filed its negotiating proposals with WTO for including rubber in the rationalization of product coverage in the Agreement on Agriculture. The negotiations are scheduled to conclude by 1st January, 2005.

Insurance Company Formed by Union Bank of India

2572. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Bank of India, a public sector bank, has formed a new company for its insurance activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the new company would also market the life insurance, pensions and general insurance policies of some of the Life Insurance Companies; and
- (d) if so, the details of such Life Insurance Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Union Bank of India has not set up a new company for undertaking insurance activities. The Bank has taken up corporate agency of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Co. Ltd. and The New India Assurance Company Limited to market their life and non-life insurance products, respectively.

[English]

Wheat Prices

2573. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether wheat prices are rising sharply with difference in prices between FCI open market sales price and mandi price to the extent of Rs. 120/- per quintal;
- (b) if so, whether this has adversely affected the States depending on FCI wheat supplies;
- (c) whether FCI does not stock wheat in non-wheat producing States or ports of export; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and corrective steps taken in this direction?

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

(c) and (d) Food Corporation of India (FCI) maintains adequate stocks in all the States/UTs including non-wheat producing ones, to meet their requirement under various schemes. Besides, the requirement of wheat for the domestic industry in the non-wheat producing States is also being met by FCI through the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) for which certain stocks of lustre lost wheat and wheat of the crop year 1999-2000 and earlier have been exclusively reserved.

PSUs and private parties get their supply of wheat for exports from the procuring States and from the surplus stocks in non-wheat producing States, available if any.

Assistance to Handicraft Corporation of Bihar

2574. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to Handicraft Corporation and other organisations in the State of Bihar for development of handicrafts during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government also propose to provide special relief to craftsmen in Bihar; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) The details of the financial assistance released by the Union Government to various organisations including State Handicrafts corporation in the State of Bihar under various schemes of the Government for promotion & development of handicrafts during the last three years is as under:—

S. No.	Year	Amount Released
1.	1999-2000	Rs. 66.55 lakhs
2.	2000-2001	Rs. 15.73 lakhs
3.	2001-2002	Rs. 82.31 lakhs

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However the craftsmen in the country including in the State of Bihar get relief/benefit from the various schemes being implemented for promotion & development of handicrafts. The schemes include: AHVY, training & extension, design & technical upgradation, marketing support & services, research & development, financial assistance to state handicrafts development corporation/apex societies and export promotion etc. Recently launched "Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana" (AHVY) seeks to develop selected artisans clusters into professionally managed self-reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation and aims to achieve sustainable development of the artisan clusters.

REPO Market for Non-Banking Players

2575. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has decided to open up the REPO market to non-banking players;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any conditions have also been laid down for such entities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that earlier only banks, primary dealers and certain financial institutions, which maintained a separate scripless/dematerialised account for Government Securities known as Subsidiary General Ledger (SGL) Account with RBI, Mumbai were permitted to undertake REPO transactions in Government Securities.

Vide its notification dated 22nd January, 03 RBI has extended the eligibility for ready forward contracts to certain category of entities like any primary dealer authorised by the Reserve Bank of India; non-banking financial companies registered with RBI; housing finance companies registered with National Housing Bank; mutual funds registered with SEBI and insurance companies

registered with the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority.

This has been done in order to deepen the market for Government Securities and increase the number of players in the market. These players do not have an SGL account but nevertheless have an account known as "Gilt Account" with a bank or institution (custodian) having a separate SGL account known as "Constituent SGL Account" with RBI for the purpose of putting through transactions in Government Securities on behalf of their constituents.

(c) and (d) Certain terms and conditions have been stipulated for these new players for the purpose of conducting transactions in REPO market. They are:—

- (i) the bank or institution acting as custodian can not conduct a REPO transaction with its gilt account holder;
- (ii) no two institutions having gilt accounts with the same custodian can enter into a REPO contract; and
- (iii) no co-operative banks can undertake REPO transactions with non-banking financial companies.

Other terms and conditions subject to which REPO may be entered are as under:

1. All REPO contracts shall be on the Negotiated Dealing System (NDS). In respect of ready forward contracts involving gilt account holders, the custodian (i.e., the CSGL account holder) with whom the gilt accounts are maintained will be responsible for reporting the deals on the NDS on behalf of the constituents (i.e. the gilt account holders).
2. The custodians should put in place an effective system of internal control and concurrent audit to ensure that: (i) ready forward transactions are undertaken only against the clear balance of securities in the gilt account, (ii) all such transactions are promptly reported on the NDS, and (iii) other terms and conditions referred to above have been complied with.
3. The RBI regulated entities like banks and NBFCs can undertake ready forward transactions only in securities held in excess of the prescribed Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) requirements.

One-by-Six Scheme of Income Tax

2576. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities/towns in which "one-by-six" scheme introduced for widening the tax base is presently in operation;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend the scheme to whole of country;

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

(d) if so, the total number of assesses brought under the tax-net under the scheme uptill December 31, 2002; and

(e) the total tax revenue realized/collected under the scheme as on December 31, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The One-by-six scheme is presently in operation in 4989 cities/towns of the country.

(b) No, Sir. However, it is submitted that the One-by-six scheme already covers all the urban areas of the country having a population of more than 5000 as per the 1991 census.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) The total number of assesses who have filed their income tax returns under the One-by-six scheme between 1st April 2002 and 31st December 2002 is 16.86 lakhs.

(e) One-by-six scheme covers all those assesseees whose income is below the taxable limit and who are therefore otherwise not liable to file their income tax returns. Therefore, no separate records are maintained for collections.

FERA Violations by MNCs

2577. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently the 18 Multi-National Companies have been found accused of violation of foreign exchange regulations involving over Rs. 170 crore;

(b) if so, the details of such MNCs; and

(c) the action the Government has taken against those MNCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) After investigation under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1973, eighteen multinational companies were found to have paid salaries/perquisites abroad to their employees (foreign nationals) working in India, without obtaining the necessary permission of the Reserve Bank of India.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Action under the provisions of the FERA, 1973 has been taken by the Directorate of Enforcement and adjudication proceedings have been initiated accordingly.

Statement

Names of Multi-National Companies to which Show Cause Notice (s) have been issued under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973

S. No.	Name of Multi-National Companies	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	M/s. Japan Airlines, New Delhi	103.47
2.	M/s. Hyundai Motor (I) Ltd., New Delhi	804.50
3.	M/s. Samsung Corporation, New Delhi	2403.93
4.	M/s. Merubeni (I) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	983.72
5.	M/s. Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi Ltd., New Delhi	2043.19
6.	M/s. Motorola (I) Ltd., Gurgaon	557.67
7.	M/s. Mitsubishi Corporation, New Delhi	2052.92
8.	M/s. Sanwa Bank Ltd., (UFJ Bank Ltd.), New Delhi	260.04
9.	M/s. Bank of Nova Scotia, New Delhi	42.31

1	2	3
10.	M/s. LG Electronics, New Delhi	80.63
11.	M/s. Sony (I) Ltd., New Delhi	J. Yen-574963183
12.	M/s. Deutsche Bank, New Delhi	1343.42
13.	M/s. Sakura Bank, New Delhi	J. Yen-40978509
14.	M/s. All Nippon Airways, New Delhi	147.33
15.	M/s. Nokia Telecommunications, New Delhi	1086.02
16.	M/s. Ericsson (I) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	3546.05
17.	M/s. Daewoo Motors, New Delhi	266.68
18.	M/s. Fuji Bank Ltd., New Delhi	280.88

Grant-in-Aid to Hospitals by Japan

2578. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recommended any proposals for seeking financial assistance for upgradation of some hospitals in Mumbai, Kolhapur, Latur, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Amravati from Grant-in-aid programme of Japan; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposals?

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

(b) Government of Japan has shortlisted the proposal for financial assistance for Improvement of Medical Services for Sir J.J. Hospital and Cama and Albless Hospital, Mumbai. The scope of the Project is being finalized.

The proposal for Upgradation of Civil Hospitals and Government Medical Colleges in Kolhapur, Latur, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Amravati is under consideration of Government of Japan.

Cases Registered by CBI

2579. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5795, dated 3.5.2002 regarding cases registered by CBI and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which it is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The information has since been collected for implementing the Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 5795.

Harmful Effect on Jarawas

2580. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Society for Andaman and Nicobar Ecology (SANE) has alleged that the Andaman Trunk Road, a Mega Project meant to unite Islands, has harmed the Jarawas Tribes in social and cultural manner;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to save those tribals from any harm in this area?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Matter is sub-judice in the Hon'ble High Court of Kolkata in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Ms. Shgamala Ganguly, Advocate, Port Blair vs. Union of India and Others.

Anti Dumping Duty on Import of Processed Food

2581. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that domestic food processing industries have been affected adversely due to large import of processed foods;

(b) if so, whether the Government have imposed or proposed to impose anti-dumping duties on import of processed foods;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the other measures being contemplated by the Government to restrict the import of processed foods and to save the domestic industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) The Government has not received any requests indicating that domestic food processing industry has been adversely affected due to large import of processed foods except in the case of Butter Oil. On the basis of a petition filed by the Centre for International Trade in Agriculture & Agro Based Industries alleging dumping of Butter Oil from New Zealand, the DGAD has initiated investigation in the case vide Notification dated 26.11.2002. Furthermore, the Department of Commerce is periodically monitoring the import of sensitive items some of which are processed food items.

Essential Commodities Act, 1955

2582. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural produce like cereals, pulses, oil seeds, cotton, jute, onion, cattle fodder and its processed products etc. are covered under the Essential Commodities Act 1955;

(b) if so, the percentage of total agricultural produce and its processed produce is covered under the Act;

(c) whether coverage of a large number of agricultural produce under the Act is not to deny farmers of benefits of free market and prices being determined by on the basis of demand and supply;

(d) whether coverage of these produce under the Act are not against policies of reforms, liberalization, market-led economy, forward marketing and WTO obligations etc.;

(e) if so, whether the Government would consider to remove some of these items from the purview of the Act; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Foodstuffs including edible oilseeds and oils, onion, cattle fodder, including oil cakes and other concentrates, cotton textiles, yarn made wholly from cotton, raw cotton, either ginned or unginned and cotton seed, raw jute and jute textiles are among the 18 classes of commodities declared as 'essential' under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(c) and (d) The Essential Commodities, Act, 1955 provides, in the interests of the general public, for the regulation of production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in certain commodities identified as 'essential' under the Act. These commodities were declared as 'essential' keeping in view their shortage in production. However, the list of essential commodities which stood at 70 in the year 1989 has been pruned to 18 at present. In the context of the liberalization of the economy and the changed situation and in order to facilitate free trade and movement of foodgrains and to enable farmers to get best prices for their produce, achieve price stability and ensure availability of foodgrains in deficit areas, the Central Government have issued an order dated 15.2.2002 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 removing licensing requirements, stock limits, and movement restrictions on specified foodstuffs, namely wheat, paddy/rice, coarse grains, sugar, edible oilseeds and edible oils.

(e) and (f) The list of essential commodities is reviewed from time to time in light of changes in the economic scenario and particularly with regard to their production and supply. Facilitating further liberalization of the economy, free trade, easier availability and more stable prices, out of 29 items earlier declared as essential under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 which were subjected to various controls, Central Government have, by notifications dated 15.2.2002, removed the following items from the purview of the Essential Commodities Act:—

1. Cement

2. Textiles Machinery:—

(i) Knitting Machine, (ii) Spinning Machine, (iii) Lace Making Machine, (iv) Powerloom and (v) Processing Machinery.

3. Textiles made from silk.

4. Textiles made wholly or in part from man-made cellulosic and non-cellulosic spun fibres.

5. Textiles made wholly or in part from man-made cellulosic and non-cellulosic filament yarn.

6. General Lighting Service Lamps.
7. Household appliances such as electric irons, heaters and the like.
8. Electrical Cables and Wires.
9. Man-made cellulosic and non-cellulosic staple fibres.
10. Yarn made wholly or in part from any of the following materials, namely:—
 - (i) wool (ii) man-made cellulosic spun fibre, (iii) man-made non-cellulosic spun fibre, (iv) silk.
11. (i) Man-made cellulosic and Non-cellulosic filament yarn, (ii) Nylon Tyre Yarn/Cord/Fabric.
12. (i) Switches for domestic and similar purposes (ii) 2-AMP Switches, (iii) 3-Pin Plugs and Sockets outlets.

[*Translation*]

Trade Ties with China

2583. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to boost trade ties with China;

(b) if so, the areas identified for boosting trade ties between the two countries; and

(c) the targets set for bilateral trade between both countries during 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) While no target has been set for trade between India and China for the year 2003-04, it is the constant endeavour of the Government to expand it's trade with China. The various sectors of export interest

include ores, cotton yarn and fabrics, plastics, organic chemicals, stone (granite, marbles, etc.), precious stones, fish and seafood, iron & steel, hides & skins, inorganic chemicals, etc.

[*English*]

Restrictions on Export of Steel to USA

2584. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the steel industry has restricted its export to the United States of America during the year 2002-2003;

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

(c) the quantum and the value of steel exported to USA during the above period in comparison to previous two years; and

(d) the countries to which export of steel is proposed to be cut and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) The quantity and value of steel exports covered under ITC Codes: 7201, 7206, 7207, 7208, 7209, 7210, 7212, 7213, 7214, 7215, 7216, 7217, 7218, 7219, 7220, 7221, 7222, 7223, 7224, 7225, 7226, 7227, 7228, 7229 and 7302 to United States of America during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and April 2002 to September 2002 are given below:

2000-01		2001-02		April-September 2002*	
Quantity (in Tonnes)	Value (in Rs. lakhs)	Quantity (in Tonnes)	Value (in Rs. lakhs)	Quantity (in Tonnes)	Value (in Rs. lakhs)
484193	96607.8	201653	56486.9	272772	63462.7

Source: DGCI&S.

*Provisional

(d) Apart from USA, some of the other developed countries like the EU and Canada have initiated/imposed certain trade measures against export of steel from India. However, exports of finished and semi finished steel by

main and secondary producers have registered positive growth of 30% and 55% respectively during the period April 2002 to January 2003 as compared to the performance of corresponding period last year.

Supply of Rice through PDS

2585. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

(a) whether several State Governments including Kerala have complained to the Union Government about the supply of rice through Public Distribution System which is unfit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether the Central issue price of the rice allotted to the Public Distribution System is higher than the open market price prevailing in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Good quality foodgrains conforming to PFA standards and free from insect infestation are issued to State Governments/UT Administrations for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution (TPDS) and other welfare schemes. A few State Governments, including Kerala, had complained in the past about the issue of poor quality of rice under the TPDS. No complaint has been received in the recent period about the supply of rice under TPDS which is unfit for human consumption.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that the foodgrains supplied to the States are of good quality:—

- (i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UT Administrations to inspect the stock prior to lifting from FCI godowns.
- (ii) Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments/UT Administrations that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before their lifting from the FCI godowns.
- (iii) The samples of foodgrains are jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/UT Administrations and the FCI during the issue of stocks from FCI godowns for display at the counters of Fair Price Shops (FPSs).

(iv) The officers of the State Governments' and the Ministry conduct surprise checks of the FPSs to over see the quality of foodgrains being distributed through TPDS.

(v) The officers of the Department designated as 'Area Officers' for monitoring the TPDS work in the respective States also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPSs, during their visit to the States to check the quality of foodgrains being issued.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Edible Oil in Gujarat

2586. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of vegetable oil and other cooking oils in the country particularly in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the demands of the above mentioned varieties of oil in Gujarat;

(c) whether supply of edible oil is sufficient to meet the demand; and

(d) if not, the remedial measures proposed to be taken to meet the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The total production of edible vegetable oils and other cooking oils like hydrogenated oil (Vanaspati) in the country during the last 3 years is as under:—

(In lakh MT)

Year	Production of edible vegetable oils	Production of vanaspati
1999-2000	6014	11.90
2000-2001	55.04	13.60
2001-2002	61.33	13.80

Data relating to annual production of edible oils (State-wise) is not maintained as there is no restriction on inter-State movement of oilseeds/oils.

(b) The demand of vegetable in the country during the current year is estimated at 103 lakh MTs. Data relating to demand of edible oils (State-wise) is not maintained as there is no restriction on inter-State movement of oilseeds/oils.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The domestic supply of edible oils in the country is not sufficient to meet the demand. The shortfall is met through import of edible oils under OGL (Open General Licence). The remedial measures taken and efforts made to increase the indigenous production of oilseeds and hence of edible oils include:—

- (i) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme is implemented in 25 State covering 395 selected Districts to increase the production of oilseeds/edible oils in the country;
- (ii) A Technology Mission on Oilseeds is in place to harness appropriate production processing and management technology;
- (iii) Intensification of research efforts to increase the production of oilseeds.
- (iv) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops, like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc..
- (v) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds,
- (vi) Assistance for oil palm development,
- (vii) Better incentives to producers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds,
- (viii) Use of indigenous oils in the manufacture of Vanaspati to at least 25% of the production, on a monthly basis, is mandatory, at present. Higher use of expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of Vanaspati up to 30% has also been allowed. The objective is to incentivise the farmers in terms of better returns for their production,
- (ix) In order to harmonise the interest of domestic oilseeds growers, consumers and processors and to regulate imports of edible oils to the extent

possible, the duty structure on edible oils is reviewed from time to time.

Import of Chinese Goods

2587. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

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

(a) whether inspite of appropriate use of tariff and other mechanisms including anti-dumping action, the domestic industry faced serious detriment and injury due to flooding the cheap Chinese products;

(b) if so, the percentage of Indian market under seize of Chinese goods;

(c) the names of Chinese goods against whom anti-dumping duty imposed by the Tariff Commission;

(d) the import of Chinese goods made during the last six months; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect domestic industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) As per the Anti-Dumping Rules, anti-dumping investigations are normally initiated by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) on receiving a fully documented petition from the domestic industry with prima-facie evidence of dumping, injury and casual link between the dumped goods and injury to the domestic industry. The purpose of Anti-dumping duties is to counteract trade distortion caused by dumping and the consequential injury to the domestic industry. The imposition of Anti-dumping measures does not restrict imports from the subject countries.

Total value of imports from China during the period April-September, 2002 was Rs. 5953.63 crores as compared to Rs. 4419.28 crores during the corresponding period of previous year.

The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) has so far initiated investigations into 66 cases involving imports from China. Present status of these cases is given below:

Cases in which final findings have been issued	49
Cases in which preliminary findings have been brought out and further proceedings are in progress	8
Cases under investigation for preliminary findings	6
Cases initiated but closed	3
Total	66

The products involving imports from China on which anti-dumping duty has been imposed and are currently in force are trimethoxy Benzaldehyde, Theophylline & Caffeine, Sodium Ferrocyanide, Graphite Electrodes, Vitamin-C, Magnesium, Met Coke, Lovastatin, Ortho Chloro Benzaldehyde, Calcium Carbide, Fused Magnesia, Citric Acid, Hard Ferrite Ring Magnets, Low Carbon Ferro Chrome, Polystyrene, Barium Carbonate, Soda Ash, Metronidazole, Sodium Nitrite, Trimethoprim, Ferro silicon, Seamless Grade Alloys etc. Strontium Carbonate, Dry Cell Batteries, Phosphoric Acid, Sports Shoes, Sodium Hydrosulphite, Analgin, Zinc Oxide, Choline Chloride, Lead Acid Batteries, Paracetamol, 2-Methyl Nitro Imidazole, Thermal Sensitive Papers, Diclofenac Sodium, D(-) Para Hydroxy Phenyl Glycine Base, Compact Fluorescent Lamps, Vitamin AD3, Hydrofluoric Acid, Vitrified/Porcelain Tiles, Sodium TriPoly Phosphate, D(-) Para Hydroxy Phenyl Glycine Methyl Potassium Dane Salt, Caustic Soda, Mulberry Raw Silk and Float Glass.

Anti-dumping duties on Potassium Permanganate, Isoburyl Benzene, Dead Burnt Magnesite, Industrial Sewing Machine Needles, Iso-Propyl Alcohol and 8-Hydroxy Quinoline have lapsed withdrawn subsequent to reviews.

In addition to anti-dumping investigations, the Directorate General (Safeguards) has also initiated a case for levy of specific safeguard duty on imports of Industrial Sewing Machine Needle from China into India.

Non-Banking Financial Institutions

2588. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-banking institutions functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received reports on various irregularities being committed by non-banking financial institutions during the last three years;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to set up a High Powered Committee to monitor the routine work of non-banking financial institutions and to stop irregularities in the NBFIs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The number of Non-Banking Financial Institutions functioning in the country, State-wise as on 31.1.2003 as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) RBI have reported that they have come across certain cases of non-payment/delay in repayment of public deposits.

RBI have filed Winding up Petitions and prosecution proceedings against Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) in various High Courts.

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

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

However, Comprehensive regulatory framework has been put in place which is aimed at protecting the interests of the depositors and ensuring that NBFCs function on sound and healthy lines. The regulatory framework includes, inter-alia, compulsory registration, maintenance of liquid assets, transfer of at least 20% of net profit to reserve fund and empowering RBI to issue directions to NBFCs. RBI takes various actions against errant NBFCs for various defaults and contravention of provisions of RBI Act and directions issued thereunder. Government has introduced Financial Companies Regulation Bill, 2000 in the Lok Sabha on 13th December, 2000. The Bill has been referred to Standing Committee on Finance by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

Statement

State	Number of Non-Banking Finance Companies
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	388
Arunachal Pradesh	—

1	2
Assam	142
Bihar	32
Chandigarh	97
Chhattisgarh	17
Goa	14
Gujarat	410
Haryana	82
Himachal Pradesh	22
Jammu & Kashmir	72
Jharkhand	18
Karnataka	201
Kerala	174
Madhya Pradesh	132
Maharashtra	1721
Manipur	—
Meghalaya	03
Mizoram	—
Nagaland	02
New Delhi	2403
Orissa	20
Pondicherry	09
Punjab	434
Rajasthan	175
Tamil Nadu	624
Tripura	—
Uttar Pradesh	340
Uttaranchal	22
West Bengal	6319
Total	13,873

Visit of Bangladesh Business Delegation

2589. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered business delegation from Bangladesh has visited India to explore the possibilities of increasing trade between Bangladesh and India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement to expand bilateral trade relations has been signed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total export/import from Bangladesh during the past two years; and

(f) the expected trade volume with Bangladesh in the year 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) Figures available on India's trade with Bangladesh are given below:

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Exports to Bangladesh	Imports from Bangladesh
2000-2001	3988.11	337.49
2001-2002	4494.07	281.94
2002-2003 (April-Nov.)	2914.99	157.87
2001-2002 (April-Nov.)	3239.72	193.61

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

[Translation]

Pending Excise Disputes

2590. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) the number of suits pertaining to Central Excise Duty pending with the Supreme Court, High Courts and the Tribunals as on February 28, 2003;

(b) the date from which these cases are pending;

(c) the steps taken to expedite their settlement; and

(d) the amount involved in those cases as on February 28, 2003, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The number of suits on Central Excise duty pending with the Supreme Court, High Courts and the Tribunals, as on 28.2.2003, are as under:—

	No. of cases		
Supreme Court	1426		
High Courts	3874		
Tribunals	11346		

(b) Age-wise break-up of the cases is as under:—

Cases pending	Supreme Court	High Courts	Tribunals
Less than 6 months	115	367	1106
6-12 months	161	403	1591
1-3 years	482	985	3940
Overs 3 years	668	2119	4709

(c) Various steps have been taken to expedite the settlement of the cases which includes bunching of cases issue-wise in Supreme Court and High Courts and filing urgent petitions in the Supreme Court, High Courts and CEGAT for getting the stay vacated or deciding the cases on priority basis. These cases are also closely monitored by the Legal Cells for the Commissionerates and Review/Legal Cell of the Central Board of Excise and Customs.

(d) Total amount involved in these cases is about Rs. 9568 crores. Figures are maintained Chief Commissionerate/zone-wise and the information is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Chief Commissionerate Zone-wise details of amount involved in the pending suits with the Supreme Court, High Courts and Tribunals (as on 28.2.2003)

Amount (Rs. in crores)		
S. No.	Zone	Total amount
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	169.96
2.	Bangalore	149.57

1	2	3
3.	Bhopal	634.61
4.	Bhubaneswar	53.10
5.	Chandigarh	133.98
6.	Chennai	238.41
7.	Cochin	78.35
8.	Coimbatore	198.21
9.	Delhi	855.28
10.	Hyderabad	462.16
11.	Jaipur	149.10
12.	Kolkata	476.73
13.	Lucknow	401.75
14.	Mangalore	3.22
15.	Meerut	467.08
16.	Mumbai-I	678.34
17.	Mumbai-II	1553.81
18.	Nagpur	536.77
19.	Pune	679.51
20.	Ranchi	755.62
21.	Shillong	79.07
22.	Vadodara	597.81
23.	Vishakhapatnam	215.57
Total		9568.04

SCs/STs Vacancies

2591. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:

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

(a) whether some posts of SCs/STs under various categories are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under his ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various categories of the employees working in these departments and undertakings under his

Ministry have been given promotion and fresh recruitment has also been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details of fresh recruitment made under various categories during this period and so far in the current year;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been followed with regard to the recruitment and promotion of persons belonging to SCs/STs categories; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

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

[*English*]

Financial Package for Large Value Exports

2592. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced special financial package for large value exports of over Rs. 100 crore of selected products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend the scheme to some more products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[*Translation*]

Production of Hank Yarn

2593. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of hank yarn in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the total domestic requirement of hank yarn in the country as on date;

(c) whether it is mandatory for the yarn manufacturing mills to produce a definite portion of its manufacturing capacity in the form of hank yarn;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to cut down the obligatory limit of hank yarn production from 50% to 40%;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether it has come to notice of the Government that several yarn manufacturing mills have produced less than the desired production of hank yarn during the year 2002;

(h) if so, the details thereof, mill-wise; and

(i) the action taken against such mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Total production of hank yarn in the country during each of the last three years is as under:—

(in million Kgs)

S. No.	Year	Total Actual Hank Yarn Packing
1.	1999-2000	533.51
2.	2000-2001	559.78
3.	2001-2002	577.57

There has been no shortage of hank yarn reported from any part of the country.

(c) to (f) It is mandatory for every manufacturer of yarn, who packs yarn for civil consumption, to pack it in hank form in each quarterly period commencing from April/June and in every subsequent quarter of the year in proportion of not less than 50% of total yarn packed. On the basis of the requests received from a large number of Textile Mills, their Associations, the large inventories of yarn with the Textile Mills and adequate supply of hank yarn for the consumption of handloom sector, the Government reviewed the Hank Yarn Obligation Order, in

accordance with the provisions of Para 18 of the National Textile Policy, 2000 and decided to reduce the hank yarn obligation from the existing level of 50% to 40% of the total yarn packed for civil consumption during each quarter and in every subsequent quarter, with effect from 1/1/2003.

(g) to (i) The mill-wise details which have not fulfilled their hank yarn obligation of 50% during the year 2002 along with the action taken against each such mills is being collected.

[English]

Fast Track Courts

2594. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fast Track Courts functioning in Gujarat; and

(b) the number of cases pending in High Courts and other courts transferred to the Fast Track Courts during the year 2001 and decided by these courts in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) According to the latest information available, as on 28th February, 2003, 36 Fast Track Courts are functioning in Gujarat.

(b) As per the information furnished by the High Court of Gujarat, 937 cases have been transferred to Fast Track Courts and out of which 4 cases have been disposed of by these Fast Track Courts by 31.01.2002.

[Translation]

Implementation of VAT

2595. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether some State Government and Confederation of the All India Traders keeping in view the present scenario have given a suggestion to the Government to implement the Value Added Tax w.e.f. April, 2004 instead of implementing it w.e.f. April, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the reply to part (a).

FCI Godowns

2596. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) whether Food Corporation of India godowns have been inspected by the Quality Control Cell to check the quality of foodgrains during the current Financial Year;

(b) if so, whether during the course of inspection some old stocks of foodgrains and sugar have been found, which are not fit for consumption;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conducted an inquiry into the above matter so as to find out the officers responsible for damage to valuable foodgrains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the officers held guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Quality Control Cell has inspected 231 godowns of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the current financial year upto January, 2003. During the course of inspection, nowhere were foodgrains inspected by the officers of the Quality Control Cell found unfit for human consumption.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply above. However, inspite of various steps taken for the maintenance and preservation of foodgrains, some damage to foodgrains stocks does take place in a few cases due to long storage periods as well as due to natural calamities, such as floods, cyclones, etc. In such cases, fixing responsibility on the staff does not arise. However, if stocks are damaged due to human negligence, the FCI takes action against the officials responsible as per their prescribed procedure.

*[English]***Import of Steel Grade Lime**

2597. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steel grade lime imported during the last two years under open general licence (OGL) and proposed to be imported during 2003-04;

(b) whether the Government have assessed the impact of this import on the domestic producers, especially in Jaisalmer district of Western Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop import of steel grade lime to save the domestic producers of backward Thar desert of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Limestone flux (L.D. below 1% SiO₂) is covered ITC (HS) Code No. 25210010 of the ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 2002-2007, and is freely importable. Year-wise and country-wise details (quantity and value) of imports made are contained in the publication, "Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India: Vol. II (Imports)-Annual Number" published by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS). Copies of the same are available in the library of the Parliament.

(b) and (c) After the removal of quantitative restrictions on imports of various items as per our commitment to GATT Agreement, import are generally decided by market forces. Tariff levels for the import of these items provide protection to domestic industry.

Remuneration for Independent Directors

2598. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to relax the limits on remunerations for independent directors of companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for removing the earlier limits?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

*[Translation]***Policy on Patents**

2599. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government to get Indian products patented;

(b) the number of Indian products got patented by America till now;

(c) the reasons for getting the products patented by America prior to India;

(d) the future action/strategy of the Government in view of America's policy to grab the Indian products and get them patented;

(e) whether any action has been taken in this regard so far; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (f) Patents are obtained by inventors in countries of their choice to prevent unauthorized exploitation of their inventions by others. All countries, including India, provide a legal and administrative framework to facilitate inventors in securing patents for their inventions which fulfil the criteria of patentability as per the patents law. Since patents are granted under the sovereign prerogative of countries according to their respective patent laws and have territorial effect, they are effective only in the country of grant.

In order to qualify for grant of patent in any country the invention, whether process of product, has to meet the criteria of patentability, namely, novelty, inventiveness and industrial applicability. Indian processes and products, which are already in public knowledge, cannot be patented either by governments or by any other person. Data on patented products indicating country of origin is not maintained.

As and when information is received about patents being obtained on certain items which are not considered patentable and which affect Indian interests, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of such patent can be challenged under the patent laws of the country concerned. Earlier a patent granted in the United States of America on the use of turmeric in wound healing was successfully challenged and was also cancelled by the

Patent Office of the country concerned. Similarly, a patent on the fungicidal property of neem, granted in Europe, was successfully challenged. The claims of the patent on Basmati Ricelines and grains granted in the United States of America which had the potential of affecting India's commercial interest were also challenged. The said claims were subsequently cancelled by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the title of the patent was also amended. A patent is normally challenged by the person(s) whose interests are affected/jeopardised.

[English]

Death Sentence

2600. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:

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

(a) whether the Law Commission has suggested that the mode of executing death sentence namely "hanging" be replaced by 'lethal injection';

(b) if so, the reasons given for the said replacement; and

(c) the time by which an amendment to the relevant provisions of Criminal Procedure Code is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Law Commission has informed that it has recently taken up the study of the method of execution of death sentence. The study is still in progress. As and when consultation paper is finalised, it will be circulated to all concerned, Bar Councils, leading lawyers for inviting their views on it.

[Translation]

Release of Criminals by UP and Bihar

2601. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI ADHI SANKAR:

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

(a) whether the courts in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have recently conducted a new experiment under which criminals were released without going through a long process of law;

(b) whether the latest experiment was considered as the first of its kind in the world;

(c) if so, the reaction of the officers, people, court, lawyers and the Union Government in this regard;

(d) the number of persons and criminals released under this experiment;

(e) whether this experiment is likely to be implemented in the entire country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Appointment of Notary Public

2602. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

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

(a) whether inordinate delay is being caused in taking action on the applications for appointment of notary public as a result of which many applications are pending;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to set up a cell to expedite action on these applications;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the criterion laid down for selection of Notary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No ordinate delay is being caused in taking action on the applications for appointment of notary public. Appointment of a notary is a statutory appointment which is done under the Notaries Act and the Rules made thereunder, which prescribe detailed procedure to be followed for appointment of a notary.

(c) and (d) A separate Notary Cell has already been set up to expeditiously process applications for appointment of notaries.

(e) As regards criteria for appointing notaries by the Central Government, it is stated that under rule 3 of the Notaries Rules, 1956, a person is eligible for appointment

as a notary if he has been practising as a legal practitioner for ten years. In case an applicant is a person belonging either to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes or Other Backward Classes or is a woman, then the condition for eligibility for appointment as a notary is seven years of legal practice. The Competent Authority examines applications received, holds enquiries and while making her recommendations keeps in view the matters prescribed in rule 7(3) of the Notaries Rules, which are as under:—

- (i) whether the applicant ordinarily resides in the area in which he proposes to practise as a notary;
- (ii) whether, having regard to the commercial importance of the area in which the applicant proposes to practise and the number of existing notaries practising in the area, it is necessary to appoint any additional notaries for the area;
- (iii) whether, having regard to his knowledge and experience of commercial law and the nature of the objections, if any, raised in respect of his appointment as a notary, and in case of a legal practitioner also to the extent of his practice, the applicant is fit to be appointed as a notary;
- (iv) where the applicant belongs to a firm of legal practitioners; whether, having regard to the number of existing notaries in that firm, it is proper and necessary to appoint any additional notary from that firm; and
- (v) where applications from other applications in respect of the area are pending, whether the

applicant is more suitable than such other applicants.

On receipt of the report of the Competent Authority, the government after considering the same takes an appropriate decision.

[English]

Banking Services

2603. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to modernise Banking services in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by each sector banks in that regard; and

(c) the instruction of RBI in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Government and Reserve Bank of India have been stressing the need for computerisation and modernisation in banks. Accordingly, banks formulate their computerisation plans taking into account their resources and business requirements. As per data made available by Reserve Bank of India the status of computerisation of public sector banks as on 30th September, 2002 is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Bankwise Position of Computerisation in Public Sector Banks for the Biannual Period Ended 30th September, 2002

Sl.	Bank	Total no. of Branches (whether computerised or not) i.e. Branch-Network	No. of Branches Partially computerised	Branches already fully computerised	% of business captured through computerisation
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	State Bank of India	9038	3870	3177	80.50
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	802	5	346	77.08
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	887	337	156	77.71
4.	State Bank of Indore	423	130	104	78.14
5.	State Bank of Mysore	604	157	145	80.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	State Bank of Patiala	725	4	574	93.55
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	410	39	140	78.47
8.	State Bank of Travancore	674	339	217	72.40
9.	Allahabad Bank	2056	340	399	72.96
10.	Andhra Bank	1077	26	731	88.89
11.	Bank of Baroda	2735	1204	563	79.46
12.	Bank of India	2531	1094	976	90.43
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	1229	—	543	77.74
14.	Canara Bank	2415	863	760	81.56
15.	Central Bank of India	3114	238	983	78.00
16.	Corporation Bank	663	—	423	90.75
17.	Dena Bank	1135	280	469	82.10
18.	Indian Bank	1381	47	473	73.85
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	1432	699	460	80.80
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	977	716	172	90.60
21.	Punjab National Bank	3864	2409	268	79.46
22.	Punjab and Sind Bank	753	566	37	83.66
23.	Syndicate Bank	1742	1080	235	71.09
24.	Uco Bank	1710	444	41	73.57
25.	Union Bank of India	2021	1270	113	79.75
26.	United Bank of India	1301	361	240	73.90
27.	Vijaya Bank	829	8	333	77.50
Total		46528	16526	13078	80.15

Supreme Court Bench in Karnataka

(b) Does not arise.

2604. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

*[Translation]***Sale Centres of NTC**

(a) whether there is a move to set up a Supreme Court Bench in Karnataka; and

2605. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(a) the number of sale centers of National Textile Corporation along with the locations thereof;

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) whether the Government propose to set up more such centres during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

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

(a) A statement giving location of 277 showrooms of NTC as on 31.1.2003 is enclosed.

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

State/U. I.	Location	No. of Showrooms in the State
1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	Indore, Dewas, Ujjain, Bhopal, Burhanpur, Ratlam	6
Jharkhand	Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Chas, Ramgarh	4
Bihar	Patna, Patna City, Danapur, Muzzaffarpur, Purnia, Chappra, Darbanga, Begusaray, Nawadah, Munghyr, Bihar Sharif, Sasaram, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Johanabad, Gaya	16
Orissa	Angul, Bhubaneshwar, Balasore, Katak, Dhanknal, Joypore, Behrampur	7
Assam	Guwahati, Shillong, Dibrugarh, Pandu	4
West Bengal	Asansole, Arambagh, Belgharia, Budge-Budge, Belia Ghat, Bardwan, Bolepur, Bongon, Barasat, Bihala, Bankura, Chandan Nagar, Park St., Durgapur, Dimand Harbar, Dhaniakhali, Gariahat, Grey St., Icchapur, Koo Nagar, Kalyani, Kalna, Khagra, Krishna Nagar, Kankurgachi, Kadamtola, Lake town, Midnapur, Mahesh, Nagar Bazar, Palta, Rasbihari, Rishra, Raniganj, Siliguri, Shyambazar, Singur, Sreeampore, Shyamnagar, Tollyganj, Tumluk, Salt Lake	42
Tamil Nadu	Attur, Bhavani, Coimbatore (6), Coonoor, Gobichettipalayam, Nammakal, Ootacamund, Salem, MMettupalayam, Chennai (4), Chengam, Cuddalore, Kalpakalam, Kanchipuram, Tirupathur, Trichy, Kumbakonam, Maduri, Nagerchoil, Pattukottal, Paramakkudi, Mayiladuthurai, Shivganga, Thiruthurapoondi, Thirmunglam, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Tirukoilur, Neyveli, Finlay Chennai	38
Pondicherry	Pondicherry	1
Delhi	Arya Samaj Road, N.D.S.E., Shankar Road, Tagore Garden, Greater Kailash, Tilak Nagar, Khan Market, Pahar Ganj, Delhi Cantt., East of Kailash, A.T.M., Laxmi Nagar, Moti Nagar	13
Haryana	Sonepat, Panipat, Faridabad, Ambala, Karnal	5
Punjab	Amritsar, Ludhiana, Patiala, Kharar	4
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu, Srinagar	2

1	2	3
Chandigarh	Sector 17, Madhya Margh, Shimla	3
Rajasthan	Ajmer, Bhilwara, Bharatpur, Beawar, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Sikar, Ganga Nagar, Udaipur	10
Maharashtra	Mumbai (13), Nagpur (2), Hinghanghat, Achhalpur, Pune, Bharat, Parel (3), Chowpati, Nanded, Chalisgaon	25
Gujarat	Ahmedabad (2), Baroda, Godhra, Junagarh, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Surat	8
Daman	Daman	1
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur (6), Lucknow (2) Allahabad (4), Jhansi, Bareilly, Rai Bareilly, Akbar Pur, Balia, Chowkaghat, Deoria, Goleghar, Gazipur, Gyanvapi, Lahurabir, Maunathbhanjan, Shakti Nagar, Sultanpur, Agra, Ghaziabad, Modi Nagar, Muradabad, Narora, Roorki	32
Uttaranchal	Dehradun, Haldwani,	2
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad (4), Anantapur, Cuddapah, Elune, Guntur, Hanumakonda, Vishakhapatnam, Kakinada, Krimngr., Kurnul, Machlipatnam, Nellore, Tirupathi, Vijayawada, Vishakhapatnam	18
Kerala	Alwaye, Quilon, Cannanore, Callicutt, Chittur, Changana Cherry, Ernakullam, (2), Kasardog, Kunnamukullam, Palai, Palghat, Trichur, Tellicherry, Trivandrum	15
Karnataka	Bangalore (8), Mysore, Elgaum, Checkmagalur, Davangere, Dharwar, Hassan, Mysore, Mandya, Manglore, Tumkur, Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur	21

[English]

Protection of Handloom Sector

2606. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 aims at preventing powerlooms from encroaching upon the livelihood on millions depending upon the handloom sector;

(b) if so, the results it has produced as on date, State-wise: and

(c) if not, the action taken against the powerloom owners found violating the Act during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 was promulgated in pursuance of the Textile Policy of 1985 which aims at protecting the interests of millions of handloom weavers from the encroachment made on their livelihood by the powerlooms and the organised mill sector. At present 11 categories of textile articles are reserved for exclusive production by the handloom sector. For effective implementation of the Act, powers have been delegated to officers of various levels authorised in the Central and State enforcement machinery. Furthermore, to supplement the efforts of the State Government, funds are released under the scheme for implementing the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for the Production) Act, 1985 for establishing an Enforcement machinery in the States. As per norms laid down under the scheme, 14 States are eligible to avail of assistance but only 12 States have been taking

assistance from the Central Government. The States of Maharashtra and Punjab have established enforcement machineries of their own and are implementing the Act.

(b) and (c) Under the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 and the orders issued thereunder, the State and Central Enforcement Machineries have so far registered 156 FIRs, out of which 114 cases have ended in conviction and 42 cases are pending in the lower courts in various parts of the country.

Corruption In Judiciary

2607. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

(a) whether the former Chief Justice of India and National Human Rights Commission Chairman has expressed serious concern over the growing corruption in the judiciary and favoured an effective legal mechanism to enforce accountability among judges;

(b) if so, whether number of former Chief Justices have also urged the Government to take urgent steps to see that corruption is removed immediately in the Indian Judiciary; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Government has consulted the Supreme Court of India. The Court has informed as below:

"Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.S. Verma, former Chief Justice of India and former National Human Rights Commission's Chairman had expressed serious concern over the growing corruption in the judiciary and favoured an effective legal mechanism to enforce accountability among judges as reported in The Indian Express, New Delhi, dated 23rd December, 2002."

(b) The then Chief Justice of India on 23rd December, 2001 at a joint conference organized by Bar Council of India and State Bar Council of Kerala, inter-alia stated:

".....I have said it before and I will say it again: in my opinion, more than 80% of the Judges in this country, across the board, are honest and incorruptible. It is known that the judiciary does not

tolerate corruption in its ranks, it is requisite that corrupt Judges should be investigated and dismissed from service. This is very much possible in the case of subordinate judiciary because disciplinary control lies with the High Court. It is difficult where the higher judiciary is concerned because the only recourse in law is impeachment, which is cumbersome process and which, as a recent instance showed, may not achieve the desired result for reasons that are political. The Supreme Court and High Courts have attempted to evolve an informal procedure to meet the situation, but it is yet to be tested."

(c) The Government is committed to setting up a National Judicial Commission, which inter alia would draw up a Code of Ethics for Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution has recommended that a permanent 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 behaviour of all kinds and complaints of misbehaviour and incapacity of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. The recommendations would be taken into account while establishing the National Judicial Commission.

Under article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate Judicial Service vests with the concerned High Court. Further, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the State Government frames rules and the regulations in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State. The members of the State Judicial Service are governed by these rules and regulations.

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

Visit of World Bank Director

2608. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the World Bank Director recently visited India;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed with the Director of World Bank;

(c) whether he intends to provide funds to some more projects like health care, primary education and power sectors reforms etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the States where these projects are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The head of the World Bank is designated as 'President' and not 'Director'. The World Bank President has not recently (last visit in November, 2000) visited India.

(b) to (e) As there has not been any recent visit, question does not arise.

Indo-Nepal Trade

2609. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether in an attempt to encourage trade with Nepal, the Government have recently revised the procedure for importing quota products from the country;

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

(c) whether Indo-Nepal Trade treaty held in March, 2002 would also be amended suitably; and

(d) if so, the estimated growth of exports and imports between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) On February 3, 2003, Government revised the procedure for import of acrylic yarn, copper products and zinc oxide put under Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) on March 2, 2002 for imports from Nepal. Textile Committee would now monitor the import of Acrylic Yarn and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) would monitor imports of copper products and Zinc Oxide.

His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) shall distribute the quantities of Acrylic Yarn, Copper products and Zinc Oxide to Nepalese exporters specifying the Indian Land Customs Station (LCS) for export of the allocated quantities of the TRQ items. The exporters will approach the respective monitoring agency for registration

of their allocations and issue of Pass Books. The monitoring agencies will write to the specified LCS for clearing the goods. Indian Land Custom authority is to clear the goods and make entry in the Pass Book against each consignment of export. Allotment of new quota to the same exporter would also be endorsed by the Department of Commerce in HMGN under intimation to the monitoring agency for issue of the amendment letter to the respective LCS. On surrender of allotted quota, Department of Commerce in HMGN will make debit entry of the same in the Pass Book keeping the concerned monitoring agency informed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Figures available on India's trade with Nepal are given below:

Year	Rs. Crores	
	Exports to Nepal	Imports from Nepal
2000-2001	643.40	1053.97
2001-2002	1021.79	1698.63
2002-2003 (April-Nov.)	888.79	862.78
2001-2002 (April-Nov.)	677.91	1171.74

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

State Financial Corporations

2610. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Financial Corporations are raising resources through Statutory Liquidity Ratio and Small Scale Industries bonds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments charge a Commission for providing a guarantee for repayment of the funds so raised; and

(d) the steps proposed to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) State Financial Corporations are raising resources through SLR Bonds, which are allocated

by RBI out of Government market borrowing programme every financial year. SFC-wise sub-allocation is done by SIDBI. Besides this, SFCs are also raising priority sector bonds backed up by State Government guarantees.

(b) The details of SLR Bond Quota allocated and raised by 16 SFCs during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. lakhs)		
Year	Bonds Allocated	Bonds Raised
FY 2001	33497.50	18694.91
FY 2002	49081.50	43589.50
FY 2003	53475.00	17357.00

(c) According to SIDBI, different State Governments charge different rates of fee ranging from 0.25% to 0.60% per annum. While some State Governments charge a one time guarantee fee of 1% to 2% others do not charge any guarantee fee at all.

(d) SIDBI has been impressing upon the State Governments to charge minimum guarantee fee so that SFCs are able to raise SLR Bonds at comparatively cheaper rates.

Supply of Material to Government Offices

2611. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some firms are supplying the material to the Government offices on forged price list of DGS&D; and

(b) if so, the details of the firms and Government departments identified in this regard and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) DGS&D concludes Rate Contracts for common user items required by Central Government Ministries/Departments including their attached & subordinate offices & Union Territories. However, State Governments have also been using DGS&D's Rate Contract mechanism informally. Necessary details/particulars regarding the Rate Contracts concluded with various firms for different items are put on the website of the DGS&D. These are also published in the annual/monthly bulletins of DGS&D.

DGS&D was informed in October, 2002 by Director General (DG) Prisons, Uttar Pradesh that medicines were purchased by jails from certain firms under an impression that the firms had valid DGS&D Rate Contract while the firms were not on rate contract. On verification it was found that DGS&D had not issued any Rate Contract to the firm in question, the DG (Prison), UP was accordingly informed. The cause of action for such act of forgery, if any, in this case lies with the concerned State Government. However, as a matter of abundant caution, DGS&D issued a General Notice in the newspapers cautioning departments to verify facts from DGS&D website or annual/monthly bulletin to avoid recurrence of such instances.

Income Tax Assessee in Uttar Pradesh Circle

2612. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of income tax assesseees in Uttar Pradesh circle;

(b) the number of assesseees who have applied for refunds during 2001-2002 in Uttar Pradesh circle;

(c) the amount of refund disbursed during 2001-2002 in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) whether there is any proposal to re-introduce Electronics Clearances System (ECS) to avoid delay in refund; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The total number of income tax assesseees under various Chief Commissioners of Income Tax in Uttar Pradesh was 22.48 lakhs as on 31.12.2002.

(b) The number of assesseees who have applied for refunds during 2001-2002 in Uttar Pradesh is approximately 2,77,258.

(c) An amount of Rs. 454.04 Crores was disbursed as refund during 2001-2002 in Uttar Pradesh.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. In the Budget Speech, the Finance Minister has proposed introduction of Electronic Clearance System (ECS) for direct credit of refunds to the bank account of the taxpayers as a principal administrative reform. For this purpose the taxpayers will be required to furnish the necessary particulars of their bank accounts.

*[Translation]***Concessions to Textile Industry**

2613. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give special concessions to textile industry with a view to make it globally competitive;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) to (c) Taking note of the new challenges and opportunities presented by the changing global environment including an integration of the world textile and clothing markets by end 2004, the Government of India have announced a National Textile Policy in November 2000 to develop a strong and vibrant textile industry capable of producing cloth of good quality at acceptable prices as well as of competing with confidence with other textile producing countries for an increasing share of global market. Some of the major concessions given to textile industry under the Policy are as under:

- (i) De-reservation of woven readymade garment sector from SSI.
- (ii) Announcement in three consecutive Budgets aiming inter-alia at further rationalisation of duty structure in the textile sector and reducing costs of raw material and machinery critical to technology upgradation;
- (iii) Launching of schemes of Apparel Parks for Exports and Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme for upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres;
- (iv) Concerted action for implementation of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and Technology Mission on the Cotton schemes;
- (v) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route in the textile sector with certain exceptions;
- (vi) Launching of a programme as part of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of weaving capacities.

*[English]***Technology Upgradation Fund**

2614. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme w.e.f. April 1, 1999 for modernisation of textile and jute industry for a period of five years;

(b) the total number of applications received by the Government under this scheme till January, 2003, the number of applications cleared, loan sanctioned and the applications pending for clearance;

(c) whether it is a fact that the applicants are going through great hardships for obtaining loan under this scheme due to procedural delays; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to simplify the procedure to clear the applications quickly?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on December 31, 2002, 2023 applications have been received under the scheme with a project cost of Rs. 15810 crore and a loan requirement of Rs. 9095 crore. 1782 applications have been sanctioned a loan amount of Rs. 6101 crore. Rs. 4203 crore has been disbursed in respect of 1430 applications.

(c) and (d) For monitoring and review of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Textiles) including representations of Departments of Expenditure, Commerce, Industry, Banking and Planning Commission has been constituted. Besides, a Technical Advisory and Monitoring Committee (TAMC) under the chairmanship of the Textile Commissioner has also been constituted to monitor and review the progress of the scheme, accelerate its implementation as well as to suggest necessary changes in the technical/financial norms and other aspects for smooth operation of the scheme. Government provides interest reimbursement of 5% under this Scheme through three Nodal Agencies (NA)—Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) for Non-Small Scale Industry (SSI) textile sector, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

for SSI textile sector and Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) for Jute sector. Further, IDBI has co-opted 89 banks/financial institutions (FIs), SIDBI has co-opted 142 banks/FIs and IFCI has co-opted 14 banks/FIs. The cases of delay and other difficulties faced by the applicants are taken up with concerned banks/FIs for early solution. General problems faced by the industry in this regard are placed in the meetings of Technical Advisory cum Monitoring Committee (TAMC) of TUFSS and appropriate decisions taken to mitigate the problems. All the nodal agencies and some major banks are the members of the TAMC. Periodical meetings of nodal agencies and co-opted Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs) are convened and they are impressed upon the need for speedy disposal of applications under TUFSS. Taking into account suggestions received from various organizations of textile industry, Government has been making suitable amendments to the Scheme to make it more users friendly. As a result of these efforts, cases of difficulties have come down considerably.

Enhancing the Judicial System

2615. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Advisory Body has been constituted to develop a national vision and strategy to effectively use modern technology to enhance the judicial system in the country; and

(b) if so, the terms of reference made to this body?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Information Technology has constituted an Advisory Body with the approval of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and Hon'ble Minister of Communications & Information Technology.

(b) The Terms of Reference of the Advisory Body are as follows:—

1. To consider the expectations of the various stakeholders including judges, litigants, lawyers, the government, the law enforcement machinery, court employees, media, the public and other concerned parties from the judicial system of

the country and to examine the manner in which modern Information and Communication Technologies could help to achieve them.

2. To suggest the overall vision for the use of Information and Communication Technology in court across the country having regard to the above expectations of the various stakeholders in terms of convenience, transparency, ease of access, reliability and speed. The vision would take into account both global best practices and Indian conditions and needs.
3. To identify specific goals in relation to the overall vision that can be achieved within the short and medium term (i.e., 2-4 years).
4. To determine the broad criteria for evaluation and monitoring the success of actual implementation with reference to the goals laid down.
5. To recommend a strategy for progressive implementation in the judicial system including the Supreme Court, High Courts, District and subordinate courts after considering such inputs from experts/consultants as considered necessary.
6. To suggest the most appropriate manner of funding the programme in order to ensure sustainability, replicability and consistent quality of service.
7. To communicate and propagate the vision to all sections of society likely to be impacted by the changes.
8. To recommend strategies to enhance access to the justice system particularly by the geographically, economically and socially disadvantaged sections of society through use of ICT.
9. To review at appropriate intervals and whenever required, the implementation with reference to the goals set and to amend, alter or enhance the vision and goals from time to time.
10. To alter the scope of Terms of Reference to the extent considered necessary from time to time in order to achieve the overall objective desired.
11. To advise the Committee of Judges on all the above issues.

*[Translation]***Export Quota for Readymade Garments**

2616. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the increase in export-quota of readymade garments from India has been made reciprocal to the marketing facility for American textiles industry in India; and

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

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]***Development Officers of LIC**

2617. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about huge loss on account of the undue commission being paid to the Development Officer of LIC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court in its verdict stated to deal Development Officer as workmen as per Industrial Development Act, 1947;

(d) if so, whether Government have taken any action adhering to the decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Development Officers are Class II Employees of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and they are not being paid any commission by the LIC.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Premium of LIC

2618. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether LIC has noted a huge gap in premium collection;

(b) if so, the extent of the gap noticed in the month of January, 2003 by LIC;

(c) the reasons for lower premia collection by LIC; and

(d) the steps LIC propose to take to reduce or eliminate this gap in premia collection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that the First Premium Income (FPI) upto January, 2003 has been Rs. 5788.24 crores whereas the FPI upto January, 2002 was Rs. 11834.88 crores. LIC had an exceptional growth during the last year due to favourable market conditions and very high sale of high yield plans. With the reduction in the interest rate, high yield plans have been withdrawn by the LIC and, therefore, the comparative growth of business this year has been low compared with last year.

(d) LIC has informed that they have been launching vigorous publicity campaigns to augment the business growth of FPI. The measures include training of field force to improve their knowledge and sales skill, increase high value sales for enhancing FPI etc.

Urban Banks under the Purview of Securitisation Act

2619. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to bring all the Cooperative Urban Banks under the purview of Securitisation Act, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any notification has been issued to this effect; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO

VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In exercise of the powers conferred under item (v) of clause (c) of sub section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, the Central Government has specified "Co-operative Banks" as defined in clause (cci) of Section 5 of the B.R. Act, 1949 as 'bank' for the purpose of the above Act, Government has issued a notification on 28th January, 2003. Copy of the notification has already been placed on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament.

Pension Scheme for RRB Employees

2620. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed optional pension and other retirement benefits to Regional Rural Bank Staff as per Supreme Court Judgement dated January 31, 2001 and March 7, 2002 where it has been made clear that "Capacity to Pay" will not stand on the way to extend "Parity of wage structure";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) In pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgements dated 31st January, 2001 and 7th March 2002 the Parity of Pay Structure with the employees of Sponsor Banks has already been extended to the Employees of Regional Rural Banks. A compliance Affidavit in this regard was filed by the Government in the Supreme Court on 30th May, 2002.

IFCI Defaulters

2621. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

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

(a) the number of notices served by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India to the defaulters during the last two years;

(b) the amount involved in cases of defaulters to whom notices have been served during the above period; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the IFCI, if the defaulters do not repay the amount after the date of notice expires?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) IFCI Ltd. has reported that they have served notices on 41 companies involving an aggregate outstanding of Rs. 2329.62 crores under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 upto 31st January 2003. IFCI have also issued consent letters to the creditors in 34 cases with aggregate outstanding dues of Rs. 3094.96 crores.

(c) IFCI has further reported that notices issued by IFCI Ltd. under the Act has brought pressure on some of the otherwise indifferent borrowers to approach IFCI Ltd. with proposals for resolution of the impaired/stressed assets through formulation of acceptable Restructuring Packages or Negotiated Settlements of Dues. In cases where there has been no response from the borrowers, appropriate strategies are being formulated on case to case basis by IFCI, keeping in view the relevant provisions of the Act as also the recent Supreme Court decision in case of M/s Mardia Chemicals Ltd.

Mahajan Committee Recommendations

2622. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details on which quota of levy sugar has been reduced since March, 1999 indicating the percentage of reduction on each occasion;

(b) the reasons for providing relief to the sugar mill owners by reducing the quota of levy sugar;

(c) the present status of implementation of Mahajan Committee recommendations on sugar industry; and

(d) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The levy obligation of sugar mills has been reduced since March 1999 as indicated below:

From 40% to 30% w.e.f. 1.1.2000

From 30% to 15% w.e.f. 1.2.2001

From 15% to 10% w.e.f. 1.3.2002

The levy obligation has been reduced to enable sugar mills to sell greater quantities of levy free sugar in the market so as to enable them to pay cane price to sugarcane growers on time.

(c) and (d) Most of the recommendations of the Mahajan Committee have been implemented. No time limit for implementation of the remaining recommendations can be indicated.

Bench of Orissa High Court

2623. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a separate bench of Orissa High Court at Nawarangpur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No complete proposal has been received by the Central Government from the Government of Orissa, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court, for establishing a bench of the High Court at Nawarangpur.

Permission to Raise Funds from Open Market

2624. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments particularly Maharashtra has sought permission from the Union Government to raise funds from the open market to tackle the unprecedented financial crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Some States including Maharashtra have requested the centre to provide one time financial assistance/permission for raising of funds from open market in order to tackle the liquidity crisis faced by the States.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra had proposed to raise funds by means of bonds/loan amounting to Rs. 350 crores with the right to retain over subscription upto Rs. 150 crores through private placement for

distribution between Irrigation Projects of the State through the Maharashtra Patbandhare Vittia Company Limited (MPVC).

(c) Any financial assistance to ease the Ways and Means position of the State should be in consonance with the Medium Term Fiscal Reform Programme agreed to by the State under the States Fiscal Reform Facility 2000-01 to 2004-05 of the Government of India.

The proposals which enable the State Governments to prepay expensive coupon Special Purpose Vehicle loans, through fresh loans at current lower rates of interest, is agreed to in principal as these do not add on to the stock of outstanding SPV debt or State Guarantees. However, this is subject to the State Government seeking concurrence on such refinancing proposals under Article 293(3) of the Constitution of India.

Modernisation of Textile Mills

2625. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernize the textile mills;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of textile mills modernised during the Ninth Plan period;

(c) the State-wise details of such mills proposed to be modernized during the Tenth Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (d) In order to facilitate modernization/technology upgradation of textile mills, Government has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textile and Jute Industries, w.e.f. 1.4.1999 for a period of 5 years, i.e., up to 31st March 2004. The main feature of the Scheme is that it provides a reimbursement of 5% point on the interest charged by the lending agency on a project of technology upgradation in conformity with this Scheme. There is no cap on funding under this scheme. With effect from 1st Jan. 2002, an option has been provided to the Small Scale Textile and Jute Industries to avail of either 12 percent Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS-TUFS) or 5 percent interest reimbursement under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme. The State-wise details of the mills which have applied for assistance under the scheme, loan sanctioned, amount disbursed etc. since the inception of the scheme, i.e. 01-04-1999 to 31-12-2002, are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Progress of TUFs (State-wise) as on 31.12.2002 (Provisional)*

(Rs. in crore)

Sr. No.	State/U.T.	Received			Sanctioned			Disbursed			
		No. of Applications	Project Cost	Amount of loan required	No. of applications	Project Cost	Amount	No. of applications	Project Cost	Amount Sanctioned	Amount
1.	Tamil Nadu	584	3207.13	2072.04	523	2732.54	1621.24	415	2217.52	1386.50	1049.54
2.	Punjab	262	2364.09	1123.82	240	2118.37	925.99	175	1744.39	754.59	624.40
3.	Maharashtra	167	2499.47	1441.73	143	1673.43	745.85	103	1527.14	646.56	486.11
4.	Gujarat	413	1815.18	923.44	367	1242.09	619.82	327	1129.30	559.12	481.25
5.	Rajasthan	191	1354.81	786.96	156	963.48	464.35	140	921.62	443.89	369.54
6.	Uttar Pradesh	35	934.59	497.00	28	864.40	346.87	22	323.95	225.86	159.59
7.	Karnataka	73	633.86	381.29	66	480.41	261.71	53	428.55	233.60	160.13
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	30	1022.38	585.37	25	735.38	259.19	23	657.28	234.19	224.59
9.	Andhra Pradesh	39	603.21	352.59	30	417.42	220.59	25	397.42	209.76	165.10
10.	Himachal Pradesh	7	316.52	238.25	6	308.27	172.65	6	308.27	172.65	169.65
11.	Madhya Pradesh	14	329.94	240.88	14	329.94	135.60	11	315.76	129.74	127.59
12.	Haryana	123	335.83	181.99	109	232.94	124.02	75	194.57	106.61	75.17
13.	West Bengal	29	144.52	88.91	26	119.28	76.09	20	69.51	48.27	37.09
14.	Kerala	10	121.90	102.54	7	51.66	58.10	6	44.66	54.10	44.69
15.	Delhi	33	82.60	51.99	29	70.93	42.73	19	32.36	19.98	17.49
16.	Daman & Diu	9	19.00	13.91	9	19.00	13.56	7	17.80	12.64	7.37
17.	Chandigarh	2	21.28	9.37	2	21.28	9.37	1	6.36	2.07	2.07
18.	Orissa	1	1.90	1.66	1	1.90	1.66	1	1.90	1.66	0.81
19.	Nagaland	1	1.57	1.41	1	1.57	1.41	1	1.57	1.41	0.43
Total		2023	15809.78	9095.17	1782	12384.30	6100.82	1430	10339.91	5243.22	4202.60

*[Translation]***Package for Cooperative Sector**

2626. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar Government has sought rehabilitation package for revival of cooperative sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal was received in March 1999 from Bihar Government for providing financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 426.57 crores for the District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) of the State. The matter of providing financial assistance for the rehabilitation of the Cooperative Credit Structure has been examined by the Task Force headed by Shri Jagdish Capoor, former Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Based on the recommendations made by the said Committee and the Committee headed by the former Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has prepared a scheme on Revitalisation of Co-operative Credit Structure. The modalities for the implementation of the scheme are being finalised.

[English]

Trends in the Textile Industry

2627. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the international trend is shifting towards synthetics, woollen and blends; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to adapt our products to that trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) International trend in consumption of cotton fibre synthetic and woollen fibre is indicated in the table below:—

World consumption of major textile fibre

(In Mn. kg)

Year	Cotton	Synthetic/Wool			Total	Grand Total
		Cellulosic	Non-Cellulosic	Wool		
1997	19318 (42.4%)	2314	22399	1497	26210 (57.6%)	45528 (100%)
1998	19113 (41.4%)	2182	23398	1478	27058 (58.6%)	46171 (100%)
1999	19428 (40.9%)	2118	24554	1458	28130 (59.1%)	47558 (100%)
2000	19950 (40.7%)	2139	25490	1450	29079 (59.3%)	49029 (100%)
2001	20306 (40.6%)	2132	26122	1440	29694 (59.4%)	50000 (100%)

(Source: ICAC, Commonwealth Secretariat, International Wool Secretariat, and Fibre economics Bureau)

(b) The trend in domestic consumption of fibre is similarly shifting towards synthetics. The synthetic and woollen sectors of the industry are taking advantage, alongwith the others, of schemes and concessions meant to encourage growth and competitiveness of the textile industry:—

- (i) De-reservation of woven readymade garment sector from SSI.
- (ii) Announcement in three consecutive Budgets aiming inter-alia at further rationalisation of duty structure in the textile sector and reducing costs of raw material and machinery critical to technology upgradation;

- (iii) Launching of schemes of Apparel Parks for Exports and Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme for upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres;
- (iv) Concerted action for implementation of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and Technology Mission on the Cotton schemes;
- (v) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route in the textile sector with certain exceptions;
- (vi) Launching of a programme as part of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of weaving capacities.

In addition, the announcement has been made in the Budget Speech 2003-04 of reduction in import duties on apparel grade raw wool and excise duties on all other filament yarns, polyester filament yarn and polyester cotton, cotton viscose and all spun yarns.

[*Translation*]

Trade Fair in China

2628. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to organize an exhibition of Indian Industry in China;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of stalls to be set up along with the names of departments participating and duration of such exhibitions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

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

[*English*]

Vacant Posts of SC/ST

2629. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 933 on July 19, 2002 regarding SC/ST representation in the Ministry and state:

- (a) whether requisite information has so far 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 it is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) In response to Unstarred Question No. 933 on July 19th 2002 regarding SC/ST representation in the Ministry, due to non-availability of complete information from all concerned, an Assurance had been given.

Subsequently, this Department had followed up, at appropriate level, with concerned offices under the Ministry for getting the requisite/complete information expedited. This has been received from all concerned but in one case the information supplied was not complete. Therefore, the matter has been taken up with them again. As soon as the full information is received, the same would be placed on the Table of the House.

Consumer Forums

2630. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Consumer Forums at a number of places are wrongly taking up complaints of non-payment of company deposits;
- (b) if so, whether it is not stepping into the jurisdiction of the Company Law Board, which is a legitimate and proper agency for dealing with grievances of company deposits; and
- (c) if so, whether the Government will issue instructions to the Consumer Forums not to dabble with disputes relating to company deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force. The Consumer Forums set up under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are empowered to adjudicate cases including the cases relating to deficiency in financial services as per the provisions of the said Act. It is for the aggrieved party to take recourse to make an appeal in the appropriate forums in case one is not satisfied with the order. Therefore, the Government will not be in a position to intervene in the judicial process of the Consumer Forums.

Textile Export Promotion Scheme

2631. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the textile exporters are requesting the Government to continue the various export promotion schemes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;

(c) whether his Ministry has requested the Ministry of Finance to abolish export promotion scheme; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and its effect on export of the country?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is of the view that the export promotion schemes work on the basic principle of remission/exemption of duty on inputs used in the export product and are thus necessary to ensure the cost competitiveness of Indian exports.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Indo-Thailand Trade Agreement

2632. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Thailand have decided to rapidly move forward a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA);

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the incentives given or offer made by both the countries for making the Free Trade Agreement; and

(d) the manner in which FTA will be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) A Joint Negotiating Group (JNG) has been set up for drafting a Framework Agreement on India-Thailand Free Trade Area (FTA). The first meeting of the Joint Negotiating Group was held on 23rd-24th December, 2002 in Bangkok during which both sides adopted its Terms of Reference (TOR) and the schedule of meetings for achieving the objective of concluding a Framework Agreement on India-Thailand FTA by September, 2003. The Second meeting of the JNG is scheduled to be held on 10-12 March 2003.

Investment Facilitation Fund

2633. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up an Investment Facilitation Fund to provide assistance to those States which need assistance in modifying policies and procedures for promoting foreign and domestic investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Steering Committee on Foreign Direct Investment set up by the Planning Commission has recommended, inter alia, that an Investment Facilitation Fund can be set up to provide assistance to those States which need assistance in modifying policies and procedures for promoting foreign and domestic investment. The Steering Committee felt that the proposed Fund could have two components: technical assistance and financial assistance, the latter contingent on State specific reforms. The recommendation is under examination of the Government.

[Translation]

Impact of Economic Liberalisation on States

2634. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of economic liberalisation on the financial condition of the economically backward States which are known as 'BIMARU' States of the country;

(b) whether their condition has turned bad to worse due to the policy of economic liberalisation adopted twelve years ago;

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

(d) the economic package offered/proposed to be offered by the Government to improve the economic condition of such States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Economic liberalisation seeks to improve efficiency and growth potential of the economy and is expected to have of favourable impact on the economy of the States.

Most of the State Governments, including the BIMARU States have been experiencing large and

increasing fiscal and revenue deficits, particularly during the second half of the 1990s. The deterioration in the financial position of States is mainly on account of increasing expenditure on salaries and wages, pensions and interest payments and the lower growth of revenue receipts in relation to expenditure growth.

On the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, the Central Government has drawn up a scheme called the States Fiscal Reform Facility (2000-01 to 2004-05) to encourage States to undertake Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Programme aimed at improving their fiscal position. To this end, an incentive fund of Rs. 10,607 crore has been earmarked over a period of five years to encourage the States to implement monitorable fiscal reforms. Government of India has also proposed a debt swap mechanism to facilitate States to retire their stocks of high cost Central Government loans and advances. These initiatives are expected to improve the financial position of States, including those of BIMARU States.

[*Translation*]

Grants to NGOs by Japan

2635. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Japan has extended grants to some NGOs in the country;

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

(c) the amount of grants received by these NGOs during each of the last three years and the purposes for which grants have been sanctioned?

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

A statement containing names of the NGOs, the amounts sanctioned and the purpose of the grant is enclosed.

Statement

Details of grants sanctioned by Government of Japan to NGOs in India during the last three years

FY 1999-2000

Sl. no.	Name of the NGO	Amount	Purpose
1	2	3	4
1.	Jan Manas Vikas Sansthan	US \$ 67,581	Drinking water project
2.	DEVI Sansthan	US \$ 35,034	Primary Health and Family Planning Participatory Resources Project
3.	Development Research and Action Group	US \$ 55,813	Mohan Garden School Building Project
4.	Rural Development Society	US \$ 44,651	Safe drinking water supply and sanitation services project
5.	World Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief-India	US \$ 73,244	TB Project
6.	Department of Chinese & Japanese Studies, University of Delhi	US \$ 1,865	Installation of equipment to receive the NHK world television broadcast
7.	Allahabad Agricultural Institute, College of Continuing and Non-Formal Education	US \$ 64,186	Clean Village Initiative Project
8.	Lok Sewa Samiti	US \$ 76,266	Safe Drinking Water
9.	PHD Rural Development Foundation	US \$ 49,533	Primary Health Centre, Kufri

1	2	3	4
10.	Vidya Sagar Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (VIMHANS)	US \$ 79,344	Field Outreach Health Care Centre
11.	Centre for Japanese and North-East Asian Studies, Jawahar Lal Nehru University	US \$ 7,963	Installation of equipment to receive the NHK world television broadcast
12.	Social Centre for Rural Initiative and Advancement (Khorri centre)	US \$ 74,145	Increase availability of water for drinking and other purpose in desert area
13.	Parents's Association for the Welfare of Children with Mental Handicap/ Muskaan	US \$ 81,395	Building construction for Muskaan Vocational Training and Work Centre Diagnostic, Counseling and Research Centre
14.	Entomology Research Institute, Society of Loyola College	US \$ 82,716	To distribute eco-friendly bisopesticide to the farmers in the grip of poverty at free of cost and to give training to them
15.	The Banyan, Chennai	US \$ 81,385	To construct a building for accommodation, medical care and rehabilitation and homeless mentally ill women
16.	Sacred Heath Leprosy Centre, Kumbakonam	US \$ 83,114	To construct a block for terminal leprosy patients
17.	SOS Children's Villages of India- Chatnath Homes, Chennai	US \$ 54,573	To construct a primary school building for orphans and children from poor families
18.	Sevai Society, Madurai	US \$ 80,831	To construct a primary school building for orphans and rural children
19.	Wemer Worff Foundation for Rehabilitation for the Mentally Disabled, Tiruchirapalli	US \$ 79,150	To set up the facilities to accommodate, educate and train mentally disabled children
20.	Madurai Jesuit Downtrodden People Welfare Trust, Madurai	US \$ 79,020	To set up a home for the girls belong to the most underprivileged class for their education
21.	Child Jesus Hospital, Tiruchirapalli	US \$ 81,514	Project for extended and increase health care medical services in rural areas
22.	The Spastics Society for Tamilnadu, Chennai	US \$ 78,610	Vocational training project for youth with serious disabilities
23.	The Society for Comprehensive Rehabilitation service to the physically handicapped persons in India	US \$ 25,000	The Orissa social restoration project

1	2	3	4
24.	Mobility India	US \$ 83,165	Setting up of training workshop at Calcutta project
25.	The National Institute of Cholera & Enteric Diseases	US \$ 79,961	The prevention of emerging diarrhoeal disease project
26.	Visva Bharati University, Vidya Bhavan, Department of Japanese Studies	US \$ 2,068	Installation of equipment to receive the NHK world television broadcast
27.	Crafts Council of India	US \$ 82,211	Study with training centre, Sriperumbudur
28.	Stella Maris College	US \$ 83,303	Functional literacy and vocational training
29.	The Society of the Home for the Aged	US \$ 33,677	To expand the facilities & equipment for the home for the aged
30.	The Anchorage	US \$ 82,500	For expansion of the Anchorage
31.	The Bombay Society of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary	US \$ 82,500	To introduce computer education at Village Therasa High School
Year 2000-01			
32.	Professional Assistance for Development Action	US \$ 91,621	Creating sustainable natural resource based livelihood for tribal people
33.	Society for Civic Rights	US \$ 34,469	Community based workshops/seminar on environmental issues & people's participation and prevention of HIV/AIDS
34.	Rural Litigation & Entitlement Kendra	US \$ 69,622	Infrastructure development for basic education including primary education for the girl child
35.	PSU Foundation	US \$ 89,070	Safe drinking water and environmental sanitation
36.	Venu Charitable Society	US \$ 92,917	Essential ophthalmic equipment
37.	Jan Jagriti Educational Society	US \$ 92,330	Expansion of infrastructure for formal education for the economically weaker section in the difficult circumstances
38.	Technology and Action for Sustainable Development	US \$ 32,559	Drought relief for Rajasthan CENDEVEN "Turant Rahat" in 5 tahsils of district Alwar
39.	Arpana Trust	US \$ 94,126	Equipment for Arpana Delhi Centre

1	2	3	4
40.	Deepalaya	US \$ 95,053	Street and working children rehabilitation project at Gusbethi, Haryana
41.	World Vision of India	US \$ 94,509	Nirmal Jal
42.	Helpage India	US \$ 91,698	For Gujarat Earthquake
43.	Friends of All	US \$ 72,730	For Gujarat Earthquake
44.	JEN (Japanese NGO)	US \$ 76,321	For Gujarat Earthquake
45.	World Vision India, Chennai	US \$ 52,859	Rehabilitation programme for re-settlement slum community
46.	St. Joseph Hill Tribe Development Social Service and Orphanage Society, Athipet	US \$ 80,151	Provision of the home for poor tribal and dalit children of jawadhu hill.
47.	Opportunity School, Chennai	US \$ 70,818	Project to build facilities to accommodate mentally retarded adult women
48.	SEVALAYA, Chennai	US \$ 65,053	Construction of old age home
49.	Hindu Mission Hospital, Chennai	US \$ 76,024	Provision of the medical equipment for efficient treatment at geriatric block
50.	Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy	US \$ 47,092	Supporting services for persons with multiple disability
51.	Bureau of Rural Economical & Agricultural Development	US \$ 13,174	Income generating project for rural poor women
52.	Integrated Development Fund	US \$ 16,073	Safe drinking water project
53.	Indian Red Cross Society	US \$ 55,245	West Bengal flood relief
54.	Manikjore Seva Sangh	US \$ 4,023	Development of status of rural poor women by income generating activities
55.	Vivekanand Jana Seva Kendra	US \$ 17,339	Potable drinking water supply system including provision for irrigation
56.	Udayan	US \$ 63,592	Construction of primary school building for children of lepers
57.	Helpage India	US \$ 85,372	Mobile medical care at the doorstep of the poor and destitute elderly
58.	Ma-Niketan Society	US \$ 80,041	To reconstruct the home for orphan children of MA-Niketan Society

1	2	3	4
59.	Janaseva Foundation	US \$ 93,126	To construct the centre for destitute at Pune
60.	Bombay Leprosy Project	US \$ 3,836	Computer training of the leprosy disabled and handicapped
61.	The Bombay Xaverian Corporation, Mumbai	US \$ 8,315	The mobile clinic and dispensary for poor villages
62.	Jnana Prabhodihini-Solapur	US \$ 92,976	To construct a residential school for earthquake-affected children in rural areas
63.	Student Training and Action for National Development	US \$ 78,555	For construction of training centre for backward students
64.	Rashtra Seva Dal	US \$ 68,897	For expansion of facilities to APLE GHAR, a residential school for earthquake affected children
65.	Caritas Goa	US \$ 16,044	Upgrading the facilities of training cum production centre for the handicapped
66.	Little Sisters of the Poor from La Tour St. Joseph France	US \$ 14,476	To install the facilities and equipment for the home for the aged
For 2001-02			
67.	Akhil Bhartiya Mahila Udyog Kalyan & Shiksha Samiti	US \$ 65,473	Construction of primary school building for under privileged children in the slum areas
68.	Anchal Charitable Trust	US \$ 23,681	Anchal Community Outreach Programme
69.	Andhra Mahila Sabha	US \$ 92,449	A new building in the exiting location for the Durgabal Deshmukh vocational training
70.	Aravali Education Society	US \$ 90,172	Expansion of Aravali Public School
71.	Arunodaya Charitable Trust	US \$ 56,916	Eye Care Project
72.	Asia Crime Prevention Foundation	US \$ 44,268	Working Group meeting of Asia Crime Prevention Foundation
73.	Christian Medical College	US \$ 88,658	Proposal for upgrading medical facilities
74.	DISHA	US \$ 33,806	Development of women living in urban slums of Delhi through Formation, Training & Advancement

1	2	3	4
75.	Helpage India	US \$ 78,721	Ophthalmic Equipment & Upgradation of infrastructure
76.	Jan Manas Vikas Sansthan	US \$ 92,357	Drinking Water Supply Project
77.	National Association for the Blind	US \$ 7,093	Talking book library for the blind
78.	NAVJYOTI Delhi Police Foundation for Correction, De-addiction and Rehabilitation	US \$ 90,197	Setting up of an institute for drugs demand reduction, correction, de-addiction and rehabilitation
79.	Pairokar Vikas Samiti	US \$ 12,450	Mobile Medicare Unit in the deprived areas of inner-city of Jaipur
80.	Rural Centre for Human Interests (RUCHI)	US \$ 48,682	Improvement in quality of life rural people through management of their natural resources
81.	Rural Medicare Society	US \$ 72,504	Expansion of basic health care facilities to provide medical treatment at low cost to weaker section
82.	Society for Social Services	US \$ 38,153	Comprehensive drive to eradicate T.B. in the targeted area
83.	Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society	US \$ 56,813	Ensuring women's rehabilitation and sustainable livelihood building sustainable community structure
84.	The Lucknow Loreto Educational Society	US \$ 92,989	Educational and vocational training for underprivileged girls
85.	The Society for Disabled Women	US \$ 73,993	Computer Literacy Programme
86.	Udayan Care-2	US \$ 90,572	LIFE Udayan Ghar
87.	Umeed Khanna Foundation	US \$ 62,904	Eradication of mosquito-borne diseases
88.	Wakachiai Project	US \$ 68,286	School Reconstruction Project in the earthquake damaged villages
89.	Comprehensive Social Service Society	US \$ 91,666	Sustainable livelihood through micro watershed for the rural population
90.	Indian Medical Centre	US \$ 48,270	Primary health care for the rural aged in Agatheeshwaram block of Kanyakumari District
91.	Rural Identity and Cultural Education	US \$ 40,498	Vocational training on computer education for women and handicapped

1	2	3	4
92.	Community Development Centre	US \$ 72,963	Developing an eco-friendly habitat with permanent housing
93.	Sri Shakthi Association	US \$ 74,643	De-addiction hospital at Harihar
94.	Maharashtra Education Fund	US \$ 57,310	Restructuring of SS Raghavendra Rao primary School
95.	Valluvar Gurukulam	US \$ 73,209	Development of infrastructure at Valluvar Gurukulam Elementary School
96.	MR Omayal Achi MR Arunachalam Trust	US \$ 41,646	Expansion of Omayal Achi Community Health Centre, Arakkambakkam
97.	Community Action for Food and Rural Development	US \$ 47,249	Poverty relief through environment programme, Thirunelveli District
98.	Sri Vigneshwara Mahila	US \$ 9,287	Mobile medicare for the aged
99.	Centre for Social Reconstruction	US \$ 32,187	Grassroots training centre
100.	The Voluntary Health, Education and Rural Development Society	US \$ 55,384	Community based health programme in Rural Tamil Nadu (Thiruvallur & Kanchipuram Districts)
101.	Ramakrishna Mission	US \$ 88,475	Relief boats for flood victims in West Bengal
102.	Loreto House Educational Society, Calcutta	US \$ 36,536	Educational enrichment for deprived urban children of Kolkata
103.	Little Sisters of the Poor	US \$ 13,541	An Ambulance for transportation and needs of the elderly of the Home
104.	La Martiniere SEOMP Society	US \$ 20,735	Training and follow up services for micro enterprise initiatives for the urban poor
105.	Pratibandhi Kalyan Kendra	US \$ 53,316	Development of infrastructure for services of children with disabilities
106.	Indo-Japanese Association	US \$ 91,272	To set up a vocational training school for under privileged people
107.	Bombay Leprosy Project	US \$ 76,628	The project on physical rehabilitation cum vocational training centre and mobile leprosy treatment unit for the leprosy affected persons and physically handicapped
108.	The Society of the Home for the Aged, Little Sisters of the Poor	US \$ 88,804	Improving the facility for geriatric care

1	2	3	4
109.	Bhakti Vimukt Jati Shikshan Sansthan	US \$ 66,748	For betterment of living conditions and educational facilities of the school and hostel for deaf/mute children and orphans
110.	Nagpur Houses Mary Immaculate	US \$ 89,184	To reconstruct "Ash Bhavan" a maternity and nursing home for underprivileged women and children
111.	S.P. Mandali's Vinaykumar Ramniwas Ruia Mook Badhir Vidyalaya	US \$ 54,876	Construction of a building to house a vocational training centre for hearing impaired children
112.	SOS Children's Villages of India	US \$ 6,131	To introduce computer literacy programme in primary school for orphan & destitute children
113.	The Bombay St. Xavier's College Society	US \$ 45,288	Setting up of a computer laboratory at the St. Xavier's college to cater to the underprivileged and poor students of the commerce faculty
114.	Shanti Avedna Ashram	US \$ 91,303	Constructing shati avedna centre for palliative care for terminal cancers and terminal cancers affiliated with AIDS
115.	Society of St. Francis Xavier	US \$ 91,304	To construct "BALAGRAM", a shelter home and a primary school for underprivileged children
116.	Society of the Sisters of the Destitute	US \$ 91,397	To construct rehabilitation centre for the people living with HIV and AIDS
117.	National society for equal opportunity for Handicapped	US \$ 31,813	To set up data entry operating unit for disabled
118.	National Association for the Blind	US \$ 75,705	Mobile ophthalmic unit for the detection and treatment of all eye diseases

Sale of Mobile Hand Sets in Grey Market

2636. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 70 per cent of the mobile hand sets are being sold through the grey market;

(b) if so, whether these sets are being smuggled in

large quantity and sold in the local market at rates much lower than the domestic market rates;

(c) whether the Indian Cellular Association (ICA) have urge upon the Government to take appropriate measure to curb the grey market by rationalising the duty on import of mobile hand sets and to check the loss in revenue to the Government which is expected to Rs. 5390 crore by the year 2006; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it cannot be said with certainty that large quantity of mobile hand sets is being smuggled into the country. Since the duty liability on mobile hand sets that are smuggled into the country, is not discharged, their prices may be lower than mobile hand sets sold legally, wherein all taxes are paid. However, details of seizures of mobile hand sets made during last 2 years & current year (upto January, 2003) is as under.

Year	No. of cases booked	Value of seizure (Rs. in Crores)
2000-2001	2946	13.3052
2001-2002	2457	15.7496
2002-2003 (upto January, 2003)	946	13.8430

(c) and (d) Representation has been received from Indian Cellular Association regarding duty rate reduction and taking enforcement measure to curb grey market. As regards customs duty on mobile hand sets, in the 2000 budget, basic Customs duty was reduced from 25% to 5%. In the 2002 budget, basic Customs duty was raised to 10% but countervailing duty on mobile hand sets was exempted. In this year's budget excise duty has been exempted on these mobile hand sets but customs duty remains the same.

Online Training in Insurance Sector

2637. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US based companies have offered online training in insurance sector;

(b) if so, whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority agreed to the proposals; and

(c) if so, the final outcome in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has informed that US based companies have not directly offered online training facilities. However, the Authority has granted permission to an Indian company, which has a tie-up with US based

company, to offer online training in accordance with the IRDA regulations.

Lok Adalats

2638. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ruled out review of the Legal Services Authorities (Amendment) Act, 2002, designed to establish permanent Lok Adalats as an additional forum to litigants for resolution of their disputes with certain public utility services;

(b) if so, whether these Adalats have been helpful in reducing the pending cases with the courts;

(c) whether keeping in view its importance and quick decision, the Government are now considering to have these Adalats permanently in almost all the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) There is no proposal to review the Legal Services Authorities (Amendment) Act, 2002.

(b) Till the quarter ending 30.09.2002 the Lok Adalats have settled about 1.45 crore cases, thereby reducing the burden on courts. Similarly these permanent Lok Adalats are expected to help reduce the pendency further.

(c) and (d) Under Section 22B(1) the Central Authority or, as the case may be every State Authority shall by notification establish permanent Lok Adalats. All State Governments/UT Administrations, Chief Justices of High Court and the State Legal Services Authorities have already been requested to take necessary steps for setting up these permanent Lok Adalats.

[Translation]

FII in SBI

2639. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to raise foreign institutional investment in State Bank of India;

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

(c) the criteria adopted to fix this limit?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Indo-Russian Trade

2640. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India stands to lose the Russian market to China and European countries after the expiry of Rupee-Rouble Debt Repayment arrangement in 2004;

(b) whether China has recorded a \$ 12 billion trade with Russia last year against India's bilateral trade with Russia amounting to a mere \$ 1.4 million;

(c) whether a business/industry delegation has visited Moscow recently to promote Indian trade; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) To maintain and further enhance Indian exports to Russia in the post-rupee debt repayment scenario, it was agreed by both Sides, during the Eighth Session of Indo-Russian Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation held in February, 2002 at New Delhi, that all efforts need to be made both at the governmental level and through increased interaction among the business circles to provide gradual transition to trade on the basis of normal commercial terms and forms. In this context, the Sides particularly noted the progress made in developing cooperation between Indian and Russian banking and financial institutions. Both Sides further agreed to actively promote and further facilitate increased and direct interface between Indian and Russian entrepreneurs which will lead to a better understanding of economic and commercial opportunities as well as of the legal and administrative frameworks for doing business in the two countries.

(b) Russia's trade turnover with China in the year 2001 was US \$ 7.1 billion according to Russian Customs statistics whereas the Indo-Russian bilateral trade during

the financial year 2001-2002 was worth US \$ 1.3 billion according to DGCI&S, Kolkata.

(c) and (d) The Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) led a CEO's delegation to Moscow in February 2003 for holding the 3rd meeting of the India-Russian Federation Joint Business Council. Inter-alia discussions were held for promoting bilateral trade in various areas of mutual interest. An Indian Trade Exhibition was held in Moscow from February 17-21, 2003 where over 200 Indian companies participated. These events proved to be very significant in broadening the existing business-to-business contacts between India and Russia, and also bridge the information gap on opportunities for enhancing our economic and commercial relations. It is expected that an improved appreciation of the existing market in both countries would pave the way for a sustained engagement between our business sectors.

UNDP Aided Projects in Orissa

2641. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects implemented in the State of Orissa with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assistance and allocations of fund made under those projects during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have made any review on the implementation of those projects; and

(c) if so, the achievements made under these projects during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The details of projects implemented in the State of Orissa with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assistance and allocation of funds made under these projects during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The projects were reviewed in May, 2002 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Orissa.

(c) The achievement made under these projects are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Project name	Time frame	Total funding
Promotion of Alternate Housing Technologies and Capacity building of the community for Habitat development in Orissa.	January 2001-June 2002. This programme is likely to continue till 2006 with additional allocation	Rs. 15,662,000
Orissa Disaster Management Programme.	March 2001-September 2002	Rs. 13,655,856
Strengthening Co-Ordination and Emergency response in Vulnerable Districts of Orissa—Support for Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority	January 2002-June 2002	Rs. 2,400,000
Livelihood restoration Programme in the Flood Affected Districts of Orissa	August 2001—February 2002	Rs. 28,432,032
Bridging the digital divide-capacity building for empowerment and access to quality services in disaster prone areas through volunteers	August 2000 to June 2002	Rs. 2,208,000
"Orissa-Post cyclone support for strengthening disease surveillance and response system"	May 2000—July 2002	Rs. 36,095,424
Breach closure: an initiative to strengthen livelihood restoration in the flood affected areas of Orissa	October 2001—March 2002	Rs. 2,492,112
Distribution of family kits to vulnerable families in post flood relief in coastal districts	August 2001	Rs. 940,000
Natural resources management and sustainable livelihood for women in agriculture	February 2000 to December 2002	Rs. 16,450,000
Community based rainwater harvesting in drought affected areas	February 2001 to September 2003	Rs. 65,136,600
Disaster Risk Management Programme (GOI-UNDP)	August 2002—Ongoing	Phase 1— Rs. 24,100,000

Statement II

S. No.	Project Name	Achievements
1	2	3
1.	Promotion of alternate housing technologies and capacity building of the community for habitat development in Orissa	Local capacities enhanced by training 764 masons, 145 Govt. Engineers, 104 Architects, Engineers, Planners and NGO Supervisors in technology transfer, by building 40 demonstration units, by creating awareness and establishing fora.

1	2	3
2. Orissa Disaster Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacities of Government Functionaries at Block, GP, and Village levels enhanced to prepare Community Contingency Plans in 1600 villages • Awareness about do's and don'ts and roles and responsibilities created at village level 	
3. Strengthening Coordination and Emergency Response in Vulnerable Districts of Orissa-support to Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority (OSDMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 District Control Rooms strengthened with equipment for early warning and dissemination • District Collectors, SPs, CDMOs, line department officials, BDOs & Tahsildars trained in DM • District DM Plans prepared in 11 districts • Civil Society Response Plans prepared in 4 districts 	
4. Livelihood Restoration Programme in the Flood-affected Districts of Orissa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livelihood Restoration of 10000 families • 29 Agro-service Centres and 40 Agro-information Centres established • Farmers trained in Alternative cropping patterns and pesticide use. 	
5. Bridging the Digital Divide-Capacity Building for Empowerment and promotion of Citizen-centred e-governance Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen's accessibility to information on Govt. programmes strengthened by establishing IT-kiosks • An interactive web-site www.aamagaon.com operational in Khurda, Kendrapara, Bolangir District. • Increased community usage of computers and Internet 	
6. "Orissa—Post Cyclone Support for Strengthening Disease Surveillance and Response System" (Orissa Multi-Disease Surveillance System: OMDSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative improvement in disease reporting with 100% timely response from nearly 95% of blocks in the last 6 months. • Health staff and 24 State and 90 District Core Trainers trained. • Training manuals on DSS for all levels developed • Draft Health Strategy developed. • Rapid Nutritional Assessment Survey completed in Chhattisgarh and in one drought-prone tribal area of Orissa. 	
7. Breach closure: An Initiative to Strengthen Livelihood Restoration in the Flood affected Areas of Orissa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of the 9 embankments breaches amounting to 4400 ft. 	
8. Strengthening Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Livelihoods for Women in Tribal Orissa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250 Women SHG groups involved in farm based activities. • Regular training for Capacity Building of the women SHG are being conducted on sustainable natural resource management and value addition to agriculture including storage and processing techniques. 	
9. Disaster Risk Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District DM Committees and Block DM Committees formed in programme districts. • Orientation of Government functionaries at all levels ongoing. 	
10. Sustainable Livelihood and Drought proofing through Decentralised Planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive drought-proofing activities initiated, and various drought-proofing structures strengthened. • Livelihood support to 10,000 poorest of the poor households 	

1	2	3
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- 500 acre pur under Land treatment/Agriculture diversification/intensification
- 10 Van Suraksha Samitis activated
- 4 Exposure visit arranged for PRI Members, GoO officials & Multi-purpose Community Volunteers (MCVs)

Upgradation of City

2642. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present population of Kollam (UA) (Kerala) as per census 2001, justifies the upgradation into a B2 city; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to declare Kollam as B-2 city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Final population figures as per Census 2001 have not been released by the Registrar General of India. The reclassification of all cities, including Kollam, for the purposes of HRA/CCA to Central Government employees will be considered when the final population figures as per Census 2001 are available from the Registrar General of India.

Per-Capita Consumption of Foodgrains

2643. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the per capita consumption of foodgrains is less than the availability of foodgrains for Below Poverty Line;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the per capita consumption of foodgrains of persons belonging to below poverty line and above poverty line in the country;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the consumption gap;

(e) whether there is mass corruption in distributing the foodgrains among the persons belonging to BPL; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The per capita net availability of foodgrains for below the poverty line and above the poverty line population is not being estimated separately.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is estimated that the average per capita consumption of foodgrains was 12.45 kg. per month in 1999-2000. The average per capita consumption of foodgrains of persons below the poverty line was 11.45 kg. per month in 1999-2000.

(d) The allocation of foodgrains to both BPL and APL categories of population has been enhanced to 35 kg. per family per month under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). However, TPDS is supplemental in nature.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. For streamlining the functioning of the public distribution system and to make it more effective and accountable, the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 had been issued. Any offence committed in violation of the provisions of the Order invokes criminal liability under the Essential Commodities Ac, 1955. All the State Governments UTs have also been advised to substantially involve the Gram Panchayats, Gram Sabhas in rural areas and local bodies in urban areas for the supervision and the monitoring of the Public Distribution System, especially at the fair price level, as a measure of social audit.

[Translation]

Trade With Czech Republic

2644. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which India and Czech Republic have trade relations at present;

(b) whether the Czech Republic has shown interest to boost trade with India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Indian Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Major areas of trade between India and the Czech Republic (CR) are as follows:—

Major exports to CR: (i) Cotton yarn; (ii) Textiles, garments, linen etc.; (iii) Leather, footwear and other leather items; (iv) Tea, coffee, rice, spices, groundnuts, etc.; (v) Pharmaceuticals; (vi) Engineering items.

Major imports from CR: (i) Turbines for power generation; (ii) Motor vehicles accessories; (iii) Machinery, machine tools and transport equipment; (iv) Chemicals and plastic material; (v) Seamless steel tubes; (vi) crystal, glassware and beads.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) At the Fifth Session of the Indo-Czech Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation, co-chaired by Commerce Secretary and Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of CR in Prague in October 2002, both sides express their determination to further increase and diversify trade on a mutually beneficial and balanced basis. Indian side highlighted that there is a need to activate efforts to increase exports in non-traditional/emerging/niche product groups such as engineering items; software/information technology; electro-technical and electronics; plastics; packaging; chemicals; pharmaceuticals; medical equipment and food processing etc. The Czech side suggested more possibilities for exports of machine tools, textile, tannery and shoes making machines, printing presses, measuring and control equipment, etc.

(d) The Indian Government has taken a number of steps to boost level of trade with the CR. These include providing prompt information and assistance to Indian as well as Czech companies; disseminating trade related information through apex trade and industry organisations, Export Promotion Councils and other relevant bodies; exchange of business delegations; encouraging Indian companies to participate in major trade fairs in CR and vice versa; organising business seminars; and discussing ways and means to further increase bilateral trade during the sessions of Indo-Czech Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation and other high level meetings/visits.

[English]

Weavers Cooperative Societies

2645. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that most of the Weavers Cooperative Societies located in Kerala are facing acute financial crisis due to decline in exports and are under the threat of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposals in this regard to protect these societies; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) Only three Weavers' Cooperative Societies from Kannur in Kerala are in the field of export and the exports from those societies during last two years have shown an increasing trend. However, other societies in Kerala have not so far entered into the export market and are mainly producing traditional handloom products for meeting the local requirements. No cooperative society in Kerala is reported to be under closure on account of the financial crisis arising out of the decline in exports.

(c) and (d) The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, has so far sanctioned two projects in favour of the Weavers' Cooperative Societies from Kerala under the erstwhile Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing (DEPM) Scheme and a sum of Rs. 26.40 lakh has been released. During the current financial year 2002-03, one proposal has been received for sanction of financial assistance to one Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society under the Handloom Export Scheme. The proposal is under examination in consultation with the State Government. In order to motivate the weavers' cooperative societies in Kerala, the Handloom Export Promotion Council had organised a Workshop on Product Diversification and Technology Up-gradation on 14th February 2003 at Thiruvananthapuram. The main purpose of the workshop was to motivate the Cooperative societies to produce exportable handloom items, which have a good scope for marketing in foreign countries rather than producing traditional items. The Handloom Export Promotion Council had also arranged lectures by professionals from organisations like National Institute of Fashion Technology, Textile Committee and Weavers' Service Centre. Apart from the above, the Government of India has been taking following steps for boosting exports of handloom products from the country in general:—

- (a) Organisation of Buyer-Seller Meets in important International markets;
- (b) Participation in leading International fairs/exhibitions in selected countries;
- (c) Technical up-gradation of looms and various production processes;
- (d) Assistance made available to the exporters under Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme/Duty Drawback Scheme;
- (e) Technology Up-gradation Fund to upgrade technology;
- (f) Supply of Hank Yarn at Mill-gate Prices through National Handloom Development Corporation to Handloom production centres;
- (g) Assistance provided under the Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing scheme to build up production capabilities through diversification of products, design development and through publicity and marketing abroad;
- (h) Updating of website at frequent intervals to update information to the buyers about the handloom products; and
- (i) Inviting buyers from abroad to visit various handloom production centres in India.

[*Translation*]

Standing Counsels for MP

2646. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed Standing Counsels for the Union of India in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any tenure for which these Standing Counsels are appointed to work under the jurisdiction of various Central Ministries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of the Standing Counsels appointed under all the Central Ministries in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 34

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) The tenure of standing counsel is for a period of three years or until further order whichever is earlier. The term may be extended further. However, the tenure of standing counsel of Income-tax Department is one year which can be renewed further.

(e) 34.

[*English*]

Industrial Growth

2647. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether industrial production recorded a growth rate of 5.3 per cent during April-December, 2002 despite negative growth of 3 per cent during December, 2002 which is more than double the growth rate of 2.5 per cent registered during the same period of preceding year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the growth rate for the last two years, year-wise;

(c) the sectors which have registered positive growth and upto what extent;

(d) the sectors which have registered negative growth alongwith the reasons therefor and upto what extent;

(e) the steps being taken to increase the growth rate of these sectors; and

(f) the overall industrial growth likely to be achieved at the end of 2002-03 and the target fixed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The industrial production as measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) (base year 1993-94=100) recorded a growth rate of 5.3 per cent during April-December, 2002 as compared to 2.5 per cent registered during April-December 2001. The growth rate during December 2002 was 5 per cent as against 3 per

cent recorded in December 2001. The details of the growth rate in industrial production during last two years are given below:

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Growth in IIP	5.7%	2.5%	5.3%

(c) The sectors that registered positive growth rates and the rate of their growth during April-December 2002 are given below:

Industrial Sector	Growth Rate (%)
Beverages, Tobacco and Related Products	23.8
Textile Products (including wearing apparels)	14.7
Transport equipment and parts	14.6
Food products	10.2
Metal Products and Parts (Except machinery and equipments)	8.5
Basic Metals & Alloy industries	7.3
Paper & Paper Products and Printing, publishing & allied industries	5.5
Jute and Other Vegetable Fibre Textile (except cotton)	5.2
Basic Chemicals & Chemical Products (except Petroleum & coal products)	4.9
Rubber, Plastic, Petrol and Coal Products	4.1
Wool, silk and man-made fibre textiles	4.1
Non-metallic mineral products	3.8
Machinery and equipment other than transport equipment	1.5

(d) The sectors that registered negative growth rates during April-December, 2002 are given below along with their magnitude. Drought conditions in the previous year and infrastructure constraints especially power, and the slow pace of economic recovery in USA, European Union and Japan (for export demand) are main reasons for declining growth in these sectors.

Industrial Sector	Growth Rate (%)
Wood and wood products	-20.2
Leather and leather & Fur products	-8.1

Cotton textiles	-2.1
Other manufacturing	-2.1

(e) The Government has taken following measures to boost industrial growth:

Measures announced in Union Budget 2003-04:

- The Government has announced several measures for improving infrastructure. These measures are targeted at modernizing and developing rail, road, airport, port and power sectors.
- The budget has sought to bolster the manufacturing sector by providing excise and customs duty reductions. This would strengthen the recovery in the manufacturing sector.
- For the textile industry, the budget has made proposals on excise duty cuts to provide the industry an incentive to modernize while making garments cheaper for retail buyers.
- Customs duty on textile machinery and parts reduced from 25% to 5% to encourage modernisation.
- Tax holiday extended for R&D efforts.
- Proposals relating to personal income tax such as removal of surcharge, rebates on education expenses and no levy of additional taxes would mean rise in personal disposable income of consumers, which imply further increase in demand.

Other measures:

- To improve operating environment of the industry and to boost its competitiveness, the Government has enacted several laws, which include the Competition Act and amendments to SEBI Act.
- The RBI has cut Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 4.75 per cent from 5.0 per cent, a move that will ease the liquidity position further.
- The draft Electricity Bill has been introduced in Parliament for facilitating comprehensive power sector reforms.

(f) The Tenth Five Year Plan has set an annual average target of 10% growth for industrial sector. According to the advance estimates on GDP by economic activity released by the Central Statistical Organisation, the manufacturing sector output is estimated to grow by

6.1% during 2002-03. Manufacturing sector has a weight of around 80 per cent in the Index of Industrial Production.

[*Translation*]

Corruption Amongst Bank Employees

2648. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

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

(a) the details of those officers/employees of Public Sector Banks, who have been accused of corruption and fraud during each of the last three years;

Year	No. of employees convicted	No. of employees awarded major/minor penalties	Out of II, dismissed/discharged/removed
	I	II	III
2000	57	1624	429
2001	55	1686	380
2002 (upto Sept.)	67	1055	285

(c) and (d) RBI and Government have taken several measures to prevent frauds in banking industry. Banks have been advised from time to time about the common fraud prone areas, modus operandi employed by fraudsters and the measures required to be taken to prevent their recurrence. A comprehensive review of frauds and malpractices in banks was undertaken by a committee headed by Shri A. Ghosh, the then Dy. Governor, RBI and the recommendations made by the Committee have been advised to the banks for implementation. Banks have been directed to institute a system of concurrent audit covering 50% of their business and ensuring that the work of the inspection and audit machinery is monitored at the top level by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors. Based on the modus operandi observed in frauds reported by banks, RBI has issued instructions in regard to exercising caution while opening deposit accounts, implementation of the concept of 'Know your customer', proper custody and maintenance of security forms, keeping a close watch over the operations of newly opened accounts, exercising caution while opening LCs and issue of guarantees, intensive screening of candidates at the time of recruitment, initiating disciplinary action promptly, and awarding exemplary and

(b) the number of such officials dismissed from service as on 28th February, 2003;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check corruption and fraud in banks; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government from the measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as per the data available with them the details of officers/employees of public sector banks involved in corruption and frauds and action taken against them during the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 (upto September), as reported by public sector banks are given as under:—

deterrent punishment to the delinquent employees, etc. Although the above measures have prevented occurrence of frauds in banks and also have a deterrent effect, it may not be possible to quantify the success of these measures.

Vacant Posts of SCs/STs

2649. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts of SCs/STs under various categories are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various categories of the employees working in these departments and undertakings under his Ministry have been given promotion and fresh recruitment have also been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details of fresh recruitments made under various categories during this period and as on date;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been followed with regard to the recruitment and promotion of persons belonging to SCs/STs categories; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) There is no Department functioning under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. There is only one undertaking functioning under the aegis of this Ministry, the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, which was incorporated in April, 2001. No post reserved for SC/ST member is lying vacant in the Corporation.

(c) and (d) The relevant details of promotion and fresh recruitment during 2001-02 are as under:—

Promotion	-	Nil
Fresh Recruitment	-	One (Group 'C')

(e) Yes, Sir

(f) The question does not arise.

[English]

IPO Norms for Loss Making Companies

2650. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government strategy to give a fillip to the capital market is likely to see the initial public offer (IPO) norms for loss making companies being relaxed further; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) There is at present no such proposal under consideration by the Government.

Market Access Initiative Scheme

2651. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Market Access Initiative Scheme has been introduced to boost the exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any possible benefit has been noticed after the introduction of the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Market Access Initiative Scheme was introduced in the last year of the 9th Plan (2001-02) to support the Export Promotional Councils/Trade Promotions Organizations for undertaking marketing promotional efforts abroad on country-product focus approach basis. The Scheme provides for financial assistance for in-depth market studies/survey of the potential markets through leading marketing consultants, display of selected products in identified centers in focus countries by setting up of showrooms, warehousing facility and display counters in international department stores, intensive and sustained publicity campaigns in focus markets by engaging top advertising agents, promotion of branded products, quality upgradation & product development to meet the specific requirements of the target markets. State Governments would also be assisted in carrying out export potential surveys of their States to plan strategies for promotion of exports from the States.

(c) and (d) As the Market Access Initiative Scheme is designed and implemented as a developmental scheme, it is difficult to quantify its benefits in financial terms. However, it is expected that the Market Access Initiative Scheme shall significantly contribute to the ongoing efforts for enhancing access of Indian exports into global markets.

[Translation]

Production of Textile Items

2652. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of the textile items produced by textile mills, powerloom and handloom sectors during each of the last three years; and

(b) the quantity of textile items exported by each of the aforesaid sectors out of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) The quantity of fabric and yarn produced by mill, handloom and powerloom sectors from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 is as under:

	Mill Sector			Handloom			Powerloom		
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Production of Fabrics (cotton, blended and 100% non cotton) in Mn. Sq. Mtr.	1714	1670	1546	7352	7506	7585	23187	23803	25192
Production of Yarn in Mn. Kg.	3934	4093	4073	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Yarn is produced only in Mill sector.

(Source: Textile Commissioner, Mumbai)

Since the Textile is decentralized in nature, therefore value of the products is not maintained centrally.

(b) The quantity of export by mill, handloom and powerloom sectors from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 is as under:

(In Tonnes)

Mill Sector			Handloom			Powerloom		
1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
47318.15	52959.95	42773.81	24182.53	21913.07	24895.16	87217.54	83336.01	73193.27

(Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata)

[English]

Cooperative Banks

2653. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that of late, some cooperative banks are facing a crisis causing panic among small depositors;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the steps Union Government proposed to take to safeguard the interests of small depositors; and

(e) the present status of rehabilitation package for cooperative credit sector announced during budget 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve

Bank of India (RBI), certain Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) in the country are facing liquidity crisis. The State-wise details of the number of such banks are given below:

S. No.	Name of State	No. of Banks
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10
2.	Goa	1
3.	Gujarat	34
4.	Karnataka	1
5.	Madhya Pradesh	1
6.	Maharashtra	7

(c) and (d) UCBs are inspected by RBI and State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) are inspected by NABARD once in two years under provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Cooperative Societies). RBI has taken stringent steps to strengthen the system of regulation and supervision of UCBs to safeguard the interests of depositors. These steps include, putting ceiling on operations in call money market and bank finance against shares and debentures, increase in percentage

of SLR investments in Government securities, restrictions on interest rates on deposits offered by UCBs investment of funds as deposit with other UCBs, etc. Similarly, NABARD has taken the following steps:

- From the year 1996-97, CAMELS [capital, asset quality, management, earnings, liquidity, systems and control, and compliance] rating norms have been adopted for inspection of the banks for reflecting transparency.
- From the year 1998-99, a system of off-site surveillance (OSS) has been introduced and cooperative banks are monitored and forewarned through the prescribed OSS returns.
- A board of supervision has been set up in NABARD under the chairmanship of NABARD's Chairman to monitor the functioning of the cooperative banks for effective follow-up.
- Convenes conference of audit officers of the State Governments and Chief Inspecting Officers of SCBs periodically to strengthen internal inspection/audit in the bank.

(e) As announced in the Budget 2002-03, a token provision of Rs. 100 crore has been made for the year 2002-2003 towards rehabilitation assistance to cooperative credit sector. The modalities for the same are under finalisation.

[Translation]

World Bank Aid to States

2654. SHRI SUBODH ROY;
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA;
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) the financial assistance received from the World Bank for Literacy and Anganwadi and other welfare and developmental programme during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the terms and conditions on which this assistance has been received;

(c) the details of the works undertaken with this amount, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which the works initiated are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) A statement showing World Bank loan assistance received for State sector projects for various welfare and developmental programmes including literacy and anganwadi programmes during last 3 years is annexed.

Credit assistance from International Development Agency (IDA) is repayable in 35 years inclusive of a grace period of 10 years and carry a service charge of 0.75% per annum.

Loan assistance from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) is repayable in 20 years including grace period of 5 years. Presently India borrows single currency loans on variable spread basis from IBRD. The current interest rate on fresh loans is 1.79% per annum.

World Bank assistance is not linked to any particular work. All works expenditure incurred up to the closing date of Bank Project are reimbursed by the World Bank.

Statement

State-wise disbursement of World Bank Loan Assistance for State Sector Projects

(Amount Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	State	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (upto January 2003)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1164.98	2314.00	1169.55
2.	Assam	109.45	123.86	32.60
3.	Bihar	58.11	0.00	0.00
4.	Gujarat	153.40	33.26	427.24
5.	Haryana	280.00	281.08	26.79
6.	Karnataka	0.00	1315.70	83.31
7.	Kerala	25.29	19.83	93.77
8.	Madhya Pradesh	16.30	4.47	13.01
9.	Maharashtra	79.43	121.71	174.77
10.	Multistates	611.18	580.39	509.45
11.	Orissa	375.25	264.03	239.94

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Rajasthan	130.47	62.32	111.43
13.	Tamil Nadu	445.82	202.50	157.04
14.	Uttar Pradesh	412.64	577.31	392.94
15.	West Bengal	2.67	1.21	0.36

Mini-Ministerial Conference in Tokyo

2655. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
 SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
 SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK:
 SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
 SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
 DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
 SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
 SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
 SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

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

(a) whether a mini-ministerial meeting of WTO has been held in Tokyo recently;

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

(c) whether there was dispute between developed and developing countries on the issue of implementation of decisions of Doha Conference;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of issues raised by India in the meeting;

(f) the countries which have supported India's views in the meeting; and

(g) the overall outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (g) An informal meeting of about 20 Trade Ministers of Member States of WTO was held in Tokyo at the invitation of Japanese Government from 14-16 February 2003. The Indian delegation was jointly led by Minister of Commerce & Industry and Law & Justice and Minister of Agriculture. The Director General of WTO also attended the informal mini-Ministerial meeting.

This meeting reviewed all major WTO issues under negotiations in the on-going Doha Work Programme, including market access for agricultural and non-agricultural products and services; TRIPS and Public Health; Special and Differential treatment; Implementation-related issues and concerns; Rules; and the four Singapore issues namely the relationship between Trade and Investment; the Interaction between Trade and Competition Policy; Transparency in Government Procurement; and Trade Facilitation.

At this meeting, India forcefully articulated the need to restore the development agenda as the central focus of WTO negotiations, as mandated in the Doha Ministerial Declaration. India strongly expressed its concern over the slow progress in the area of development-related issues such as TRIPS and Public Health; implementation issues and special and differential treatment issues and stated that the success or otherwise of the forthcoming Cancun Ministerial Conference of the WTO in September this year would greatly depend on the resolution of these issues. Participants from many other developing countries such as Brazil, Kenya, Costa Rica, Nigeria, Lesotho and Senegal strongly supported India's statement.

Since agriculture was a priority for all countries, India pointed out that satisfactory resolution with respect to distortions in global agricultural trade can take place only if both domestic support and export subsidies were substantially reduced or eliminated in the developed countries. India strongly emphasized the highest priority that it would give to the protection to its farmers and their well being. India also stressed the need for sufficient special and differential treatment provisions for developing countries, such as the use of special safeguard measures to prevent surge in imports. It pointed out that lack of flexibility it had on market access in agriculture.

In respect of non-agricultural products, India strongly advocated increased market access for products of export interest to India such as textiles, leather goods. Expressing strong interest in the services' negotiations, India asked for greater liberalization in the movement of natural persons.

On Singapore issues, India reiterated its stand that these issues did not fall within the purview of WTO which should focus on trade related issues only. In the area of Rules, India called for stronger disciplines in anti-dumping and anti-subsidy so as to ensure that the market access achieved through reduction in tariffs and elimination of non-tariff barriers is not negated through trade defence measures.

Since this was an informal meeting, discussions were in the form of exchange of views of participating countries with no declared outcome. The object was to see how further progress can be made in taking forward the Doha Work Programme by the time of the Fifth Ministerial Conference to be held in Cancun, Mexico this year. The Ministers at this meeting resolved to make a fresh effort to achieve progress in areas, which are of vital interest to the developing countries.

[English]

Increase in Smuggling of Drugs, Gold, Etc.

2656. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increase in cases of smuggling and inflow of counterfeit currency in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of cases of smuggling of drug, gold, ivory, heroin and skins of protected wild life detected during each of the last three years in the country;

(c) the number of smugglers and Government officials arrested/booked for these crimes and the action taken against them;

(d) whether Pakistan link has been established in most of the cases pertaining to fake currency and heroin smuggling; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb smuggling of fake currency and narcotics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Smuggling is a clandestine activity. It cannot be said with certainty that there is increase in smuggling and inflow of counterfeit currency into the country.

(b) and (c) The number of cases booked and smugglers arrested for smuggling of drug, ivory, heroin and skin of protected wild life during last 3 years & current year (upto January, 2003) is given below. Legal action as per the provisions of Customs Act, 1962 and NDPS Act, 1985 has been initiated against the arrested persons. However, no arrest of Government official has been made in any of the above activities.

	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003 (upto January, 2003)	
	No. of cases booked	No. of smugglers arrested	No. of cases booked	No. of smugglers arrested	No. of cases booked	No. of smugglers arrested	No. of cases booked	No. of smugglers arrested
Drug	571	182	490	168	436	145	454	132
Gold	1065	157	585	118	425	104	164	35
Ivory	1	2	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil
Heroin	37	48	33	40	34	40	44	59
Skin of	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	2	2	2

(d) In some of the cases of seizure of Heroin, it bore inscriptions/markings/labels suggesting that the contraband originated from South West Asia including Pakistan.

(e) All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are vigilant and alert to curb smuggling of fake currency and narcotics into the country.

Rating on India Sovereign Foreign Currency Debt

2657. SHRIMATI. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the recent report of the American credit rating agency Moody's investors service upgrading its rating on India's sovereign foreign currency debt, grading it as "Substantial";

(b) if so, the details of the last three grading reports of the American Credit Rating Agency;

(c) the aspects and criteria which are taken into account by the American agency; and

(d) the degree of improvement registered on each count which affected the grading of India by the agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Moody's Investors Service upgraded India's country ceiling for foreign currency debt to 'Ba1' from 'Ba2' in February, 2003. The outlook on the 'Ba1' foreign currency deb ceiling was stated to be stable. The following table show the details in respect of last three grading reports of the Agency:

Year	Rating Report on India's country ceiling for foreign currency debt.
August 2001	Ba2 with stable outlook
November 2000	Ba2 with positive outlook
October 1999	Ba2 with positive outlook

(c) and (d) While undertaking the review of ratings for the sovereign, the Agency, inter-alia, considers issues relating to external liquidity, structural strength, fiscal deficit, status of public debt and public finances etc. In the latest upgradation of the ratings for India's country ceiling for foreign currency debt, the Agency has stated that the principal reasons for the upgrade was the substantial improvement in country's external liquidity position. Official foreign reserves have expanded especially rapidly during the past year to increased merchandise exports, dynamic sales of information technology services, and large worker's remittances. The last change in the rating outlook for the foreign currency country ceiling was done in August 2001 when it was changed from positive to stable mainly on account of concerns regarding budget deficit, public debt, privatisation etc.

Ban on Export of Wheat

2658. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have stopped allocation of wheat for exports from 8th February, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a ban on export of wheat; and

(c) the existing buffer stock of wheat in the country?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Stocks of wheat in Central Pool as on 1st January, 2003 was 288.30 lakh tonnes which is above the buffer norms.

Trade Pact with South East Asian Region

2659. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are exploring the aspects to give fillip to trade by finalizing trade pacts with countries in South East Asian region and some Latin American;

(b) if so, the names of those countries; and

(c) the time by which trade pacts are expected to be implemented?

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

(b) The Govt. has initiated proposals for having Trade Agreements with the following countries in South East Asian and Latin American Regions:

- Brazil
- Brunei
- Chile
- Colombia
- Malaysia
- Mercosur (as a trading block of four countries namely, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay)
- Myanmar
- Thailand
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

(c) The Trade Agreements with Myanmar, Thailand, Uruguay and Mercosur are likely to be finalised in year 2003 and for the remaining countries, efforts are on to finalise the same as soon as possible.

Fund to States for Major Projects

2660. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of requests from State Governments for more funds/financial assistance for large/major projects are pending with the Union Government for unduly a long time;

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

(c) whether the Union Government propose to identify such projects which are going as per schedule and without any cost escalation for more financial assistance/support;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Funding of new State level projects by the Government of India depends on a number of factors. Apart from the overall availability of Plan funds with Government of India, the requirement of funds for ongoing projects, the need to prioritize such projects on the basis of need to bring about balanced development of different regions/States are also important factors.

(c) to (e) The need to prioritize ongoing projects and complete the same in time has been a major objective of Government of India. Project implementing agencies under the different Ministries are being advised on the importance of speedy implementation by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Programme Implementation.

Rotation of Auditors

2661. DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to take a policy decision to rotate Cost Auditors appointed by various Companies on three years basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Cost Auditors of the companies are helping in manipulating balance sheets;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action Government propose to take to correct the situation?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. A Cost Auditor appointed under the Companies Act is not associated with preparation of the Balance Sheet.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Delimitation Commission

2662. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have appointed Delimitation Commission for the realignment of all Lok Sabha and Assembly seats in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard with the terms of reference of the Commission;

(c) whether the Government have received some proposals from the Commission;

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

(e) whether some political parties opposed the proposals of the Commission;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the response of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delimitation Commission has been constituted on 12.7.2002 under the provisions of the Delimitation Act, 2002 with Shri Justice Kuldip Singh, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court as its Chairperson and Shri B.B. Tandon, Election Commissioner in the Election Commission of India (nominated by the Chief Election Commissioner), and the State Election Commissioner of the concerned States or Union territories as its *ex officio* members. The main task of the Commission is to delimit the Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies as per provisions of the Delimitation Act, 2002.

(c) No, Sir. There is no provision in the Delimitation Act, 2002 that it would submit its proposals to the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Delimitation Commission has informed that under the provisions of section 9 of the Delimitation Act, 2002, the Commission sends a copy of the working paper containing its proposals for the division of a State into Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies, to the members of the Lok Sabha nominated by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha as associate members, and to the members of the Legislative Assemblies by the Speakers of the respective State Legislative Assemblies as associate members under section (5) of the said Act. The Commission considers the suggestions made by the associate members in a meeting called by the Commission for the purpose. Thereafter, draft proposals are published inviting objections and suggestions from the public, on or before a specified date. At that time, any individual including the members of the political parties can express their views on the proposals. Thereafter, the Commission holds public sittings in the State concerned to hear the objections and suggestions of the public. Members of the political parties can also participate in those public hearings and indicate their objections or suggestions to the said proposals. After the public sittings are over, the Commission in an internal meeting takes into account all the suggestions and objections received in writing or made orally at the public sittings and issues a final order. Copies of the Gazette containing the final orders are required to be laid before the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States concerned.

(f) The Government has no information in the matter.

(g) Does not arise.

Phyto-Sanitary Standards for Exporters

2663. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Union has set new environmental sanitary and phyto sanitary Standards for Indian Exporters and those are hampering our export prospects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary (SPS) standards set by the European Union for certain food/agricultural products, marine products etc. are higher than the internationally recognised standards for these products. Such standards affect Indian exports to EU markets in the sectors of agricultural products, sea food/marine products, milk products, egg products, meat products, bone products etc.

(c) Issues of higher SPS standards are regularly monitored and taken up with the European Union and EU member countries in order to ensure that such standards do not become market access barriers for India's exports to EU countries.

Production of Silk

2664. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of Bivoltine and other varieties of silk in the country during 2002-03, State-wise;

(b) whether Mulberry raw silk from China were dumped into the country leading to crash in prices of indigenously produced silk;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to impose dumping duty on Chinese silk yarn imports;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Central Silk Board has recommended for introduction of support price for silk in Karnataka and other producing States; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Production of 17900 MT of raw silk including 950 MT of bivoltine silk is projected during 2002-03. Variety wise estimates of raw silk production are given below:—

Variety	Production of raw silk (in MT)
Mulberry	16215 (950 bilvoltine silk)
Tasar	270
Eri	1310
Muga	105
Total	17900

Anticipated production of mulberry (traditional mulberry States) and non-mulberry raw silk during 2002-03 is projected State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) to (e) Preliminary investigations by the designated authority under the Customs Tariff Act 1975 and the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-Dumping. Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury), Rules 1995 have come to the conclusion that there has been dumping of raw silk by China, which has depressed the price of raw silk in the country. Average prices of filature/cottage basin raw silk at major silk markets over four years is at enclosed Statement-II.

The Government of India, vide Customs' Notification No. 2/2003 dated 2nd January, 2003 has imposed antidumping duty equivalent to the difference between the amount of US \$ 33.19 per kg and the landed value of imported mulberry raw silk (not thrown), 2A grade and below, originating in, or exported from, Peoples' Republic of China. The said antidumping duty has been imposed provisionally, and shall be effective upto 1st July 2003.

(f) and (g) A centrally sponsored scheme to provide a Price Incentive for Reeling Cocoons has been prepared in consultation with the States and is being processed for approval of the Competent Authority.

Statement I

Statewise anticipated production of mulberry raw silk during 2002-03

State	Tonnes		
	Bivoltine	multivoltine	Total
Karnataka	550	7450	8000
Andhra Pradesh	179	5421	5600
West Bengal	4	1446	1450
Tamil Nadu	28	722	750
Jammu & Kashmir	92	—	92
Others	97	226	323
Total	950	15265	16215

Statewise anticipated production of non-mulberry raw silk during 2002-03

State	Tonnes		
	Tasar	Eri	Muga
Andhra Pradesh	5	—	—
Assam	—	480	99
Chhattisgarh	85	—	—
Jharkhand	65	5	—
Meghalaya	—	300	5
Manipur	1	380	—
Nagaland	1	90	—
Maharashtra	5	—	—
Bihar	20	35	—
West Bengal	25	8	1
Orissa	54	2	—
Uttar Pradesh	4	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	10	—
Madhya Pradesh	5	—	—
Total	270	1310	105

Statement II*Average Prices of Filature/CB Raw Silk at Bangalore Silk Exchange (Karnataka)*

(Rs/kg)				
Month	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Apr.	1200	1143	1253	1084
May	1217	1195	1274	1000
June	1169	1223	1333	1043
July	1160	1271	1297	1004
Aug.	1250	1410	1392	980
Sept.	1217	1425	1324	948
Oct.	1185	1468	1243	972
Nov.	1230	1493	1288	954
Dec.	1237	1494	1304	890
Jan.	1246	1412	1233	911
Feb.	1196	1337	1161	
Mar.	1134	1182	1101	

Average Prices of Filature/CB Raw Silk at Dhamavaram (AP)

(Rs/kg)				
Month	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Apr.	1128	1185	1353	1150
May	1171	1172	1322	1137
June	1121	1146	1408	1080
July	1138	1220	1302	1077
Aug.	1189	1222	1463	1083
Sept.	1121	1364	1446	1095
Oct.	1162	1332	1323	1005
Nov.	1168	1623	1289	1036
Dec.	1214	1513	1336	926
Jan.	1185	1515	1341	837
Feb.	1359	1450	1258	
Mar.	1190	1337	1212	

Average Prices of Filature/CB Raw Silk at Tamil Nadu

(Rs/kg)				
Month	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Apr.	1205	1060	1153	1010
May	1220	1117	1202	956
June	1128	1159	1200	935
July	1120	1225	1320	942
Aug.	1227	1312	1325	935
Sept.	1229	1433	1273	964
Oct.	1178	1408	1146	925
Nov.	1174	1482	1204	918
Dec.	1189	1476	1254	903
Jan.	1182	1335	1165	876
Feb.	1242	1270	1081	
Mar.	1074	1135	1007	

Average Prices of Filature/CB Raw Silk at Jammu & Kashmir

(Rs/kg)				
(20/22 Denier)	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Apr.	1175	1400	1400	1700
May	1175	1400	1400	1700
June	1175	1400	1400	1700
July	1200	1400	1400	1700
Aug.	1300	1400	1400	1700
Sept.	1400	1400	1700	1700
Oct.	1400	1400	1700	1700
Nov.	1400	1400	1700	1700
Dec.	1400	1400	1700	1700
Jan.	1400	1400	1700	
Feb.	1400	1400	1700	
Mar.	1400	1400	1800	

Average Prices of Filature/CB Raw Silk at West Bengal

(Rs/kg)

Month	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Apr.	750	730	725	750
May	750	730	950	700
June	725	680	975	575
July	700	700	950	550
Aug.	740	700	900	550
Sept.	725	675	880	540
Oct.	700	675	850	540
Nov.	725	800	850	525
Dec.	750	800	850	NA
Jan.	760	900	825	NA
Feb.	750	850	800	
Mar.	750	700	825	

NA: Not available

*[Translation]***Dearness Allowance**

2665. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

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

(a) whether due to steep hike in price rise of almost all the items, the price index have gone very high for award of DA to Government Employees;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to grant DA to all Government employees w.e.f. January 1, 2003; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government propose to announce the DA and what would be its percentage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Based on the hike in the All India Consumer Price Index, Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees is revised twice a year from 1st January and 1st July normally payable with the salary for the months of March and September respectively.

The decision in the matter for grant of revised DA w.e.f. January 1, 2003 will be taken at the appropriate time.

*[English]***Urban Haats**

2666. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to providing prominent marketing infrastructure to the artisan community, a new plan scheme titled 'setting up of Urban Haats' was launched during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such Haats opened in various States during the Ninth Plan period and the location thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether the target of opening of such Haats in different parts of the country has been fulfilled;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the extent to which such Haats have been helpful in improving the plight of crafts persons; and

(g) the further steps taken or being taken by the Government to mitigate the plight of such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A new scheme of 'Urban Haat' for providing direct marketing facilities to artisans and weavers was launched during the year 1998-1999.

The scheme envisages providing permanent marketing outlets to the artisans community from rural and urban areas on the pattern of 'Dilli Haat'. In these, Haats the artisans get the opportunity for direct sale of their products to the consumers without involving any middlemen.

(c) The number of 'Urban Haat' opened in various States during the Ninth Plan period and the location thereof, State-wise is as per the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. During the 9th Plan, the Planning Commission had approved setting up of 18 'Urban Haats' at commercially important and tourist oriented location in the country. 18 haats were sanctioned during 9th Plan period.

(f) With the setting up of these Urban Haats, the craftpersons will be selling their product directly to the consumers, without involving any middlemen, thus taking the profit themselves which was earlier grabbed by middlemen. In these Urban Haats, the craftpersons will also get an exposure to the changing consumer demand and utilise the opportunity to adopt to these changes.

(g) For Socio economic development of craftpersons a number of schemes are being implemented e.g. AHVY,

training & extension, design & technical upgradation, marketing support & services, research & development, financial assistance to state handicrafts development corporation/apex societies and export promotion etc. Recently launched "Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastship Vikas Yojana" (AHVY) seeks to develop selected artisans clusters into professionally managed self-reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation and aims to achieve sustainable development of the artisan clusters.

Statement

Statewise Location of Urban Haats during Ninth Plan Period

Region	State	No. of Urban Haat sanctioned	Locations
1	2	3	4
Northern Region	Haryana	1	Uchana
	Himachal Pradesh	—	—
	J&K	2	Jammu, Srinagar
	Punjab	—	—
	Rajasthan	2	Jodhpur, Jaipur
Central Region	Uttar Pradesh	2	Agra, Kanpur,
	Uttaranchal	1	Dehradun
Eastern Region	West Bengal	1	Kolkata
	Orissa	1	Bhubaneswar
	Bihar	—	—
	Jharkhand	1	Ranchi,
	Sikkim	—	—
Southern Region	Andhra Pradesh	1	Tirupati
	Tamil Nadu	—	—
	Kerala	1	Thiruvanthapuram
	Pondicherry	—	—
	A & Nicobar Islands	—	—
	Karnataka	—	—
Western Region	Gujarat	1	Gandhi Nagar
	Maharashtra	—	—
	Goa	—	—
	Madhya Pradesh	1	Bhopal
	Chhattisgarh	1	Raipur
North Eastern Region	Assam	1	Guwahati
	Meghalaya	—	—
	Manipur	—	—
	Mizoram	—	—
	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
	Nagaland	—	—
	Tripura	1	Agartala

Waiving of Central Excise Duty on Sugar and Molasses

2667. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

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

(a) whether Indian sugar mills in the country are reeling under continuous fall of prices of sugar and constant increase in the prices of sugarcane;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Sugar Mills Association has requested the Government for waiving of Central Excise Duty on sugar and molasses for two years;

(d) if so, any decision has been taken on their request; and

(e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to alleviate the problems of sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Difficulties have been encountered in sugar following a general fall in sugar prices.

(c) and (d) Indian Sugar Mills Association had represented to the Finance Minister through pre-budget memorandum, requesting that basic excise duty of sugar, currently charged at the rate of Rs. 34 per quintal, may be exempted for a period of one year and the excise duty on molasses may be reduced. No change has been effected in the duty rates.

(e) in the recent months, the Government has taken the following measures to alleviate problems of sugar mills:—

(a) Buffer Stock: Government has created a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes for a period of one year from 18.12.2002, involving an outgo of Rs. 412 crores from the Sugar Development Fund, and Rs. 374 crores to be released by banks on account of the Buffer Stock. Thus an amount of Rs. 786 crores would become available to sugar industry for the payment of cane price dues to the farmers.

(b) Ocean freight charges: It has also been decided that neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage

at the rate of Rs. 350 per tonne on export shipments of sugar would be reimbursed to sugar factories with effect from 14.2.2003.

Revision of Pay Scale

2668. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 725 dated November 22, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the Government have reached a decision on the issue of implementation of revision of pay scale FCS for the scientists working in different institutes under Central Silk Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) No, Sir. The matter involves thorough examination from financial as well as administrative angle by respective Government Departments. It is not possible to specify a time limit for a decision.

Distinction of Banks

2669. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made distinctions between banks on their reputed stability and solidity as 'high risk' or 'low risk';

(b) if so, the determining factors used by the Government to identify banks either as "high-risk" or "low-risk";

(c) whether the Government have issued any cautionary notes to banks identified as high risk; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. No such distinction has been made so far.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Services Price Index

2670. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to introduce the Service Price Index in view of the increasing importance to the service sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this system is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Sub-group of Technical Advisory Committee on Statistics of Prices and Cost of Living (TAC on SPCL) has recently submitted its report on Development of a Business Service Price Index (BSPI). The work has already been initiated and it is envisaged to develop an experimental BSPI during the Tenth Plan, initially covering key services sectors.

Funds to NGO's

2671. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sanctioned fund to various Non-Governmental Organisations to set up Hospital and Mobile Dispensaries in the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the hospitals and dispensaries set up, district-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the action taken against those NGOs which have not utilized the funds for this purpose so far?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of Hospitals and Mobile Dispensaries set up during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Further grants have been stopped. The State Governments have been requested to recover the grant along with interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the NGOs.

Statement

Hospitals and Dispensaries setup by Non-Governmental Organisations, during last three years

State Name **Andhra Pradesh**

S. No.	Name	Address	Project	Assistance Extended during years		
				1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	A.P. Gijnana Sevak Sang	Chandamapet, Nadigama-521185, Krishna, A.P.	Residential School and 10-Bedded Hospital	1010160	1628063	1437503
2.	Integrated Development Agency	Krishna District, Raithupet, Nandigama-521185, Krishna District,	Mobile Dispensary and 10 Bedded Hospital	1148610	1293250	720090
3.	Adarsh Mahila Mandali	Solomon Centre, Chirala-523155, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh	Mobile Dispensary	182917	390870	0
4.	R.K. Mission (Vishakhapatnam)	Ramakrishna Beach, Visakhapatnam-530003	Mobile Dispensary (2 Nos.)	828720	796966	812383
5.	Ramakrishan Mission (Raja Mundry)	Ramakrishna Vivekanand Nagar, Korukonda Road, Rajamundry-533105, Andhra Pradesh	Mobile Dispensary (2 Nos.)	111181	428670	857340
6.	Shri Shivaji Memorial Committee.	Sri Shivaji Spoorti Kendra, Srisaitam, District Kumool, PIN: 518101, A.P.	Mobile Dispensary	0	516547	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Sri Prameshwari Educational Society	K.G. Road, Atamkur, Kumool District, Andhra Pradesh, PIN:	Mobile Dispensary	0	424418	0
8.	Sri Venkatswara Mahila Mandali	D.No. 5-8-11/3, 27, Brodiepet, Guntur-522002 (Andhra Pradesh)	10-Bedded Hospital	0	1290728	611400
9.	Surpass	H.No. 4-8-121, Near P.W.D. (1-B), Manjeera Nagar, Sangereddy, Medak District, Andhra Pradesh, PIN:	10-Bedded Hospital and Mobile Dispensary	0	2359757	0
10.	Telengana Weaker Section Development Society	Near Ambedkar Chowk, Mancherial, Adilabad District, A.P.	Mobile Dispensary	0	594826	195435
11.	Vellama Weaker Section Mahila	D.No. 7-175, Manthena, Varipalem, Pittalavanipalem, Guntur District,	Mobile Dispensary	346741	390870	0
12.	Youth In Action Society	Plot No. 103-A, H. No. 3-2-826, Sathiya Apts., Chappal Bazar, Kachiguda, Hyderabad-500027, A.P.	10-Bedded Hospital	0	1586504	524655
State Name Arunachal Pradesh						
13.	Oju Welfare Association	Near Police Station, B-Sector, PO-Nahartagun, District Papum Pare, Arunachal Pradesh, PIN: 791110	Residential School (Primary & Secondary), Hostel, 10-Bedded Hospital and Mobile	2524994	1887300	0
14.	R.K. Mission (Along)	P.O. Vivekanagar, Along, West Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh, PIN: 791001	Non Residential School, Hostel, School Bus (3), Mobile Dispensary, Mobile Library Cum A.V. Unit, Computer Training Centre	8402800	10449510	6082350
15.	R.K. Mission (Tirap)	P.O. Narottam Nagar, District Tirap, Arunachal Pradesh, PIN: 786629	Computer Training Centre (2 nos.), Residential School and Mobile Dispensary	4162049	6616169	2197656
16.	R.K. Mission Hospital (Itanagar)	P.O. R.K. Mission, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, PIN: 791113	60-Bedded Hospital	4369410	4333410	3477717
State Name Assam						
17.	Dr. Ambedkar Mission	Village Dhopatari, P.O. Changsari, District Kamrup-781001, (Assam)	10-Bedded Hospital and Mobile Dispensary	876135	600525	1440180
18.	Prantiya Sarbojain Kalyan Kendra	P.O. Kimin, District Lakhimpur, Assam, PIN: 791121	Knitting, Weaving and Handloom Training Centre, Mobile Dispensary, Typing and Shorthand Training Centre and Hostel	342872		
19.	R.K. Mission Ashrama (Ulubari)	Ramakrishna Mission Road, Ulubari, Guwahati-781007, Assam	Hostel, Mobile Dispensary and Library	792358	1599430	811790
20.	Sreemanta Sankar Mission	P.O. Nagaon, Pin: 782001, District Nagaon (Assam)	Mobile Dispensary	0	1162416	697584

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Name Gujarat						
21.	Anugrah Adivasi Education Trust	AI/PO: Vadwa, District: Dahod, Gujarat.	Mobile Dispensary	0		804662
22.	Bharat Sevashram Sangh	AI/PO: Dediapada, District Narmada, PIN: 393040	Mobile Dispensary	370910	902449	390870
23.	Bharat Sevashram Sangh (Navsari)	AI/PO Gangpur, Taluk Vanseda, District Navsari, Gujarat, PIN:	Mobile Library Cum A.V. Unit and Mobile Dispensary (2 Nos.)	0	2377644	1071400
24.	Bharat Yatra Kendra	Village/P.O./Taluka: Dediapada, District Narmada, PIN: 393040,	Typing & Shorthand Training Centre, Hospital and Mobile Dispensary	823621		
25.	Sant Shri Asaramji Gurukul	Sabarmati, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	Mobile Dispensary	0		1050517
26.	Shiv Shakti Education Trust	H.No. 17, Municipal Shopping Centre, Near New Fire Station Dahod-389151, Gujarat	Mobile Dispensary	0		534285
State Name Jammu & Kashmir						
27.	Buddhist Youth Association	(1) P.O. Box No. 46, Zanskar, District-Kargil, PIN: 194302, (J&K), (2) Ladakh, PO-Padum, Jammu Tawi (J&K)	Residential School, Non Residential School (3 Nos.) and Mobile Dispensary	1499985	1253745	1556609
28.	Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (Regd.)	48, Gujjar Colony, PO: Sainik Colony, Bye-pass, Jammu Tawi-180011, (J&K)	Mobile Dispensary (2 Nos.), Residential School and Typing & Shorthand Training Centre	0	281160	1851016
State Name Jharkhand						
29.	Alpsankhyak Mahila Prashikshan Sansthan	CC-37, Kankerbagh, Patna-800020, Bihar	Mobile Dispensary	393316		
30.	Bharat Sevashram Sangh (Sonari)	Rivers Meet Road, Sonari Jamshepur-831011, Jharkhand	30-Bedded Hospital Residential School (3 Nos.) and Knitting and Weaving Training Centre, Mobile Dispensary (3 Nos.)	3239592	5960407	7658561
31.	Bharat Sevashram Sangha (Ghatsila)	P.O./Village Barajuri, Via Ghatsila, Dist: East Singhbhum, Jharkhand, PIN: 832303	Mobile Dispensary (5 Nos., 2 New), 10-Bedded Hospital (3 Nos.), Residential School (4 Nos.) Computer Training, Knitting & Weaving (3 Nos.) and Cane & bamboo	479520	3746101	4375500
32.	Janjati Vikas Pratisthan	Village and Post Office: Topchanchi, District Dhanbad, Jharkhand	10-Bedded Hospital	0	1290728	0
33.	R.K. Mission Tuberculosis Sanatorium	P.O. Ramakrishna Sanatorium, District Ranchi, Jharkhand-835221	Mobile Dispensary (1 no.) and 80-Bedded Hospital	4353570	3235260	5220000
State Name Karnataka						
34.	Ashirwad Rural Development Trust	Kazi Pet, Gudibande-561209, District Kolar, Karnataka	10-Bedded Hospital	0		1289731

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
35.	Harihara Grameenabirudhi Sangh	At-Siddagarapalli, PO-Rampura, Via-Gudipada, PIN: 561209, Chickballapur (Taluk), District Kolar, Karnataka	Mobile Dispensary	390870	390870	390870
36.	Swami Sarvadharm Sharanalaya	Sultanpet, Nadi Post, Chikkaballapur Taluk, District Kolar, Karnataka	10-Bedded Hospital and Non Residential School	956577	774270	1624140
37.	Kumudvathi Rural Development	H.No. 32, R.R. Extension, Madhugiri, PIN-572132, Tumkur District, Karnataka	Mobile Dispensary	0	541478	390870
38.	Shri Hoysala Vidya Samasthe	At/Po-Nerige, Taluk-Davangere, District-Devangere, (Karnataka), Block Off: Cotton Mill Premises, (DCM), PIN: 511003	Mobile Dispensary and Residential School	0	1555296	1451790
39.	Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement	Kenchanahalli, Shanti Nagar PO, Heggadavdenakote Taluk, Mysore, PIN: 571116	Residential School, Mobile Dispensary and 10-Bedded Hospital	2899234	2463362	2229606
40.	Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra	B.R. Hills, Yalandur Taluk, Chamrajnagar District, PIN: 571441, Karnataka	Residential School, Mobile Dispensary and 10-Bedded Hospital	2416837	8281376	5222216
State Name Kerala						
41.	Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission (Kerala)	Vivekananda Nagar, PO; Palpetta North, Wayanad-673122, Kerala	Mobile Dispensary and 10-Bedded Hospital	1205460	1227714	2191230
42.	Vinobhaniketan	Vinobhaniketan, P.O. Thiruvananthapuram-695542 (Kerala)	Mobile Dispensary, Hospital and Baby Creche Centre (6 Nos.)	1499985		
State Name Madhya Pradesh						
43.	Asha Deep Kalyan Samiti	HO: 86, Vinobha Ward, Sihora, Dist-Jabalpur, PIN: 4832 25, (MP), BO H.No. F-216, (New M.P.E.B. Colony Mantha), PO- Birsinghpur, New	Non Residential School, Computer Training Centre and 10-Bedded	1904611		
44.	Samdarshi Seva Kendra	Village: Malakheedi, Hari Om Palace Chakkar Road, Hoshangabad-461001, M.P.	Mobile Dispensary	0		790948
State Name Maharashtra						
45.	Dharmasamavay Maharishi Warkary Vikas Shikashan Sansthan	At/PO: Karla, Tehsil-Anjangaon, District: Amravati (MS)	10-Bedded Hospital	0	535455	
46.	Navabhau Pratisthan	Naval Nagar, Taluk & District Dhule, Maharashtra, PIN: 424318	Mobile Dispensary and Typing and Shorthand Training Centre			
47.	Sevadharm Trust	C/O Manoj Clinic, 1148, Sadashiv Peth, Pune-411030, Maharashtra	Mobile Dispensary	259009		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Name Manipur						
48.	Muolvaiphei Rural Health & Research Centre	P.O. Box No. 3, Churachandpur-795128 (Manipur)	Mobile Dispensary	513270		
49.	Rural Voluntary Service (RVS)	Wangbal Mayai Leikai, P.O. Thoubal-795138, Manipur	Mobile Dispensary	0	358448	
50.	Society for Women's Education Action and Reflection (SWEAR)	Athokpam Khunou, P.O. Thoubal, Manipur	Mobile Dispensary	0	485408	
51.	Volunteers for Rural Health and Action (VORHA)	At-Lamding, P.O. Wanging, Manipur, PIN: 795148	Mobile Dispensary and Typing & Shorthand Training Centre		485408	0
52.	Wangjing Tentha Farmers Development Association	At-Tentha Village, P.O. Wangjing, Thoubal District, Manipur, PIN: 795148	Mobile Dispensary	0	485407	
State Name Meghalaya						
53.	R.K. Mission (Cherra Bazar)	Cherrapunjee, PO-Chrabazaar, PIN: 793000 (Meghalaya)	Non Residential School, Hostel (2 Nos.) Mobile Dispensary (2 Nos.), Mobile Library Cum A.V. Unit, Technical School and LP&ME Schools (49 Nos.)	13688699	25439569	15925399
State Name Mizoram						
54.	Centre for Rural Development and Research	D-32, P.W.D. Tilla, Zarkwat, Aizawl, Mizoram	Mobile Dispensary	435097	386730	
55.	Mizoram Hmeithai (Widows) Organization	Upper Republic Road, Aizawl, PIN: 796001	Mobile Dispensary and Residential School	0	2187000	
56.	Mizoram Upa Pawl	At-Opp Raj Bhavan South Gate, M. G. road, aizawl-796001, Mizoram	Mobile Centre	0	485407	
57.	Social Guidance Agency (SGA)	Post Box No.-153, Tuikual A, Aizawl, PIN: 796001. Mizoram	Mobile Dispensary	186939		
State Name Nagaland						
58.	Backward Development Trust	At-Longkhim Town, P.O. Longkhim, Tuensang District,	10-Bedded Hospital	0	1257705	0
State Name National Capital Territory of Delhi						
59.	Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh	Thakkar Bapa Smarak Sadan, Dr. Ambedkar Marg (Link Road), New Delhi-110055	Residential School, Hostel (7 Nos. Computer Training Centre, Mobile Dispensary and Workers Training Centre (2 Nos.)	3806147	5349327	5677616
60.	Deendayal Research Institute	HO: 7-E, Swami Ramirth Nagar, Rani Jhansi Marg, New Delhi-110055, BO: Village Emelia Kodar, Block Pachperwa, District Balrampur (U.P.)	Mobile Dispensary and Hostel (2 Nos.)	604800	1077978	1107711

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Name Orissa						
61.	Animal Welfare Society of Orissa	(1) Plot No. 1400, Paikanagar, PO-Delta Colony, Bhubaneswar-3, (2) Plot No. 253/580, Paikanagar, PO-Delta Colony, Unit-8 Bhuban	Mobile Dispensary	390870	390870	0
62.	Global Village for Rehabilitation & Development	At/PO Udulibeda, Via mathili, District Malkangiri, Orissa	Mobile Dispensary	0		688050
63.	Harijan Adivasi Kanya Sewashram	At P.W.D. New Colony, Nayagarh, PIN: 752069 (Orissa)	Non Residential School and Mobile Dispensary	1375830		
64.	Jeevan Jyoti	Plot No. 708, BJB Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, PIN: 751014	10-Bedded Hospital	0	1532949	0
65.	NYSADARI	H.O. Santhapur, Via Gondia, Dhenkanal, Orissa, PIN: 759016	Mobile Dispensary and Creche Centre (10 Nos.)	373320	186660	0
66.	Patriot	H. No. VIM-67, Sailashree Vihar, PO: C.S. Pur,	Mobile Dispensary	390764	189910	384040
67.	Ramakrishna Mission Ashram	Puri-752001, Orissa	Hostel, Mobile Dispensary and Typing and Shorthnad Training Centre	1344776	987152	1148557
68.	Ramakrishna Vivekananda Vedanta Ashram	Village Saragalanji, Block Bhawanipatna, District Kalahandi, PIN: 766001 (Orissa)	Mobile Dispensary	327120	436247	0
69.	Rushikul Seavashram Trust	HO: At-Dumermal, PO: Kuntra, Via Kuchinda, District-Sambalpur, BO: Sitaram Mandir Complex Sector 3, Rourkela, District Sundergarh, Orissa	10-Bedded Hospital (2 Nos.) and Mobile Dispensary	0		3786223
70.	Shre Ramakrishna Mission Ashram	At/PO-M Rampur, Bhawanipatna, Kalahand-766102, Orissa	Mobile Dispensary (1 No.) and Hostel (1 No.)	789570	789570	818070
State Name Tamil Nadu						
71.	Nilgiris Adivasi Welfare Association	25/28-A, Kota Hall Road, Kotagiri-643217, Nilgiri District,	Mobile Dispensary Cum Hospital	0	1484067	
State Name Tripura						
72.	Ramakrishna Mission	Viveknagar, PO-Amtali, Tnpura-799130	Computer Training Centre, Hostel, Mini dams (3 Nos.) and Mobile	309213	438756	1156200
State Name Uttar Pradesh						
73.	Jan Kalyan Avam Nari Uthan Samiti	104, Saheb Ganj, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh	Mobile Dispensary	61020	390870	195435
74.	Nirbal Samaj Kalyan Sansthan	202/A-39, Jawahar Nagar, Near Halthi Park, Lucknow-226018	Mobile Dispensary	0	781740	390870
75.	Purvanchal Jan Seva Sansthan	Village Adilpur, Azamgarh District, U.P.	Mobile Dispensary	0	480008	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Name West Bengal						
76.	Bharat Sevashram Sangh (Aurangabad)	Village/P.O. Aurangabad, District Murshidabad, West Bengal	Hostel and Mobile Dispensary	725850	875295	1251545
77.	Bharat Sevashram Sangh (Dokra)	Village/P.O. Dokra, District Midnapore-721125, West Bengal	Hostel and Mobile Dispensary	135863	1358640	1736578
78.	Bharat Sevashram Sangh (Beldanga)	Bldanga Tribal Welfare Centre, P.O. Beldanga, District Murshidabad, West Bengal	Residential School and Mobile Dispensary	663750	1838617	1721520
79.	Bharat Sevashram Sangha (Durgapur)	Durgapur Branch, District Burdwan, West Bengal	Mobile Dispensary (2 Nos.)	0		520820
80.	Bharat Sevashram Sangha (Ghaksole)	Ghaksole Unit, PO: Bagarai, District: Malda, West Bengal	Hostel and Mobile Dispensary	0		1113278
81.	Bharat Sevashram Sangha (Muluk)	Vill/PO: Muluk, Via: Bolpur, District Birbhum, West Bengal	Residential School, Knitting Weaving Centre (New) and Mobile Dispensary (2 Nos.)	0		1405035
82.	Bharat Sevashram Sangha (Tajpur)	Tajpur, PO: Habibpur, District Malda, West Bengal	Hostel and Mobile Dispensary	0		1070438

[*Translation*][*English*]**Complaints Against Customs Officials**

2672. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints received particularly from foreign diplomats against customs officials posted at National/International airports located in New Delhi during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the officials harass especially foreign citizens/diplomats; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to check the recurrence of such complaints in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No such complaint has been received from foreign citizens and diplomats at the I.G.I. Airport, New Delhi during the last three years.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to (a) above, questions do not arise.

Marketing of Sub-Standard Products

2673. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Top brands pass on sub-standard soaps, says study" appearing in the 'Deccan Chronicle' of January 27, 2003;

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

(c) the action taken against the soap manufacturers marketing sub-standard, under weight and spurious toilet soaps during last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Voluntary Organization in Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE) in its study on the identical subject have, inter alia, commented on 12 brands of toilet soaps with regard to ingredients, weight, Total Fat Contents and lather they generate apparently with a view to enlighten the consumers.

(c) Soaps are not covered under the Mandatory Certification Scheme of the Bureau of Indian Standards. Therefore, manufacturers of soaps are not required to obtain Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Mark for manufacturing soaps which could ensure their conformity to the quality specifications prescribed in the relevant Indian Standards. Besides, none of the brands reported in the study are ISI marked. Soaps are, otherwise covered by the Packaged Commodities Rules, provisions of which are to be enforced by the respective State Governments.

Restoration of Pension

2674. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission has recommended to restore commuted portion of pension of Central Government employees after 12 years in place of 15 years;

(b) if so, whether the Expenditure Reforms Committee set up under his Ministry has examined this issue alongwith other related subject on pension; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) The Expenditure Reforms Commission examined various issues regarding commutation of Pension including the method for computing the commutation value but did not specifically recommend restoration of commuted portion of pension of Central Government employees after 12 years.

(c) Recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission has not been accepted.

[Translation]

Jute Production

2675. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce any scheme to give impetus to jute production in the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-start the jute mill in Siwan (Bihar);

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be reopened; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) The National Textiles Policy-2000, envisages to launch a Technology Mission on Jute for all-round development of jute sector in the country including Bihar.

(b) As per the proposed draft, the Jute Technology Mission is to be operated through 4 Mini-Missions, consisting of different aspects of jute related activities in the field of agriculture, industry and marketing of raw jute and finished products. The main objectives, inter-alia, are (i) to increase the productivity of jute, mesta and allied fibre by inventing superior varieties of seeds having shorter life-cycle of the crop, (ii) to create strong market linkages of raw jute and mesta (iii) to increase productivity in jute industry by adopting proven technologies and modernization and (iv) to increase production base of diversified jute products throughout the country.

(c) There is no Government owned jute mill in Siwan (Bihar).

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Sarbanes-Oxley Act of United States

2676. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India is planning to introduce an indigenous adoption of Sarbanes-Oxley Act stipulating new reporting standards for auditors and top management professionals in US;

(b) if so, whether the Government feels that top functionaries of banks and financial institutions should be made more accountable to the apex bank; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an Internal Working Group to examine auditing and corporate governance issues in banks. The Working Group would look into, among others, issues raised in the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. RBI had set up the Consultative Group of Directors of Banks/Financial Institutions under the Chairmanship of Dr. A.S. Ganguly to look into the role of the Boards of banks and financial institutions and make recommendations for making it more effective with a view to minimizing risk and over exposure. The Group has made recommendations aiming at making Directors more accountable. RBI have advised the banks to adopt and implement the recommendations of the Group.

Automatic Licensing Route

2677. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to enlarge the automatic licensing route as administered by the Reserve Bank of India and reduce the role of the FIPB; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Government has put in place a liberal FCI policy and most of the sectors have been placed under the automatic route, except for a small negative list. In almost all activities FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route, except for a few sectors such as telecom, banking, insurance, broadcasting, etc., where caps have been prescribed based on strategic and sectoral considerations. The FDI policy, including sectoral policies and caps, is reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Future Trading in Agricultural Products

2678. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed future trading in 54 commodities, including wheat, rice, gold, silver, copper, oilseeds and pulses in a major liberation of the agricultural produce market;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reasons for taking a decision and its impact on farmers and traders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the 54 commodities allowed for future trading are as under:—

Foodgrains and Pulses

Wheat, Gram, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Small Millets (Kodan Kulti, Kodra, Korra, Vargu, Sawan, Rala, Kakun, Samai, Vari & Banti), Tur (Arhar), Urad (Mash), Mung, Moth, Masur, Kulthi, Peas, Lakh (Khesari), Barley, Guar, Rice or Paddy, Arhar Chuni, Mung Chuni, Tur Dal (Arhar Dal), Urad Dal, Mung Dal, Gram Dal, Khandsari Sugar.

Oilseeds, Oils and Oilcakes

Linseed, Linseed oil, Linseed Oilcake, Celeryseed, Cotton pods, Cotton Yarn, Cotton Cloth, Art Silk Yarn, Raw Jute (including Mesta).

Spices

Methi, Coriander seed, Aniseed, Pepper, Betelnuts, Cardamom, Chillies, Cinnamon, Cloves, Ginger, Nutmegs.

Metals

Gold, Silver, Silver Coins, (Copper, Zinc, Lead or Tin).

Others

Shellac, Seedlac, Chara or Berseem (including charaseed or berseemseed), Camphor, Gram Husk (Gram Chilka).

(c) This is in line with the liberalization of the economy in general and of agriculture in particular. Since prices of commodities are increasingly decided by market forces including imports, providing risk management tools like futures contracts become important. Farmers, processors, traders and other stake holders will benefit in terms of the price discovery, i.e., knowing future prices in advance and taking decision on farming, stocking and exporting/importing.

Loan through EXIM Bank

2679. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Export and Import Bank of India (EXIM) has decided to provide soft loans at the rates comparable to the London Interbank to help the public sector companies to secure the projects abroad;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions for granting such loans; and

(c) to what extent the providing of soft loans at lower rate of interest will help the companies to secure the projects for implementation abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Normally, the EXIM Bank offers foreign currency loans linked to LIBOR to Indian exporters, both in public sector and private sector, for securing projects abroad. The interest rate on such loans will be a spread over LIBOR and the spread will be above the cost of funds to EXIM Bank.

(b) In case of soft loans at reduced rates comparable to LIBOR, an interest equalization support equal to the difference between the interest rate on soft terms and that normally offered by EXIM Bank is required. In respect of a Line of Credit extended by Exim Bank to Iran recently and EXIM Bank's Lines of Credit to Latin American Countries under its LAC Focus Programme, interest equalization support has been provided by Government of India.

(c) Soft loans at lower interest rate may help Indian companies compete in the international market with competitors.

Japanese Official Development Assistance Scheme

2680. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has sent an appraisal mission to India for the funding of individual projects under its Official Development Assistance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the likely projects are to be in the fields of infrastructure development and environment;

(d) whether the Japanese team hold discussions with Indian authorities on these projects;

(e) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) An appraisal mission from Japan visited India in October 2002 to appraise the seven projects under Financial Year 2002 Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan package.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The loan negotiations for the following projects have been concluded:

S. No.	Name of the Project	Loan Amount (in Yen million)
1.	Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project (IV)	5,684
2.	Punjab Afforestation Project (II)	5,054
3.	Bakreswar Thermal Power Station Units 4 & 5 Extension Project	36,771
4.	Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project	9,054
5.	Yamuna Action Plan Project (II)	13,333
6.	Ajanta-Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project (II)	7,331

The loan negotiations for Delhi Metro Project (Tranche-IV) have not been taken up by Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JPIC) as yet.

Export of Substandard Clothes

2681. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some export firms are exporting sub-standard clothes;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of consignments rejected during the last three years and current fiscal year; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the firms involved in exporting sub-standard clothes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (d) During the period 1999-2001, a total number of 58 firms exporting sub-standard clothes have been penalised by the Customs Department. In these cases, Show Cause Notices have been issued, goods confiscated Redemption Fine & Personal Penalty have been imposed

and payment of Drawback denied where offence has been established. In some cases persons have also been arrested or detained under COFEPOSA.

E-Commerce Portal for Handicraft Products

2682. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has set up e-com portal for aggressive marketing of handicrafts products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Kerala Government has requested for grant of Rs. 9.96 lakhs under overseas publicity scheme; and

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

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

(b) The Government of Kerala has informed that they have developed multi dimensional e-commerce portal to showcase and sell all the traditional industry products made by innovative artisans. The Kerala Electronics Development Corporation Ltd. (KELTRON) had developed and are maintaining this multi dimensional e-commerce portal. This portal has become operational in September, 2002 under the name www.keralacraft.com.

(c) No, Sir. However the Handicrafts Development Corporation of Kerala Ltd., Thirvanathapuram has sought assistance to the tune of Rs. 20.785 lakhs for overseas publicity.

(d) The proposal of Handicrafts Development Corporation of Kerala Ltd. for overseas publicity cannot be considered at this stage as per financial rules due to non-utilization of funds released earlier.

Fraud Committed by HCL

2683. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 245 on 1st March, 2002 regarding fraud committed by HCL and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Free Legal Aid

2684. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Government under section 12 of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 during the year 2000, 2001 and 2002, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons given free legal aid/assistance from legal aid fund during the said period;

(c) the criteria laid down for providing legal aid by the Government and the legal aid fund authority; and

(d) the number of applications received for free aid during the said period, State-wise and the number of applications approved and rejected out of them alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No financial assistance is provided directly to the State Governments under any provision of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. However, grants-in-aid is released by the National Legal Services Authority to the State Legal Services Authorities for providing legal assistance to the entitled applicants. A *statement* indicating the details of the said disbursement of funds is annexed.

(b) Number of persons given free legal aid/assistance during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	Number of Legal Aid Beneficiaries
2000	5,81,872
2001	6,08,975
2002 (upto 30.9.2002)	6,43,889

(c) According to Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (39 of 1987), every person who

has to file or defend a case shall be entitled to legal services if that person is—

- (a) a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;
- (b) a victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution;
- (c) a woman or a child;
- (d) a mentally ill or otherwise disabled person;
- (e) a person under circumstances of underserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster; or
- (f) an industrial workman; or
- (g) in custody, including custody in a protective home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, or in a juvenile home within the meaning of clause (j) of section 2 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987; or
- (h) in receipt of annual income less than rupees nine thousand or such other higher amount as may be by the State Government, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court, and less than rupees twelve thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government, if the case is before the Supreme Court.

(d) Requisite information with respect to beneficiaries of legal aid during the last three years has been given in reply to part (b) above. Separate data about number of persons not given legal aid is not maintained. However, subject to entitlement to legal services under the Act, no person was denied legal aid/assistance.

Statement

The details of the amount allocated by National Legal Services Authority during the three financial years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (upto 28.2.2003)

State-wise (including Supreme Court Legal Services Committee)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	2000-01 Rs.	2001-02 Rs.	2002-03 Rs.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	18,00,000	20,00,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
3.	Assam	10,00,000	—	15,00,000

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	—	15,00,000	10,25,000
5.	Goa	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	59,50,000	—	25,00,000
7.	Haryana	35,00,000	—	7,00,000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	5,00,000	5,00,000
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	9,50,000	—	—
10.	Karnataka	35,50,000	—	15,00,000
11.	Kerala	20,00,000	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	1,98,000	2,98,000
13.	Maharashtra	—	—	—
14.	Manipur	—	5,00,000	—
15.	Meghalaya	8,00,000	11,55,000	11,00,000
16.	Mizoram	—	5,00,000	—
17.	Nagaland	17,30,000	15,00,000	41,00,000
18.	Orissa	50,00,000	—	5,00,000
19.	Punjab	40,55,000	15,00,000	10,00,000
20.	Rajasthan	—	—	—
21.	Sikkim	—	10,00,000	5,00,000
22.	Tamil Nadu	—	13,00,000	6,00,000
23.	Tripura	15,10,000	50,500	5,30,000
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5,10,000	16,00,000	25,00,000
25.	West Bengal	—	—	—
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
29.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	—	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
32.	Pondichery	10,00,000	—	—
33.	Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	17,00,000	30,00,000	35,00,000
34.	Jharkhand	—	—	10,00,000
35.	Uttaranchal	—	—	10,00,000
	Total	3,32,55,000	1,66,03,500	2,62,53,000

Environmental Courts

2685. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Law Commission has since completed its review of the country's environmental laws;

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

(c) whether the cases relating to environment are mounting in the country day by day; and

(d) if so, the time by which the environmental courts are likely to be set up in various parts of the country for its speedier disposal?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Law Commission has informed that it has taken up the study of environmental laws. As part of the study, the need for setting up of environmental courts is also being considered. The study is still in progress.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has informed that the Special Courts have been set up by the different State Governments to deal with the environment cases filed under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and National Capital Territory of Delhi have set up Special Courts. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also directed to set up Green Benches in various High Courts. The High Courts of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have constituted Green Benches.

Eleventh Finance Commission

2686. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether the several State Governments have sought any review or modifications in the Central aid/grants and plan fund allocations made by the Eleventh Finance Commission, including the operation of the Incentive Fund constituted under Finance Commission's recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, several States, from time to time, have sought review of their share in Central taxes and other grants in aid including the operation of Incentive Fund under the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

(c) The Eleventh Finance Commission, keeping in view the holistic assessment of the resources and requirements of the Centre and States, and keeping in view the need for vertical and horizontal equity made their final recommendations. The Government of India had since accepted the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission relating to devolution of Central Taxes and Duties and quantum of grants-in-aid to States.

Growth of Manufacturing Sector

2687. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the estimates of CII, the manufacturing sector has shown improvement;

(b) if so, the Government's estimates in this regard; and

(c) the sectors which have lagged behind during the current financial year alongwith reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The CII's ASCON Industry Review for the period April-December 2002 confirms the process of revival, growth and pick up in demand in many sectors in the manufacturing sector. As per the latest quick estimates on Index of Industrial Production (IIP) released by Central Statistical Organisation, the manufacturing sector registered a growth of 5.3% during April-December 2002 as compared to 3% registered during the corresponding period of last year.

(c) Consumer durable goods have been registering poor industrial growth during the current financial year. Marginal pick up in demand in the rural areas, competition from cheaper imports, poor infrastructure, especially poor availability and quality of power, increase in raw material costs are main reasons cited for poor growth in consumer durable goods.

Export of Cars

2688. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which passenger cars have been exported by various manufacturers during each of the last three years;

(b) the total cars exported during the above period, modal-wise; and

(c) the contribution of Maruti Udyog in this export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The passenger cars have been exported by various manufacturers during the last three years (1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002) to:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Chinese Taipei, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, El Salvador, France, Finland, Germany, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Bissau, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea RP, Kuwait, Lebanon, Macedonia, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Timor, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

(b) and (c) The total number of cars exported by various Indian manufacturers during the last three years and the contribution of Maruti Udyog Ltd. in this export year-wise are:

Export Item	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Passenger Cars	23272	22990	50108
Passenger Cars exported by Maruti Udyog Ltd.	20,943	15,025	11,874

(Source: Society for Indian Automobile Manufacturers)

Permission for Non-Standard Tapes

2689. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) whether permission to manufacture non-standard tape measures for export purposes has been accorded by Government to few manufacturers in Punjab during the last two years and the current year through Gazette Notification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these manufacturers are using such permission as cover for producing and selling non-standard tape measures in domestic market in huge quantities in gross violation of the conditions laid down in Gazetted permission;

(d) the number of pieces of each type of standard and non-standard measuring tapes sold alongwith its value by these manufacturers in domestic as well as in export market during the above period; and

(e) the verification and stamping fee paid each of manufacturers to the State Government and Union Government separately for all the sales made by them in domestic market during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Permission has been given to the following firms in Punjab for the manufacture of non-standards tape measures, exclusively for export purposes in the last two years:

Name of the Company	Address	Permission given on	Duration of validity
M/s Freemans Measures Ltd.,	GT Road, Jugiana, Ludhiana-20	23.3.01	6 months
M/s FMI Limited,	Ferozepore Road, Ludhiana-01	23.3.01	6 months
M/s Freemans Measures Ltd.,	GT Road, Jugiana, Ludhiana-20	14.3.02	1 year
M/s FMI Limited,	Ferozepore Road, Ludhiana-01	14.3.02	1 year

(c) Selling of non-standard tape measures within the country is a violation of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 and the Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985 and the Rules made thereunder. State Government enforce the provisions of the law. No such case of violation has been reported.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and would be submitted.

Jute Raw Material Bank

2690. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the locations in Karnataka and other States for setting up of the proposed 'Jute Raw Material Bank' to promote the manufacturing and marketing of jute diversified products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) The National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD), Ministry of Textiles have already set up Jute Raw Materials Banks (JRMB) in various States of the country. There are proposals to open JRMB by NCJD at Bijapur in Karnataka, Guwahati & Sibsagar in Assam, Kanpur, Gazipur & Saidpur in Uttar Pradesh, Srinagar in Kashmir, Bhiwani in Haryana and Amritsar in Punjab. In order to set up the Jute Raw Materials Bank at these locations surveys have been ordered. The JRMB will be set up, only if found viable as per the norms of Scheme approved by the Government.

Sale of Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation

2691. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH BARWALA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the breakfast food unit of Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation is functioning profitable and without any Government aid and the companies like TATA, ITC etc. are interested to buy its brand name;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to close the above unit;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Disinvestment Commission had recommended for hiving off this unit into a new company and subsequent sale of its hundred percent holding;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government are encouraging industry in food processing sector and offering assistance, in such scenario; and

(h) if so, the reasons for not exploring the possibility of privatisation of a premier food processing unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Breakfast Food Unit (BFFU) of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited (HVOC) has been making profit for the past few years except for the year 1999-2000 in which it incurred a loss. Some companies have expressed interest in the brand name of the products of this unit.

(c) and (d) The Government decided that it was not feasible to attempt revival/rehabilitation of the HVOC, including the BFFU, and accordingly informed the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to whom the company had already been referred. The BIFR, in its Order of 07.12.2001 recommended the winding up of HVOC, including the BFFU.

(e) and (f) The Disinvestment Commission observed that with increasing globalisation strengthening of the business of the BFFU would require significant funds as well as managerial inputs which were lacking in the company and therefore recommended hiving off of the breakfast food business into a new company and subsequent sale of its 100% holding.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) The BIFR, after taking into consideration all relevant factors, including the technical, economic and financial viability, recommended the winding up of the company, including the BFFU.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 5 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956.
- (2) A copy of the Tamil Nadu Spirit Corporation Limited and Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation Limited, Order, (Amalgamation) 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 26 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2003 under sub-section (5) of section 396 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7104/2003]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry Disinvestment for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7105/2003]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the One Hundred and Eighty Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Law Commission of India on a Continuum on the General Clauses Act, 1897 with special reference to the admissibility and codification of external aids to interpretation of statutes—November, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7106/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Textiles Committee, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Textiles Committee, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7107/2003]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7108/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jute Manufacturers Development Council, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jute Manufacturers Development Council, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7109/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the F.C.I. (Staff) (2nd Amendment) Regulation, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. E.P. 30(1)/88-Vol. IV in Gazette of India dated the 7th January, 2003 under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7110/2003]

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 National Council for Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7111/2003]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 139 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th February, 2003 containing order notifying the Sri Ramdas Paper Boards Pvt. Limited-Unit-II, Jegurupadu Village, Kadiyam Mandal, East Godavari District, in the State of Andhra Pradesh as a mill producing newsprint issued under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7112/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Productivity Council, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Productivity Council, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7113/2003]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 8—Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, did Shri Gingee Ramachandran intimate to you that he would not be in the House? If he did not, this is a bad practice being started again. This is how the Government is functioning every day.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gingee Ramachandran would be asked to lay the papers on the Table on Monday.

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) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7114/2003]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—
 - (i) G.S.R. No. 821(E)/Ess. Com./Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 2002 containing Order notifying the minimum sugarcane prices payable by sugar factories for the year 2002-2003 sugar season.
 - (ii) G.S.R. No. 19(E)/Ess. Com./Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2003 containing Order notifying the minimum sugarcane prices payable by sugar factories for 2002-2003 sugar season.
 - (iii) G.S.R. No. 63(E)/Ess. Com./Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2003 containing Order notifying the minimum sugarcane prices payable by sugar factories for 2002-2003 sugar season.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7115/2003]

- (4) 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 (Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 443(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st June 2002.
 - (ii) The Sugar Development Fund (Second Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 584(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th August 2002.

- (iii) The Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 67(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th January 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7116/2003]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 10. I have already given the permission to Shri Ch. Vidyasagar Rao to lay the papers on behalf of Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Sir, on behalf of Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 49 of the Tea Act, 1953.
- (2) A copy of the S.O. 84(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2003 regarding appointment of Expert Committees to make a full and complete investigation into the affairs of the closed tea units mentioned therein in the States of West Bengal, Kerala, Assam and Tripura issued under section 16B of the Tea Act, 1953.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7117/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7118/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Footwear Design and Development Institute, Noida, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Footwear Design and Development Institute, Noida, for the year 2000-2001.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7119/2003]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7120/2003]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tea Board, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7121/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Union Public Service Commission for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7122/2003]

12.03 hrs.

[English]

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Tenth Report

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Sir, I beg to present the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Committee (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Functioning of National and State Commissions for Women'.

12.03¹/₂ hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 13—Shri Vijay Goel to make the statement on behalf of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Sir, with your permission, on behalf of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 10th March, 2003 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Introduction, consideration and passing of the Appropriation Bills relating to:—
 - (i) Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2003-2004;
 - (ii) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2002-2003;
 - (iii) Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2000-2001.
3. Discussion on Resolution seeking rejection of the Award given on 12th February, 1999 by the Board of Arbitration in C.A. Reference No. 13 of 1992 in respect of grant of Touring Special Pay to Audit Staff in Indian Audit and Accounts Department in terms of para 21 of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery.

4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:—

- (i) The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2003; and
- (ii) The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the submissions to be made by the Members. Shri Y.G. Mahajan.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given privilege notice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will take up that after submissions are over.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has just now made a statement regarding the next week's business...(*Interruptions*) The Electricity (Amendment) Bill was not to be part of the business for the next week. So, I request through you to the Government to amend it. It was not to be part of the business for the next week...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Hon'ble Member is right. Discussion will be held as fixed by the BAC.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Then why did you tell me about this?

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Please listen to me first.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, please advise the hon. Minister. Whenever the reports of the Business Advisory Committee are presented in the House, it is for next week's business. In yesterday's meeting there was no mention of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill....(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what hon'ble Parliamentary Affairs Minister is telling me is different from what was agreed to in the BAC.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only want to say that discussion will be held as agreed to in the BAC. Government are introducing this Bill only as a backup business.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. I want to advise the Minister rightly. But you must give me an opportunity. Mr. Minister, the Electricity (Amendment) Bill need not be included here because it was decided in the meeting of Business Advisory Committee that the Bill would not be taken up. So, that may be deleted and other business may be taken up for the next week.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I can understand the issue raised by the Members.

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Need for introducing metro channel of Doordarshan in Jalgaon.
2. Need for giving Vidarbha Express a stoppage of two minutes at Bodbad station under Bhusawal rail division.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Mr. Speaker, Sir, following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need for providing adequate quantity of drinking water to the people living in the densely populated central colony and the whole Dhori region of Central Coal fields Limited from the water filter plant constructed by the CCL and also of issuing instructions of CCL management for regular supply of drinking water.
2. Need for streamlining the telephone system for the whole area under Gaya telephone circle of Bihar, for immediately restoring the faulty telephone lines in villages under Kutumba-Amba and Navinagar telephone exchanges of Aurangabad district, for providing better

telephone services there and also for linking Amba-Kutumba telephone exchange to Aurangabad rather than Navinagar.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to include following items in the next week's agenda:

1. Government of India should provide economic assistance to Madhya Pradesh Government or arrange the same from developed countries for enabling it to extend the right hand side canal of Rani Avantibai dam (Baggi bandh) on river Narmada till Satna.
2. Discussion on completing canals under interstate Bana Sagar dam and provision for launching irrigation from it by the end of the financial year 2003. The dam is under construction since 1978.

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY (Mohanlalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to include the following items in the next week's agenda:

1. Inclusion of electrification project of Muradabad and Mughal Sarai-Lucknow rail section in the rail budget.
2. Need for increasing electrification projects in railways to avoid high consumption of petroleum products (diesel) and also accidents.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. In my parliamentary constituency Banaskantha, incessant rain and hailstorms have destroyed crops worth Rs. 150 crore and there is news of death of cattle there.
2. Life in the region has badly suffered. The region was already suffering from famine. Government is requested to undertake a survey of the damages occurred and a central team may be sent to the affected area. Besides, immediate relief work be started by the Centre and assistance be provided.

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. To set up Circuit Bench of Kolkata High Court at Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.
2. Problems faced by labourers at tea industry.

Thank you.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The problems of riot victims in Gujarat are still serious. Most of them are not yet rehabilitated. Many are still in the camps. Their houses are not rebuilt. Their businesses are not yet re-started. They have not received compensation. Even they are not given any job. The Central Government should intervene and arrange for proper rehabilitation of the thousands of riot victims of Gujarat.
2. The Kamtapuri Liberation Army, an extremist anti-national outfit, is engaged in terrorist activities in North Bengal. They are killing innocent people. They have training camps and shelters in Bhutan. The Central Government should take up the matter with Bhutan Government.

Thank you.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The *Dalits* and Tribals in various parts of India are not getting adequate representation in jobs, public offices and important avenues. Backlog for filling reservation posts are pending in various Governments of States and Centre. Attacks on these classes are also continuing in several places. The attack on Tribals at Matunga in Kerala recently has not been probed by a judicial team so far. The National Commission for S.C./S.T. has visited the area. Their report should be published and placed before Parliament.
2. The poor students of all classes should be helped by the Government by more scholarships and financial aid. Banks should come forward to help them generously especially for technical, medical and other professional education. As many professional courses are in private sector and the fees and other expenses are increasing, urgent steps to help students is necessary as aforesaid.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to review the sharing of revenues between Centre and States. The fiscal policies being

pursued by the Union Government have resulted into massive financial crisis to the State Governments. According to the meeting of the sub-Committee of Inter-State Council, it reveals that 33-1/3 per cent share should be distributed among the States till the time the States' share is increased up to 50 per cent.

2. Due to non-availability of monthly wages for months together the employees of N.J.M.C. are in a financial hardship. One committed suicide, another died in starvation according to the report of ETV this morning. The students of *Madhyamik* examination of these employees are not in a condition to study for the examination due to the cut in electricity in their quarters.

Thank you.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to pass Women Reservation Bill in the current Session of the Parliament.
2. Need to review the Indecent Representation of the Women Act, 1986.

Thank you.

12.14 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Coffee Board

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2)(b) of Section 4 of the Coffee Act, 1942 read with rule 4(1) of the Coffee Rules, 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coffee Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act and Rules made thereunder".

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2)(b) of Section 4 of the Coffee Act, 1942 read with rule 4(1) of the

Coffee Rules, 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coffee Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act and Rules made thereunder"

The motion was adopted.

12.15 hrs.

MOTION RE: FOURTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Fourth Report of the Committee of Privileges laid on the Table of the House on the 6th March, 2003."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fourth Report of the Committee of Privileges laid on the Table of the House on the 6th March, 2003."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are two small Bills to be introduced. If the House agrees, we may take up them now

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

12.16 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (NINETY-FIFTH AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I oppose introduction of this Bill. In the first place, it is an encroachment on the federal structure of our Constitution. The federal structure is also a basic feature of our Constitution. In that sense, we are not empowered to amend the Constitution directly connected with the basic feature of the Constitution.

Not only that, there are other things also to be mentioned at this stage. The first thing is that now, there is an attempt to introduce value-added tax throughout India in place of sales tax which was being collected by the State Governments. Now, it is claimed that there is unanimity among the States. That is not correct. There is no unanimity among the States regarding the imposition of value-added tax with effect from 1st April, 2003. Even in the Kerala Assembly, the Bill was introduced, but it went without discussion. There have been Press reports that even in some other States also, people are against introduction of value-added tax.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, you can only speak very shortly and you cannot give a long speech.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am not dealing much with introduction of value-added tax system, but I am very much concerned about the fact that this will open a Pandora box at expense of the States' tax structure because it will cut at the expense of the States' tax structure. So, I oppose introduction of this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak about it during debate on the Bill. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please sit down. Now, the Minister may reply.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, if I have understood the hon. Member opposing the introduction of the Bill correctly, may I submit two or three points very briefly? Firstly, at the stage of introduction, opposing the introduction proper of a proposed legislation can only be on the ground of legislative competence. I do believe that this House is legislatively competent to undertake consideration of this Bill.

Secondly, may I submit to the hon. Member that this particular legislation amending the Constitution is, in fact,

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2. Dt. 7.3.2003.

not about value-added tax, but it is about service tax? Thirdly, may I also submit to the hon. Member that the introduction of the service tax complementary to value-added tax is, in fact, an enhancement of the powers of taxation of the States rather than a curtailment? On these three grounds, and principally the first at the stage of introduction, it is only legislative competence that can be a ground for opposing it, may I submit that the hon. member gracefully withdraws his objections?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Prices have increased.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Everything else is a different matter. But if you withdraw your objection gracefully, then we can go forward.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.19 hrs.

PREVENTION OF INSULTS TO NATIONAL HONOUR (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Sir on behalf of my senior colleague, Shri L.K. Advani, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.20 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF NOTIFICATION RELATING TO CUSTOMS DUTY

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:—

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 8A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of section 7 of the said Act, this House hereby approves of Notification No. 11/2003-Customs dated January 15, 2003 [G.S.R. 32 (E) dated January 15, 2003] which seeks to amend the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 so as to enhance the rate of customs duty applicable to goods falling under sub-heading No. 0703.20 from 30% to 100% and preferential rate of duty from 30% to 90% in respect of imports from preferential areas."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 8A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of section 7 of the said Act, this House hereby approves of Notification No. 11/2003-Customs dated January 15, 2003 [G.S.R. 32 (E) dated January 15, 2003] which seeks to amend the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 so as to enhance the rate of customs duty applicable to goods falling under sub-heading No. 0703.20 from 30% to 100% and preferential rate of duty from 30% to 90% in respect of imports from preferential areas."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): May I raise a very serious issue?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Everybody should occupy their seats. May I explain to the Members what the position is? Please try to understand the exact position. I have received Privilege Notices from two hon. Members. As you all know, Privilege Notice gets precedence over the other business before the House. After this is disposed of, I will take up the Adjournment Motion Notice on which, as I said, I would permit you. Then, there are other Adjournment Motion Notices on which I will permit the Members to make their observations. Thereafter, the regular 'Zero Hour' will start.

[Mr. Speaker]

If you all cooperate, everybody will get an opportunity. At least, for one day, I want cooperation from every Member so that we can dispose of the business.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): We are cooperating everyday and that is why, we are winning.

MR. SPEAKER: The way you are standing up in between is not treated as cooperation.

I am going to give opportunities to all those who should get the priority. Since tomorrow is 'Women's Day', Shrimati Margaret Alva has requested me that tomorrow being a holiday, she wants to say something about the Women's Reservation Bill. She will also get the priority.

However, let me make up my mind on how I go about the business. Please cooperate with me. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has also requested me to give him an opportunity because he wants to raise the Iraq issue. I am going to give opportunities to all, provided you cooperate with me. Otherwise, everything will go as it happens every day. Please do not do that, and this is my request.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to speak about sugarcane farmers...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Which partly you belong to. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am going to take up the Privilege Notice as per the procedure. I have received notices on the question of privilege from Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh against Kumar Mayawati, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, for her reported statement that Members of Parliament earn money by way of commission from MPLADS funds. I have received this notice today.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: There are two names in the privilege notice.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, mine is adjournment motion.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already mentioned that.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is the notice which I have received from both of them. The matter is under my consideration. We may take up the matter in due course of time.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to listen to me for a moment. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Ramji Lal Suman ji and Raghuvansh ji, you both are senior Members of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not prepared to listen to the request that I have made earlier. Nobody wants to listen to it. Please sit down. I am going to give a chance to everybody. You need not stand and shout in the House.

[Translation]

What are you doing? You should understand that the whole country is watching you.

[English]

You must respect your voters who have elected you to this place. I have read the notice. The procedure is clear. Notices have been received from both the Members. I have said that the matter is under my consideration, there is a procedure which I will follow, and that in due course of time you will be permitted to speak in the House.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): There is something special in it. Hon'ble Home Minister did not deny when this issue was raised. He stated that it did not happen during her tenure as Chief Minister. This statement would have been given by her before she become the Chief Minister. Such a statement is a contempt of the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This matter can not be discussed here just now. Please sit down. I will allow you to speak at right time, not now.

[English]

I have to consider your notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: How can you do that, please give me time.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You have the right to send it to the Committee of Privilege. Rule 222 may please be considered*in this regard...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am aware of all my rights. And I have taken this decision in my own discretion.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Committee on Privileges is there to inquire into the matter. It is a contempt of members of Parliament.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am on the notice for Adjournment Motion. I have permitted Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak.

[Translation]

You please continue.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing of what Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh says should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvansh Ji, please sit down. Please cooperate, otherwise, it would be difficult to run the House.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: He is quoting rules...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want a reply from me? I will reply only when you will sit, otherwise not.

[English]

If you want a reply from me, you sit down. I will give you a reply.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): You can imagine what happened in Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji, may I reply the question asked by you.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have not asked question, I have only requested you.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please hear the reply? May I reply the question raised by you? Please be seated peacefully, do not get annoyed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is upto you to accept or refuse my request. You will say that it is a state matter or it is neither the convention of the House nor the rule, you may probably also say that no one from their party is present here to reply in this regard. But I want to say that if you give me a chance to speak, I will definitely sit down.

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.): I am on a point of order. If senior members disobey the chair, what can be expected from new members like me...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised the point of order, I am replying to that. What can I do when a senior member like Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji is not ready to obey the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The reply to the point of order raised here is that it has been the practice of the House that when a member moves an Adjournment Motion, I request him to move the motion at an appropriate time, but even

[Mr. Speaker]

then the Members continue to speak. It depends upon the members to speak or not. But I do not allow to speak on Adjournment Motion except during Zero Hour. Something happened today. There is nothing new in it. Shri Prabhunath Singh ji had raised an issue but I had asked him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

After I told him, he sat down. Now, I have to allow him to speak in 'Zero Hour.' There is nothing new before the House. I have requested earlier that every member should cooperate with the Chair.

[Translation]

The proceedings would be conducted if all cooperate. However, if you do not want to so, you may continue like this but it is inappropriate, it is not good for the country. Therefore, please speak in brief in two-three minutes.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Please listen to me also on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I will definitely hear you if there would be any such convention. I would go according to the convention.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, it is the prerogative of the Chair to determine the priority. Some of us have been waiting to raise the important issue of Iraq. The Government of India is succumbing to the pressure of the US...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving permission. I do not think you have heard my request. All of you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record except what Shri Prabhunath Singh will speak.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

12.31 hrs.

RE: LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN THE STATE OF BIHAR

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising a very serious issue before the House. The Government of Rashtriya Janata Dal has been in power in Bihar for the last 13 years. At present, Congress Party is supporting the Bihar Government. The President of Samta Party Shri Kameshwar Singh was murdered yesterday at National Highway No. 83 in Punpun at 10.30 AM. Earlier also two-three persons have been murdered at the same place. President of our Party had always condemned these murders. He has become a victim of political conspiracy. More than one thousand political workers who were working against the Government have been killed in Bihar. Anarchy is prevailing in Bihar...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not true...(Interruptions) He is levelling allegation upon us...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The situation is same even today. Treasurer Anand of Kirara in Bihar has also been shot at 10.50 AM today...(Interruptions) President of their party Shri Kirti Azad is present in the House...(Interruptions) More than 3.50 lakh incidents of serious crime have been reported during the last 3 years in Bihar out of which 10 thousand cases are of murder, more than 3500 cases of dacoity, more than 6 thousand cases of loot and more than 5 thousand cases are of abduction. Even if we go by officials figures, in every four seconds, serious crime takes place in Bihar, after every 2 hours a murder, in every 3 hours a case of ransom and after every six hours a rape takes place there...(Interruptions) What is important is that in the cases of abduction the abductor is set free only when*. 75 such cases of abduction have been reported. I would like to tell you some names.

Shri Ashok Kante, Photographer of 'Hindustan' daily, Shri Janaki Singh, the nephew of MLA Shri Pradeep Das, Doctor Bharat Singh...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, he is a Member of the Upper House. How can he take his name in this House?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever is unparliamentary, I will remove it from the proceedings.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Shri Ashvini Gupta, industrialist, Shri Salesh Kumar, industrialist, Patna, Shri Tulsī Ram Aggarwal, industrialist, Virat Nagar, Nepal, Shri Ramesh etc....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will remove the objectionable words from the records.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will expunge what he has stated about the Chief Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:* The then D.G.P. of the State has given a statement...(*Interruptions*) that we are the mute spectators to the evils committed in the regime of the present Government...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now you please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The then DGP of Bihar said that they are like warriors of Kaurava army. He also said that when the USA could not nab Osama-Bin-Laden, how Bihar Police could be expected to nab Sultan Miyan...(*Interruptions*) Where the DGP is issuing such statements through media, Government have no right to continue. We demand this from the Union Government...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to give one more information to you...(*Interruptions*) I request you to immediately dismiss the corrupt and inefficient Government of Bihar. I demand this from the Government through you...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have received notices from Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya, Kunwar

Akhilesh Singh and Shri Ramji Lal Suman. The issue has been discussed. I have rejected your notices on the issue.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, please sit down. I can't give you much time.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have raised such a serious issue. I would like the Government to respond to it and assure the House that either the Union Government would conduct an inquiry or take action on it...(*Interruptions*) This is my submission...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should also be heard...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is on point of order.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We are ready for inquiry into the issues that he has raised...(*Interruptions*) Criminal Gangs are being harboured by a Minister of Government of India and of NDA...(*Interruptions*) They are trying to malign the name of the State Government...(*Interruptions*) The NDA people have engaged criminal gangs, who commit crimes, abductions and murders, with a view to defame the State Government...(*Interruptions*) All the cases should be investigated...(*Interruptions*) I challenge the hon'ble Home Minister to conduct an inquiry and place all the facts on the Table of the House. Their MLAs and Ministers have criminal background and they patronise criminals...(*Interruptions*) They patronise criminal gangs and are defaming State Government. Therefore we are ready for inquiry...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard you. Now you please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There were other notices on adjournment motion also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There were other notices on adjournment motion also about utilisation of MPLAD Fund, etc. On this I have already given a ruling yesterday and also day before yesterday. Therefore, these notices cannot be accepted. Now, I allow Shrimati Margaret Alva to make her submission on the issue of women.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me also...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already given the ruling on that issue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You asked for permission. I have not given it. The matter has come up twice in the last two days. I did not permit. I said that adjournment motion cannot be given on such subjects. How can I permit when the same subject has come up.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Constitution has been openly flouted in Uttar Pradesh. It has been made a joke. Mr. Speaker, this is a serious issue...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Minister wants to react on the issue raised by Shri Prabhunath Singh, he can do so.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have already spoken on this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everyday, I cannot give a ruling on the same issue. I have already given the ruling twice and I told this could not be a matter of discussion now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue is related to insult to Members and we will keep on raising the issue, until it is resolved. I say, in all humility, that we will keep raising the issue till it is resolved...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have to take the decision and I have taken the decision.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot accept this. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Please allow us. It is a very serious issue...(Interruptions) This is an insult to democracy itself. MPs are being insulted and I will sit on hunger strike here today unless the matter is resolved...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You need not do that. I tell you. Please sit down. To undo a wrong, the House has to follow certain procedures.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am speaking about the notices given by Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Akhilesh ji. I am doing to because the issue is very important and also serious. But we have to discuss it under a procedure. You all are aware that at the time of discussion on the issue, Shri Shivraj Patil had said that a structural debate is needed on the issue. I agreed to it on the condition that BAC too agrees to it. Now you are trying to raise the same issue in the same manner when I have already said that the subject is not fit to be taken up for adjournment motion.

I am not interested as to whether you support the issue or oppose it. But if you are really serious about discussing the issue then it can be done through a structural debate as per the rules of the House. The issue had come up before the BAC but there was no

unanimity. I said that we can sit together to discuss this issue next week again. All are aware of the issue. The issue has been discussed twice or thrice. I only want to say that the issue can be raised under the rule anytime and I am ready to permit but is it proper that only two Members, by insisting to speak, stall the business of the House. It is not proper. I agree that you wish to raise the issue. I am ready to inform you about the device that can be used, but whether to use that device or not is upto you. I can only say that the procedure you are following is not proper. I can do nothing more than that.

[English]

Let me resolve the issue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of the MP Local Area Development Scheme Fund...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All are aware of the issue. I will not permit you to speak on the issue. Please tell me what discussion you desire. This is not right. Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

12.41 hrs.

(At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other Members came and sat on the floor of the House)

MR. SPEAKER: Sharad Yadav ji, please reply to the question of Shri Prabhunath Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Sharad Yadav's speech will go on the record. Nothing else will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, wrong precedents should not be started. A number of hon'ble Members are sitting on dhama. How can the proceedings of the House continue in such a scenario?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All the members want hence House will continue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, House won't run as per your wishes. It be kept in mind.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will convey the sentiments of Shri Prabhunath Singhji and the colleagues on this issue to the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House can not run like this...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have given me the right to run the House. Let me run the House.

[English]

I will run the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday you had given the ruling. It is the question of the prestige and dignity of the House. This is true that this question could not be decided in the Business Advisory Committee yesterday. There is constitutional crisis also in Uttar Pradesh. Democracy is being stifled there...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you follow the proper procedure of the House then I can permit you. Discussion can be held, if you want but not in this way.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I once again request you that discussion can be held as per rules and I am ready to give permission for that but what can I do if you are not interested in it. I have to run the House.

[English]

I will now take up the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

12.45 hrs.

RE: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Tomorrow is International Women's Day. Hence I have given priority to Shrimati Margaret Alva.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever Shrimati Margret Alva says, only that would go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to give permission in the matter of the women because it is a matter of women empowerment. Other subjects would be taken up if the House runs smoothly.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Sir, on the eve of International Women's Day, on behalf of the Members of the House, I greet the women of India and of the world...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Margaretji, you complete it. Your speech will go on record. Firstly, on the subject of the International Women's Day later on other subjects will be taken up.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You please continue. It would go on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Women face numerous challenges of violence and discrimination in their families, in society and at the work place.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Akhileshji, I request you to resume your seat. I am ready for discussion. The subject can be taken up for discussion but as per rules and not in defiance of rules and discussion on this issue can not be held under any pressure.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Alvaji, you complete it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Laws are not implemented and crimes against women are mounting...(Interruptions) Gender bias in education, health care and employment is growing. But women have emerged stronger and more determined to overcome these obstacles...(Interruptions)

The Prime Minister's meeting to work out a consensus on the Women's Reservation Bill is scheduled for today...(Interruptions)

12.48 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel and some other hon. Members came and stood near the table)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I appeal to the Leaders to support our demand. I hope that a consensus will emerge. But even if this consensus does not emerge, we want the Bill which is pending in the House to be debated and voted upon. Let it be defeated like the Panchayati Raj Bill of 1989. Ultimately, we will overcome these obstacles...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: T.V. Relay be stopped.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Today, war clouds are hovering over the international horizon. Innocent women and children in the Middle East are dying due to violence, sanctions, and denial of basic rights to them. I share their agony and despair and appeal to the Government to let the voice of the Indian people for rejecting the war, be heard at the United Nations, and in other international fora so that we may live in peace...*(Interruptions)*

12.49 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of the sugarcane farmers was deplorable but...*(Interruptions)* Our Prime Minister gave remunerative price to provide them relief. The sugarcane farmers were being looted prior to it...*(Interruptions)* I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister for providing assistance to the sugarcane farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renu Kumari.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, tomorrow is International Women's Day. So many schemes have been formulated for the development and welfare of women but the result is the same...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur): I wish to draw the attention of the House to the long and patient wait that women have gone through since 1996 for the Women's Reservation Bill.

Our target is to have a fair representation of women in the Nation's decision-making bodies. We had looked up to the Bill as a means of raising the number of women in Parliament and in the State Assemblies. Now it seems that this Bill in its present form can never be passed in the House. It is time we look to alternatives. I myself have been demanding for quite some time that political parties should nominate more women when they choose candidates for election. This can be made mandatory by a simple amendment in the Representation of People

Act. We are aware that the former Election Commissioner was agreeable to such a proposal. But political parties did not agree to this.

So many elections have taken place in the past couple of years and so many more are due. We are losing precious time. Had we agreed to such an alternative earlier we would already have had a large number of women in the decision-making bodies of the nation. I would urge upon the Government to take up seriously the matter of women representation and to consider the alternative proposal which will do away the flaws like rotation in the previous Bill and also there will be no need for reservations within reservation.

Thank you...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renu Kumari.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, tomorrow is International Women's Day. Government funds in large amount would be spent for the development and welfare of women and several speeches would be delivered in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The responsibility for maintaining the dignity of the Chair does not reflect here.

[English]

I condemn the action of these people who are coming and sitting here. This is not the way in which the House can function. But I would continue with the functioning of the House in the given circumstances.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will give them permission to speak only when they resume their seats.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, poet Jayashankar Prasad has said:

"Naari Tum Keval Shradha Ho,

Visvas Rajat nabh pad tal me

Piyush Srot si baha karo,

Jivan ke sunder samtal mein." ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are the Members of the ruling party and you please co-operate with the Chair. Let him do what he wants to do.

...(Interruptions)

12.51 hrs.

(At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the same Gandhiji and Lohiaji who are often quoted in this country and the House, had opposed system of dowry and veiling (Parda partha) for the development of the women. Gandhiji used to say about the women that women must be free from the concern of earning bread. He was in favour of women's education. Gandhiji also maintained that women should have right to equality before law. he used to consider women as indispensable part of politics....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You don't keep your words. you had promised to keep your words.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Gandhiji had seen that how hundreds of women used to suffer imprisonment and sustain the blow of lathis with a smile on their face...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: A discussion is being held on Womens' Day, let them speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Gandhiji had requested the women to sacrifice their gold jewellery and they did so...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, even Lohia ji used to say that no development is possible without the participation of women...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please let the subject, which is continuing, be completed.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: That is why we talk about Gandhiji and Lohia ji, I wish to submit that even the souls of Gandhiji and Lohia ji might be getting hurt as the women's Reservation Bill is not being passed. I therefore urge that the women's Reservation Bill may kindly be passed in the present session itself and thus women may be respected...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: She wishes to speak on women's day. Would you not allow them to speak once in a year? How would the things go on like this? Please respect their feelings.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SANDHYA BAURI (Vishnupur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, though International Women's Day is being observed and it is being given importance yet atrocities still being committed against them, may she is working woman or a housewife...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Upliftment of Women is not possible if things go on like this. If the male members would not let them speak, how can they progress?

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SANDHYA BAURI: Sometimes jobs of women are taken away from them. Due to liberalisation and globalisation process of the government, whenever any factory is closed down, it is the women who are retrenched first. Even retrenchment of men makes impact on women and the entire family...(Interruptions) Women used to make small articles at home but due to influx of these articles from foreign countries, the sale of the indigenous items have got hampered...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please give right to the women to speak in the House at least.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SANDHYA BAURI: Many women are becoming victim of this. When all Government Bills have been passed in the House, then why not the Women's Reservation Bill? The women can also fight for their rights, with these words I thank you for having given me an opportunity to speak...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am obliged to you for having given the women an opportunity to speak on the occasion of Women's Day. It is good that a healthy discussion is going on here with regard to the upliftment and rights of women. Hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji is going to hold an all party meeting today on this occasion so that Bill could be introduced in the House to provide reservation to women in proportion to their percentage...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Your Minister is anti-women...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: He should not interrupt when a woman member is speaking. Your this attitude is not good. Please let me put my point. You have a woman Chief Minister Shrimati Rabri Devi, in your State, who is really good, still you are taking against the women.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is good that we are speaking on the lines for upliftment of women, but I am sorry to say that gang rape of women was committed in Dhankalan area of Bengal. Government should give consideration in this direction. A number of such incidents have occurred in Bihar also where atrocities have been committed on women and also they have been raped...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Banerjee, I request you that please do not involve any State Government in this issue. It is altogether a different issue. It is related to women.

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me a chance to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Tomorrow is the International Women's Day. Therefore, I have decided to permit women to speak today. In the whole year, let them speak atleast for one day.

[Translation]

DR. (SHRIMATI) ANITA ARYA (Karol Bagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I on behalf of the Indian Parliament, extend my congratulations to women of the entire country on the occasion of International Women's Day. Our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has called for an all party meeting for providing 33 percent reservation to women in Parliament and State Legislative Councils. I would like to say to all the women MPs to request their party leaders to ensure that Women's Reservation Bill should be introduced and passed unanimously in the House Women also want their participation in Parliament and State Legislative Councils as they constitute 50 percent of the population of the country. So 50 percent women cast votes. So they are required to be the member of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand, we do advocacy for providing reservation to women in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies, but...*

MR. SPEAKER: No. that subject cannot be included here.

...(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed her to speak on that subject.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to say to hon. Member Shrimati Anita Arya ji that I really respect the Women a lot and with confidence, I can say that no one respect the women to the extent I do...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Akhilesh ji, this matter cannot be raised in the House. I had at that time only, prevented Shrimati Anita Arya to speak on this subject. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, behaviour committed with women in Five star hotels as also by the so called higher class, is not only a matter of concern but also highly condemnable...(Interruptions)

DR. (SHRIMATI) ANITA ARYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only wish that the Women Reservation Bill be introduced in the House and get passed unanimously...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That I have said here already and I have deleted it from the records.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the hon'ble Member has mentioned my name, therefore, I would like to make a humble request that I should be given two minutes to express my views...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: She has not mentioned your name.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: She said it in general.

...(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: She has not taken your name.

[English]

I have seen the record.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you to give me two minutes to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What would you say in this regard?

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my humble submission is that she has taken my name...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: She has not taken your name, please sit down. You should also give chance to the lady Members to speak. If you continue to speak everyday, the lady Members will not get opportunity to speak. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, she has taken my name, therefore, I would like to speak...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have removed that from record.

[Translation]

Therefore, this subject is over.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, it is my humble submission that...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: She has not taken your name, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Akhileshji's name has been taken, please listen him for a minute...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready to listen him, it is another thing, she has not taken his name.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, his name has not been taken even then she meant the same...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever she said has been expunged from the records.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Akhileshji, discussion on women's issue is going on, I will give you opportunity to speak after it is completed, now please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Akhileshji, sit down for a while. I am going to give permission to you, wait for two minutes.

[English]

Let me complete this subject.

[Translation]

At present, I am not giving permission to speak to anybody, please sit down.

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Sir, I am sorry to say that due to lack of Government's political will on women reservation, the Bill is not yet placed before Parliament...(Interruptions) Since 1996, the Bill has been pending before us for approval of the Parliament. The whole nation looked forward in shame when the Government had introduced the Bill in the year 1999...(Interruptions)

Both inside and outside Parliament, we the lady Members of Parliament, and the different women organisations raised their voices to introduce the Bill for smooth passing...(Interruptions) But the Government did not care for them and passed on the baby by saying that after consensus of all political parties the Bill may be introduced.

May I request the Government through you Sir, whether the Govt. was at consensus for passing all the Bills including the one regarding POTA.

The Government made many commitments for upliftment of women but they proved futile as women are victims of injustice socially, politically and economically.

I urge upon the Government to cut the Gordian knot and pass the Bill in this Session itself without any further delay.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ (Misrikh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1975, first International Women's Day was celebrated in Moscow. For the last 28 years we are trying to empower the women...(*Interruptions*) In 1975, first seminar was held to discuss the problems faced by the women of entire world in getting their rights. Coincidentally, it was Silver Jubilee year of Indian Republic and that year was declared as National Women Year also and it was a day to grant equal rights to women.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, deliberations were held on sex-discrimination between men and women in the world in the Conference on women's rights. Today, when the issue of reservation is raised, I would like to tell you that Indian Women is leading a pathetic life. There is lot of pain and agony behind the scenes...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody has to speak for two minutes only.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important subject. Tomorrow is Women's Day, therefore, I would like to raise this important issue...(*Interruptions*) It is a matter of shame for Union Government, Women's organisations, particularly Voluntary Organisations. Today, women from 15 to 40 years of age are being sent for job to Gulf countries...(*Interruptions*) They are being sexually exploited over there. Many girls from Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are being sent...(*Interruptions*) Sir, there is Gulf Cell in the Ministry of External Affairs...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Kanti Singhji now you please speak.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: They have identified just 20 women. National Commission for Women should be praised for its efforts in the present times. The Commission has resolved to find those women. I urge upon the Government, that a committee be constituted to do justice to the girls who are stranded in Gulf countries and the atrocities being committed against women should also be prevented. So, first of all, we should consider about the plight of the women and then talk of reservations.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on women's day.

Even today when Shrimati Margaret Alva was speaking with your permission on the issue then there was pandemonium on the other side in the House. Even on the occasion of Women's Day we are being prevented from speaking whereas on the other hand, year of women empowerment is being observed. I request that we should be given some time to speak on this occasion. Even today women are under the same condition—'Abla Jeevan Hai Tumhari Yahi Kahani, Aanchal Mein Hai Doodh Aur Aankhon Mein Paani' that is their condition, it is still pitiable. Even in the present times women in rural areas are being harassed. Women, be they are working in agricultural fields or in Government offices are somehow looking after their children and are upholding their honour.

As people say that women are weak but I would say one thing in this regard:

"Komal Hai, Kamzor Nahin Tu, Shakti Ka Naam Hi Nari Hai,

Sabko Jeevan Dene wali, Maut Bhi Tujhse Hari Hai".

It is said that the RJD people oppose the Women Reservation Bill whenever it is introduced in the House, while the fact is that the RJD has a clear cut policy that the women belonging to OBC, Dalit and minorities, that is, the women of social justice should be given reservation whenever the Women Reservation Bill is introduced so that the women who have been overlooked and deprived of opportunity to make progress on basis of equality, could get reservation instead of those who are already forward. I am also a woman and have come from the general quota.

13.08 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

I have not come here on the basis of reservation. I, therefore, demand that whenever Women Reservation Bill be introduced in House then the provision be made for the reservation to the women belonging to OBC, Minority and dalit and then I feel that the policy of our party and the purpose of reservation to women would be served. It is being said that RJD is against the women while hon'ble Laloo Prasad ji made a woman Chief Minister in Bihar and he had announced publicly that Rabri Devi ji would be made Chief Minister of Bihar and then contested election on this basis, the people of Bihar supported him and he won by majority—and then Rabri Devi ji was

[Shrimati Kanti Singh]

made the Chief Minister of Bihar. RJD is, therefore, not anti-women. RJD wants reservation for women but the condition is same.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Member has said in her speech that they are mal-treated by the hon. Members of Parliament. This word 'mal-treated' may be expunged...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY (Mohanlalganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today on the occasion of International Women's Day I would like to congratulate women of this country and at the same time remember Kalpana Chawla who sacrificed her life for the sake of humanity. She has set an example for not only women, but also for men of the country. Please don't stop me, I would say just 2-3 things in short. Girls upto the age of 18 years should be given Education and Government protection.

Women should not be compelled to lead a miserable life due to economic reasons. Today the view point of society towards women in changing in this age of liberalisation. Market forces are recognising only the physical appearance of a woman as her capability altogether ignoring her qualifications, responsibility, capability, resolution and self assessment. It is really shameful. Today we know that this issue has been discussed many times in the House that many obscene advertisements are shown. There are a number of cases in which women are not needed, despite they are shown unnecessarily. We should pay some heed in this direction.

Today the Government talks of protection of the cultural heritage, but we find them helpless. As a woman, I congratulate all the women Ministers in the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you must have noticed in the House that our Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is also a woman and whenever she sits in the House, she bears a pleasant smile on her face. Her predecessor was a male and he often remained angry and reprimanded others. There would be smiles and happiness from all sides in the entire House if more and more opportunity is provided to the women to come forward. I believe that all Members would agree to me.

At the end, I would like to say one thing that man and woman have always been complimentary to each other. A woman always follows her husband, because of her sober and simple nature. Therefore cooperation be extended to the women considering them your colleague and reservation be also provided to the women belonging to Dalit, OBC and Muslim community. Your repeatedly defer the Bill. It shows your intention. I, therefore, on behalf of the Samajwadi Party, make a strong demand

that women should be given actual respect by ensuring reservation to them.

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA (Nominated): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is now recognised that the hand that rocks the cradle can also rock the system. There are many patriarchal systems, male-entrenched systems that need to be rocked. They need to be completely overhauled. One of those systems is the political system. The word "politics" itself means conflict; and sexual politics means conflict between men and women. Nowhere is it seen so very clearly than in this august House itself.

There is a conflict about space also. It is the space that women occupy and the space that men have to occupy. We have been fighting for the last four years for political space in this House. The Government is asking for a consensus. For no other Bill is, consensus is asked for. We want a political debate. We want to see which male Member votes for the Bill.

The other thing that I would like to mention here is that we need the Budget to be engendered. We need women's rights to be protected in the Budget. We further need women's food rights to protected.

One more point is that the justice system has become dysfunctional. When the rule of law breaks down, the first casualty is women. Whether it is a communal conflict or whether it is a war zone, women are the ones who suffer.

Finally, I would like to say that women want 50:50 partnership with men. We do not want a take over, a particularly in this august House.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, tomorrow we would observe the Women's Day. I am thankful to you for giving me opportunity to speak in the Lok Sabha on this occasion. I extend congratulations to women in the entire world and at the same time, I would say that wherever they are, be it home and whatever post they are holding they should move forward and prove that they are not second to the men in any field. I feel sorry that the condition of woman has compelled her to ask for reservation. Our country has always recognised women power whether it is in the form of Durga or Saraswati. I would like to cite an example that in the Cabinet of 'Devtas', Lord Indra was

the king of all. Women had been given powers and Ma Durga was recognised as 'Power' and was provided with the power of protection. Similarly, Saraswati ji was given the power of knowledge and matters related to wealth were assigned to Laxmi ji. When god has given powers to women then why should we not get powers in this modern age. On this occasion, I would say that all our sisters should be ready to combat every problem. They can get powers by their own efforts only.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak today on the eve of International Women's Day. At the outset, I would like to place on record and disagree with the wrong view that women are the weaker sex. The women are the proud owners of two 'X' chromosomes. Each chromosome is harbouring a tolerant gene. It means, we are harbouring more talented and tolerant genes, when compared to men. We possess 100 per cent, whereas the men possess only 50 per cent of what we possess. In this background, it is our right—it is not a charity—to have 50 per cent reservation in Parliament and State Assemblies, but it is unfortunate that we have to fight for 33.33 per cent of reservation even 55 years after Independence. Reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies should have already been done. Today, the entire world had witnessed as to how Shrimati Margaret Alva, who is the Chairperson of the Committee on Empowerment of Women and who is fighting for the rights of Indian women, who constitute 51.8 per cent of Indian population, was not allowed to speak. It is unfortunate. It is painful and it is a shame that some section of this august House behaved in such a fashion today. I really feel ashamed of the attitude of the Members here that she was not allowed to place her views on record.

Secondly, I urge upon the Government to pass the Women's Reservation Bill without any discussion in Parliament because both the Ruling and Opposition parties have reached a consensus. So, where is the need for a discussion in this House? Here, I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister on behalf of 51.8 per cent of women in India for convening an All-Party Meeting on this issue. We pray and hope that this Bill would be passed in the current Session of Parliament. If any amendments are required, they can be discussed and passed in due course.

Last but not least, it is fortunate that we are having a woman as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Health and Family Welfare. I request, through you, that

a Women Health Policy must be discussed in this august House and proportionate allocation should be made in the Budget. I would like to place this demand here on behalf of AIADMK and on behalf of my leader, Dr. Jayalalitha.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the women across the world and wish them all the best in their endeavours in the years ahead.

To begin with, we cannot help but remember our beloved leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, who brought *Panchayati Raj* into cognisance and also pioneered the Women's Empowerment Bill, but it is very unfortunate that he had to die at the hands of a woman. We do remember him and at the same time, I would like to submit that we have been debating about the Bill to empower women for the last 10 years in this august House. What is the political will now? What do the Members in this august House really want? Are they going to see to it that the Women's Empowerment Bill sees the light of the day or are they thinking of putting it in the cold storage as they have been doing all these years?

So, I would like to give a suggestion to this august House. We have already discussed it. Let all the Members across the party lines decide to take a vote on the Bill. It can be a secret ballot or whatever means or format they want to adopt to see exactly who are the people who are opposing this Bill. Thank you.

[Translation]

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI (Washim): Sir, women's day is being observed all over the world. On this occasion I extend warm wishes to all women. The issue of providing reservation to women and its extent is an issue of discussion for long time. The issue has been hanging since 1992 but no one has taken any initiative. It is a matter of sorrow. Different views prevail about this matter. In my opinion, Government ought to find a way out on the basis of consensus. You have provided opportunity to women to speak in the House and I believe that women would get respect in the ongoing meeting of party leaders. House will have to discuss the issue of women seriously. On behalf of my party, I demand that women be given 33 percent reservation... (*Interruptions*) Now the women are not being given due respect in House. When Shrimati Margaret Alva was speaking from that side, she was also not allowed to speak. I go to the extent of saying that as a measure of respect to women, they should be given reservation in excess of 30 percent, that is, upto 50

[Kumari Bhavana Pundlikroa Gawali]

percent. All the males commit excess on women. So, the House will have to take initiative in this regard. In my opinion, women should be given more and more power. Women can do good work in a country like India. They have proved it. The Government should think over it seriously and women should be provided 33 percent reservation.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, we had been to Iraq....(Interruptions) Our delegation comprised of different party representatives....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): I have also given notice to speak in Zero Hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will call all one by one. Please be seated.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We were there for four days.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): We are following the way you have shown...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will keep on doing that. You please be seated.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We had a meeting with the Chairman of the National Council and the leaders of all the political parties...(Interruptions)

Sir, the entire country is united. In the meeting, we found that the people of Iraq have high expectations from our country. Both Iraq and India are members of Non-aligned Movement...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not right. My notice was given earlier...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your number 29th. Please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We have seen in the past that when there was the Suez Canal Crisis, our country took a positive stand. When there was an attack on Korea in 1952, we have seen the role of this country. But today, when the United States of America and its President Bush is making statements that he would take all efforts to disarm President Saddam Hussain and when Inspector Hans Blix has to submit his report today, the three permanent members of Security Council, France, Russia and China have openly said that they would not support the new Resolution, which American imperialism and the UK want to be authorised to wage full-scale war against Iraq. They would not support it.

Sir, what we find here in our country that day before yesterday President Bush spoke to our Prime Minister and he wanted support from our country. The Government of India till date has not taken any positive stand in regard to attack on Iraq by the United States of America as well as Britain. What we want is that we should condemn the attack on Iraq.

The people of Iraq have to suffer for the last ten years because of sanctions, embargo, and blockade. We have visited Ameria Shelter where in 1991, 400 children and women were killed by bombing that Shelter. we have seen that place. We want that this House should condemn and the Government of India should take a positive stand with regard to attack on Iraq.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, on behalf of the Indian National Congress, I would like to express our deep concern. The war scenario is looming large on Iraq. This Parliament, right from the days of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, has been maintaining a steady policy of opposing invasion against any sovereign country. I understand, this Parliament, cutting across, party lines from day one has been defending the line not to attack any nation and to encroach its sovereignty.

Based on that, the Non-aligned Movement made it abundantly clear time and again. If you recall the Vietnam War, it was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's Government again, which came forward collectively with the wisdom of the House asking the United States of America to withdraw from Vietnam.

Sir, the Iraq situation was discussed in this House before the hon. Prime Minister's visit to Malaysia. We were told by the Government not to stick to a Resolution, which may not give flexibility to the Government, and we did not insist for the Resolution. The Government assured us that the sentiments of the House would be carried and reflected in the NAM Conference. Till now, the House did not have the benefit of what actually had been reflected in the NAM Conference and on 13th the House will be adjourned.

Sir, during the reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, the hon. Prime Minister did say that whatever views had been made, he feels that there can be an attack. With all humility at any command, on behalf of the principal Opposition Party, the Indian National Congress, I convey to the Government, through you, Sir, that before 13th of March the Government must come to the House, take the House into confidence regarding our stand. We have been opposing right from day one, the attack on any nation by any imperialist power...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, the Petroleum Minister has said that two months stock of fuel is with us, 40 lakhs people would be brought back from the Gulf, and arrangements have been made for that. You can imagine as to how it would hit the economy of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and the rest of India. Therefore, let the collective views and wisdom of one million population be reflected under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee that India is opposed to war against Iraq...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rupchand Pal is associating himself. The House is adjourned till quarter past two.

13.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at nineteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

GENERAL BUDGET, 2003-2004—GENERAL DISCUSSION—*Contd.*
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL), 2003-2004
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL), 2002-2003
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL), 2000-2001

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now continue the Budget Discussion. Shri Kharabela Swain was on his legs and he would continue now.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2004 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 33, 35 and 36, 38 to 62, 64 to 70, 72 and 73, 75 to 103."

LOK SABHA

Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2003-2004 submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha

1	No. & Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant 'On Account' submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
	2	3	4
Ministry of Agriculture			
1.	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	614,64,00,000	22,15,00,000
2.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	251,82,00,000	
3.	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	86,27,00,000	4,06,00,000

1	2	3	4
Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries			
4.	Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries	111,17,00,000	10, 00,000
Department of Atomic Energy			
5.	Atomic Energy	270,76,00,000	190,15,00,000
6.	Nuclear Power Schemes	244,43,00,000	333,33,00,000
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers			
7.	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	9,73,00,000	210,98,00,000
8.	Department of Fertilisers	3851,66,00,000	64,70,00,000
Ministry of Civil Aviation			
9.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	207,05,00,000	7,85,00,000
Ministry of Coal			
10.	Ministry of Coal	72,98,00,000	4,17,00,000
Ministry of Mines			
11.	Ministry of Mines	185,21,00,000	3,42,00,000
Ministry of Commerce and Industry			
12.	Department of Commerce	278,23,00,000	25,50,00,000
13.	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	63,89,00,000	...
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology			
14.	Department of Posts	932,56,00,000	21,53,00,000
15.	Department of Telecommunications	227,94,00,000	17,00,000
16.	Department of Information Technology	75,88,00,000	6,48,00,000
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution			
17.	Department of Consumer Affairs	6,18,00,000	39,00,000
18.	Department of Food and Public Distribution	4704,51,00,000	58,39,00,000
Ministry of Defence			
19.	Ministry of Defence	779,00,00,000	64,30,00,000
20.	Defence Pensions	1833,29,00,000	...
21.	Defence Services—Army	4940,11,00,000	...
22.	Defence Services—Navy	842,34,00,000	...
23.	Defence Services—Air Force	1419,85,00,000	...
24.	Defence Ordnance Factories	693,50,00,000	...
25.	Defence Services—Research and Development	457,32,00,000	...

1	2	3	4
26	Capital Outlay on Defence Services	...	3490,41,00,000
Department of Development of North Eastern Region			
27.	Department of Development of North Eastern Region	153,33,00,000	11,70,00,000
Ministry of Disinvestment			
28.	Ministry of Disinvestment	4,73,00,000	...
Ministry of Environment and Forests			
29.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	183,19,00,000	4,24,00,000
Ministry of External Affairs			
30.	Ministry of External Affairs	585,70,00,000	82,51,00,000
Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs			
31.	Department of Economic Affairs	730,19,00,000	42,84,00,000
32.	Currency, Coinage and Stamps	145,39,00,000	90,70,00,000
33.	Payments to Financial Institutions	1259,96,00,000	531,98,00,000
35.	Transfer to State and Union Territory Governments	4364,11,00,000	...
36.	Loans to Government Servants, etc.	...	112,50,00,000
38.	Department of Expenditure	4,00,00,000	...
39.	Pensions	747,88,00,000	..
40.	Indian Audit and Accounts Department	160,71,00,000	2,58,00,000
41.	Department of Revenue	161,43,00,000	2,27,00,000
42.	Direct Taxes	201,80,00,000	19,25,00,000
43.	Indirect Taxes	189,25,00,000	44,18,00,000
44.	Department of Company Affairs	8,62,00,000	50,00,000
Ministry of Food Processing Industries			
45.	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	13,47,00,000	...
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare			
46.	Department of Health	426,16,00,000	52,84,00,000
47.	Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy	32,41,00,000	33,00,000
48.	Department of Family Welfare	997,69,00,000	...
Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises			
49.	Department of Heavy Industry	22,15,00,000	286,29,00,000
50.	Department of Public Enterprises	2,10,00,000	..

1	2	3	4
Ministry of Home Affairs			
51.	Ministry of Home Affairs	116,22,00,000	3,42,00,000
52.	Cabinet	42,70,00,000	35,00,000
53.	Police	1560,30,00,000	182,33,00,000
54.	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	125,69,00,000	
55.	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	102,23,00,000	71,60,00,000
Ministry of Human Resource Development			
56.	Department of Elementary Education and Literacy	917,44,00,000	
57.	Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education	826,09,00,000	1,00,000
58.	Department of Women and Child Development	707,48,00,000	
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
59.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	214,93,00,000	38,60,00,000
Ministry of Labour			
60.	Ministry of Labour	161,81,00,000	3,00,000
Ministry of Law and Justice			
61.	Election Commission	1,83,00,000	
62.	Law and Justice	98,36,00,000	9,00,000
Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources			
64.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	84,19,00,000	20,84,00,000
Department of Ocean Development			
65.	Department of Ocean Development	33,22,00,000	
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs			
66.	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	67,00,000	
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions			
67.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	19,34,00,000	
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas			
68.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	1354,71,00,000	

1	2	3	4
Ministry of Planning			
69.	Ministry of Planning	13,13,00,000	
Ministry of Power			
70.	Ministry of Power	311,46,00,000	470,51,00,000
The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission & the Secretariat of the Vice-President			
72.	Lok Sabha	30,18,00,000	
73.	Rajya Sabha	14,06,00,000	
75.	Secretariat of the Vice-President	18,00,000	
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways			
76.	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	935,20,00,000	1079,74,00,000
Ministry of Rural Development			
77.	Department of Rural Development	4316,54,00,000	5,00,00,000
78.	Department of Land Resources	175,61,00,000	
79.	Department of Drinking Water Supply	1100,23,00,000	
Ministry of Science and Technology			
80.	Department of Science and Technology	161,81,00,000	8,35,00,000
81.	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	188,05,00,000	1,35,00,000
82.	Department of Biotechnology	45,56,00,000	
Ministry of Shipping			
83.	Ministry of Shipping	89,35,00,000	58,33,00,000
Ministry of Small Scale Industries			
84.	Ministry of Small Scale Industries	62,93,00,000	3,33,00,000
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment			
85.	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	221,18,00,000	21,25,00,000
Department of Space			
86.	Department of Space	314,71,00,000	80,01,00,000
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation			
87.	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	631,54,00,000	4,19,00,000

1	2	3	4
Ministry of Steel			
88.	Ministry of Steel	11,39,00,000	2,17,00,000
Ministry of Textiles			
89.	Ministry of Textiles	203,52,00,000	81,46,00,000
Ministry of Tourism and Culture			
90.	Department of Culture	90,62,00,000	
91.	Ministry of Tourism	26,80,00,000	34,25,00,000
Ministry of Tribal Affairs			
92.	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	21,34,00,000	6,88,00,000
Union Territories (Without Legislature)			
93.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	145,14,00,000	35,23,00,000
94.	Chandigarh	143,07,00,000	25,74,00,000
95.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	56,76,00,000	6,05,00,000
96.	Daman and Diu	44,69,00,000	5,06,00,000
97.	Lakshadweep	37,87,00,000	5,99,00,000
Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation			
98.	Department of Urban Development	117,00,00,000	215,41,00,000
99.	Public Works	111,99,00,000	46,54,00,000
100.	Stationery and Printing	27,14,00,000	3,00,000
101.	Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	59,18,00,000	47,82,00,000
Ministry of Water Resources			
102.	Ministry of Water Resources	122,11,00,000	9,50,00,000
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports			
103.	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	71,84,00,000	1,54,00,000
TOTAL REVENUE/CAPITAL		49823,71,00,000	8365,79,00,000

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Motion moved:

"That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the

Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 2003 in respect of the following of demands entered in the second column thereof—Demand Nos. 1, 3, to 15, 28, 30, 35 and 36, 38 to 40, 42, 45, 47 to 51, 54 to 58, 60, 63, 66 and 67, 73 to 80, 82 and 83, 85 to 88, 90, 94 and 98 to 102."

LOK SABHA

Demands for Supplementary Grants —Third Batch (General) for 2002-2003 to be submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha

1	2	Amount of Demand for Grant to be submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
		3	4
Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries			
1.	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	2,00,000	
3.	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	1,00,000	
4.	Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries	1,00,000	
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers			
5.	Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals		61,00,00,000
6.	Department of Fertilisers		293,74,00,000
Ministry of Civil Aviation			
7.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	1,00,000	
Ministry of Coal and Mines			
8.	Department of Coal	1,00,000	...
9.	Department of Mines		9,99,00,000
Ministry of Commerce and Industry			
10.	Department of Commerce	3,00,000	1,00,000
11.	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	8,35,00,000	
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology			
12.	Department of Posts	190,94,00,000	
13.	Department of Telecommunications	277,20,00,000	33,16,00,000
14.	Department of Information Technology	2,01,00,000	
Ministry of Defence			
15.	Ministry of Defence		1,00,000
Ministry of Finance			
28.	Payments to Financial Institutions	...	635,74,00,000
30.	Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments	802,53,00,000	
35.	Indian Audit and Accounts Department	3,47,00,000	1,00,00,000
36.	Department of Revenue		17,00,000
38.	Indirect Taxes	79,58,00,000	...

1	2	3	4
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution			
39.	Department of Consumer Affairs	...	15,00,00,000
40.	Department of Food and Public Distribution	2983,67,00,000	
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare			
42.	Department of Health	1,18,00,000	
Ministry of Home Affairs			
45.	Ministry of Home Affairs	...	1,00,000
47.	Police	1,00,000	5,00,00,000
48.	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	241,00,00,000	
49.	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	85,88,00,000	133,53,00,000
Ministry of Human Resource Development			
50.	Department of Elementary Education and Literacy	1,00,000	
51.	Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education	4,00,000	
Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises			
54.	Department of Heavy Industry	6,68,00,000	75,01,00,000
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
55.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	1,00,000	
Ministry of Labour			
56.	Ministry of Labour	2,00,000	
Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs			
57.	Law and Justice	95,75,00,000	
58.	Election Commission	62,00,000	
60.	Department of Company Affairs	1,00,000	
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions			
63.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	26,00,000	1,05,00,000
Ministry of Power			
66.	Ministry of Power	40,77,00,000	5,35,00,000
Ministry of Rural Development			
67.	Department of Rural Development	1099,72,00,000	
Ministry of Small Scale Industries			
73.	Ministry of Small Scale Industries	1,00,000	
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation			
74.	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	1,00,000	

1	2	3	4
Ministry of Steel			
75.	Ministry of Steel	67,55,00,000	61,12,00,000
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways			
76.	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	3,00,000	2,00,000
Ministry of Shipping			
77.	Ministry of Shipping	158,31,00,000	
Ministry of Textiles			
78.	Ministry of Textiles	3,00,000	1,00,000
Ministry of Tourism and Culture			
79.	Department of Tourism		25,00,00,000
80.	Department of Culture	1,01,00,000	
Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation			
82.	Department of Urban Development		1,00,000
83.	Public Works		1,00,000
85.	Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation		31,26,00,000
Ministry of Water Resources			
86.	Ministry of Water Resources		11,67,00,000
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment			
87.	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	2,00,000	
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports			
88.	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	10,02,00,000	1,00,000
Department of Atomic Energy			
90.	Nuclear Power Schemes		335,00,00,000
The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission & the Secretariat of the Vice-President			
94.	Rajya Sabha	7,28,00,000	
Union Territories (Without Legislature)			
98.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	...	17,67,00,000
99.	Chandigarh	26,68,00,000	5,16,00,000
100.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6,00,000	2,20,00,000
101.	Daman and Diu	2,57,00,000	35,00,000
102.	Lakshadweep	4,00,000	45,00,000
GRAND TOTAL		6193,42,00,000	1759,71,00,000

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Motion moved:

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order

Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to make good the excess on the respective grants during the year ended 31st day of March, 2001 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof— Demand Nos. 1 and 21."

LOK SABHA

Excess Grants (General) for 2000-2001 to be submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha

No. & Name of Demand		Amount of Demand to be submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4
Ministry of Agriculture			
1	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation		43,72,665
Ministry of Defence			
21	Defence Ordnance Factories	229,69,86,853	...
TOTAL		229,69,86,853	43,72,665

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, when I was on my legs yesterday, I was on the point of disinvestment for which Rs. 13,000 crore were earmarked as receipts whereas only Rs. 3,000-odd crore have been collected.

As a common man of this country, I would like to raise a few questions with regard to the process of disinvestment. Why should the Government invest a high cost loan of Rs. 2,70,000 crore in the public sector undertakings which give an annual return of only 3.5 per cent? Is this the way to provide employment in this country?

How is it that the same loss-making public sector undertakings overnight turned into profit-making when they go private? My question is: why not we take out the money invested in such public sector undertakings and invest it in social infrastructure like health, education, safe drinking water, road, provision of electricity to the villages, etc. Is it the job of the Government to do business? So, my appeal to the Government is that sooner the Government gets out of this business, it is better for the country. The Government should continue with its firm stand in this regard.

Then, I have to make another point with regard to the introduction of chemical fertiliser, especially urea. The

cheap urea has been overused in our agricultural fields. The overuse of cheap urea spoils the soil and reduce its productivity. So, should we continue with chemical fertiliser, which is gradually bringing doom to field of agriculture?

About two years ago, the Ministry of Agriculture has formed a Task Force on organic farming in which I was also a member. We have travelled all over India and we have already submitted the Report last year of the Task Force on Organic Farming to the Ministry of Agriculture. It was mentioned broadly in that Report that the organic farming reduces the cost of production but it never reduces the production itself. So, it increases the level of profit. Then, why all the time we shout—

[Translation]

Farmers are starving, price of fertilizers are increased.

[English]

Then why do we not go to the process of organic farming which is very cost effective? So, I will appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance and through him to the hon. Prime Minister to look into this aspect very seriously so that our land should not become fallow and barren after some time. It is an old practice in India to use the bio-fertiliser and resort to organic farming.

Now, I have two or three more questions to be put before the hon. Minister of Finance. Everybody says that we have a forex reserve of about 70 billion \$. What to do with that money? It is because in abroad when the money is put in the bank, they give an interest of 2.5 per cent per annum, but in India we provide around ten per cent. So, my appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance is, when he replies, let him say, what we are supposed to do with such a huge forex reserve. It has put us in a very comfortable position, but what to do with regard to that?

I will appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance about another thing. Should we administer the Minimum Support Price through the State Governments instead of the Central Government, which is dealing with it directly? Should it not be advisable to pass on this responsibility to the State Governments to let them find out who are the targeted persons and who are supposed to get his subsidy?

With regard to housing loan, my question is: why should only the salaried class get a rebate on the housing loan? What about those people who are not salaried class? When they build houses, generally, they do not get so much of benefit that a salaried class gets. So, my appeal is that point should also be given a very serious consideration by the hon. Minister of Finance.

I would appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance that the Electricity Bill should be moved and it should be passed as quickly as possible because to get the annual growth rate of eight per cent, you require power; you require electricity. Without the availability of proper quality electricity, you are not going to achieve anywhere near eight per cent of the annual growth.

Lastly, in two-three minutes' time, I will make some suggestions and I will conclude my speech. I would appeal that with regard to the tax collection and simplification of the tax procedure, all the exemptions, that lead to rebates on small-scale savings, insurance policies, home loans, medical expenses, bank deposits should be gradually reduced because claiming exemptions requires elaborate calculations and proof of investment. It multiplies the paper work and it raises the compliance cost. In this process the Government also loses more and more revenue. Gradually, all these exemptions should be removed. If the exemptions are removed, then the lowered tax rate will compensate the removal of such rebates. Even if the Government reduces the tax rate, then naturally all the exemptions which should be removed would be adequately compensated.

The hon. Minister of Finance in his Budget speech has mentioned that the allotment of PAN will be outsourced. I would appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance that it should be made a time bound project so that within a stipulated time the Permanent Account Number should be allotted to all the income-tax payees.

All the major transactions should be traced through a computerised system to check tax evasion. The limit of tax-free income should not be raised; rather the tax payment procedure should be simplified, which the hon. Minister of Finance has already done. The customs duty should be lowered in a phased manner.

All these discretions in the indirect tax rates should be done away with. The tax policy must be stable, predictable; or else, the risk perception will rise. The Government should not only get new taxpayers but also more income should be brought in the taxable limit and more focus should be made on under-reporting of income than on getting new taxpayers.

I will just make another appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance regarding making the surveys of people below the poverty line, especially in States like Orissa. You will be surprised to know that there are some districts, like my own district, which is comparatively a very prosperous districts in Orissa. The Collector of my district has mentioned that 84 per cent of the people are below the poverty line. It is only the school teachers who go for this survey and whosoever presses before them, they write their names as persons below the poverty line. Every loan, every Government privilege, everything is attached to the process of people below the poverty line. So, I would appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance that he should see to it that some outside agency should go and they should actually make this survey so that the actual persons or the targeted persons who are supposed to get any incentive intended for people below the poverty line should only get it. It should not go to each and everybody in this country.

The farm credit should fall from the current rate of 14 to 15 per cent to 10 per cent. The customs duty on cellular phones should also be reduced. Now the cellular phone has become a very common thing and it is there everywhere. About one-and-a-half years back when I had been to China, I found some cowherd sitting on a buffalo talking on a mobile phone. I can foresee that in very near future this is also going to happen in India. This cellular phone is not going to be an instrument of the rich but it is also going to be an instrument of the poor because there are many villages to which cannot lay the cables. It is simply not possible. If you want to provide

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

telephone service to those villages, it can be provided only through these mobile phones.

So, the rates of mobile phones should be reduced so that at least the villagers are able to purchase them. The Indian companies are incurring very high regulatory cost, when they apply for international patents, they pay a very high cost. They should be given some protection in this regard.

Ultimately, I would say that even if there are many people, who are outsiders, who say that it is the MPs and the MLAs who take a cut from the funds provided under MPLADS, I think I very strongly protest to that. There are many people who think that probably, it is the Prime Minister of the country who gives Rs. two crore in a suitcase to every MP and ask him to spend it as per his own will. In this regard, I would like to make it clear that we do not see the money. It goes to the District Collector. We only make the proposal. It is the District Collector who actually sanctions it. He is the executing authority. He appoints the contractor to execute the work. He does everything. He is the person who actually passes the bill. We do not come into the picture at all. As per the guidelines of the MPLADS, we have nothing to do about it. Only a canard is being spread in this country as if the MPs or MLAs are taking suitcases full of Rs. 2 crore and spending it as per their own will. It is one of the most excellent schemes envisaged by the Government of India. I will appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that he should increase the amount under it to Rs. 3 crore from Rs. 2 crore. This is not an appeal of mine only; this is the appeal of all concerned in this House.

Then, I will appeal about my own constituency. There is a river called Subarnarekha which is called Hwang Ho of Baleshwar district and it has been devastating the district of Baleshwar year after year. I will appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that the Central Government should provide money so as to strengthen the embankment so that at least three blocks in my district are not ravaged by flood and at least one crop in a year could be protected.

Finally, I think, from the core of my heart, the hon. Finance Minister for his Budget because his Budget can provide a stimuli for an eight per cent growth in the near future and the fiscal deficit will not bother this country because of a comfortable Balance of Payment position and low inflation.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh has placed before us his Budget for 2003-

2004 and it is up to this august House and the entire nation to ponder over and analyse the recommendations made in that Budget. We must do so with great seriousness; we must do so in all humility; we must do so in all earnestness; we must do so without rancour or narrow-minded bigotry; we must do so cutting across all party affiliations and looking at what is in the interest of our country and our people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister has stated in his opening statement and I quote:

“The macro economic circumstances have never been better.”

If we were to survey the economic situation in our country today and have a look at the broad economic parameters, it will be clear that the situation could not be more graver and concerning than it is today. The Budget, as it stands today, is long on rhetoric and low on substance. The Budget, as it stands today, is a great articulation of the problems that plague our country, but presents very few short-term solutions.

Let us have a look at some of the macro economic numbers today. The GDP growth rate that was during 1992 to 1996 between 5.1 to eight per cent has today fallen from 5.6 per cent last year to 4.4 per cent, a fall of over 20 per cent, as opposed to the Prime Minister's own target of an eight per cent GDP growth rate. Even more significant than that, agriculture, the backbone of our economy, stands completely destroyed.

Over the last year, from a growth rate of 5.7 per cent, agriculture today is at a negative 3.1 per cent. In terms of foodgrains, which is the barometer of how well we can feed the people of our country, the foodgrains production has fallen by 13.6 per cent: from 212 million tonnes to 183 million tonnes.

If you look at the most important six crops across our country today, there are very, very distressing signs, whether it is rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, cotton or sugar. On the other side, if one looks at industry, from the heady heights of 12 per cent growth, today, we have euphemistically been told of a recovery when industry has grown from 3.3 per cent to 6.1 per cent, that too in an environment where the main sectors—textiles, leather manufacturing and other areas—have fallen.

The situation, indeed, is very, very alarming. The fiscal deficit, which was at 5.3 per cent, as usual, has overshot its target and is today at 5.9 per cent. The revenue deficit, which was at 2.4 per cent in the year

1994, today, stands at 4.3 per cent. What does this connote? This connotes that the government is consistently financing its consumption through high-cost borrowings, as a result of which, debt service payments constitute 70 per cent of tax revenue. National debt, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, is 85 per cent of GDP, just a notch below Pakistan's 105 per cent.

If we just look over our border, who, I believe, is our nearest economic competitor, China they have successfully empowered 8 per cent growth rate, and their success story lies in the fact that their investment rate is at 36 per cent and their savings rate is at 40 per cent. Unfortunately, investment, in the last two years, in our country has remained stagnant between 22 per cent and 24 per cent. On the other hand, if we really need to deliver on the Prime Minister's statement of 8 per cent growth, not mere mouthing of words but action, then we must have, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, 36 per cent rate of investment and an increase in the savings rate from the current 24 per cent to 30 per cent.

I would now like to briefly talk about the Budget. Last year, the expenditure was up by 14 per cent. If we need to contain the Budget deficit, we either have to increase revenues or lower the expenditure. We have not met our targets: we have fallen below our revenue targets by 13 per cent this year; we are forecasting a growth of 11 per cent in revenue next year. That too, I believe, is firmly unachievable. If you look across the sectors, excise is supposed to grow at 11 per cent; customs revenue at 8.5 per cent; personal income tax at 15 per cent and corporate income tax at 18 per cent. I firmly believe that these are very unachievable targets.

India's tax to GDP ratio, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is one of the lowest in the world at 8.5 per cent. Economists all across the country have been harbouring on this fact for the past four years. We were expecting some responses on increasing tax compliance, on widening the tax base, but as usual, our hopes are belied. It is not surprising to see the fact that the economy is in a downward spiral. There is no public investment today. If you look at non-Plan expenditure, there is an increase of Rs. 21,000 crore, but that increase is on account of subsidies—Rs. 10,000 crore; Rs. 6,000 crore on account of interest; and Rs. 1,000 crore on account of Defence salaries. Therefore, 82 per cent of the total expenditure is based on revenue. If one looks at capital expenditure, the ratio has fallen from 3.1 per cent to 2.5 per cent today. Interest payments, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, constitute 51 per cent of total revenues; Defence-26 per cent; Pay and Pensions, another 14 per cent and 7 per cent. Therefore, 99 per cent of the Government's total revenues

are completely pre-empted, that future capital expenditure as well as allocation to States and Union Territories must, therefore, come out of borrowings.

The Finance Minister in his Budget speech outlined his '*Paanch* Priorities'. I would like to take each one at a time. Let us first look at poverty eradication. I still stand by what Nehruji said on the historic night of August 15, 1947. I quote, "That future is not one of ease or resting but incessant striving so that we may fulfill the pledges we have so often taken, and the one we shall take today, that service of India means the service of the millions who suffer, it means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity".

It is shameful that in a food-surplus country like India we are still witnessing starvation-related deaths. This squarely places the blame on the PD system and the inefficiency of the Government that puts the necessary sustenance out of the reach of our poor population. What is required is new avenues for employment and not just a mere Rs. 507 crore for the *Antyodaya Anna Yojana*. If one looks at this amount of money supposed to supply fifty lakh BPL families, you are talking about two rupees and eighty paise per day per family. I am sorry to say, instead of *garibon ke pet me dana*, I think this Government cannot even provided them *khana*.

If children are our nation's future, then the Government is messing up this country's future. Out of every hundred rupees that is spent by the Centre, only one rupee goes to education, only thirty-four paise to health, and only forty-five paise on child development. Today, we have the distinction of being one of the most illiterate nations in the world About thirty-five million or a third of our children do not go to school. The allocation of Rs. 4,900 crore for elementary education is grossly below the Government's own requirement of Rs. 14,000 crore. This works out, based on this Rs. 4,900 crore allocation, to only one rupee fifty paise per student per day. This Government has abdicated its responsibility in the area of education. The increase in outlay is only Rs. 400 crore in the present Budget, to Rs. 9,625 crore.

The hallmarks of excellence, our IITs, have only Rs. 140 crore in this Budget; our IIMs, only Rs. 25 crore. Today, the world has become a knowledge-based society. We have to ensure that our educational institutions are seamlessly integrated into the domestic and international setup. The 1991-96 Congress Government had committed six per cent of GDP to education. At that point of time, the GDP spent on education was at four per cent. Today it is at a miserable 2.5 per cent.

[Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia]

Let us look closely at unemployment. In the last two years, the increase in employment rate has fallen from 0.15 per cent to 0.38 per cent. In each of these years, 700 thousand young men and women have graduated from universities and colleges and come into the job market. Therefore, in the last four years of this Government's rule, not one new job but three million young and women have been added to the category of educated unemployed.

With investment in agriculture flagging, it is no surprise that unemployment is rising. By 2020, the workforce that will be required in this country in terms of number of jobs is close to 160 to 170 million people. The average growth of job seekers in the 90s was 2.6 per cent. In the last four years, the average growth in employment has been a negative 0.75 per cent. Therefore, net to net, I am sorry to say there has been no job creation but, contrary to the Prime Minister's own statement promising one crore jobs, there has been a fall in employment.

Let us look closely at agriculture. Indira Gandhiji brought about the Green Revolution. Rajiv Gandhiji in 1988-89 gave a fillip to agricultural production through his Technology Missions and his White Mills Revolution.

The agriculture experienced a growth rate of 16.3 per cent which translated into 10 per cent GDP growth, the highest this country has ever experienced in its times.

I think, we must dwell into history a little bit on agriculture. The principal focus in the past has always been to ensure that food production is in excess of population growth. We have achieved that objective.

The call of the hour today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is for another revolution—a revolution that brings about diversification of food production from staple crops to high value crops, a revolution that gives impetus to the food processing industry, a revolution that enables the farmers to forward integrate and to make sure that they capture the maximum amount in the value achieved.

India today has the distinction of being the largest arable land mass in the world. The Finance Minister himself in his Budget Speech stated and I quote: 'Agriculture is the life blood of our economy.' I would like to ask this Government then that why our policies being instituted are bleeding the farmers and making them commit suicide?

In this Budget too, like the past Budgets, fertiliser prices have been increased, diesel prices have been

increased, petrol prices have been increased. This government is anti-farmer.

I would like to ask the Finance Minister why every Ministry's allocation, whether it is Agriculture; whether it is Irrigation; whether it is Rural Development; has fallen by 36 per cent from Rs. 12,834 crore to Rs. 8,181 crore. The share of public investment in agriculture from 1994 which was at 33 per cent, is now down to 24 per cent. As a share of GDP, agriculture investment which was at 1.6 per cent in 1994 is at 1.3 per cent today.

Water scarcity, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is a major issue facing our farmers. Today, only 40 per cent of our arable land is irrigated. Our underground water table is shrinking by five per cent every year. In the coming times, this will create a major shortage for growth, whether it be industry, whether it be agriculture or whether it be manufacturing. The need of the hour is to institute a new watershed programme, to institute a new area for investment, for canals, for irrigation.

It is my fervent hope. The Finance Minister has said in his Budget that he is putting in place an Expert Advisory Council on Agriculture. My only hope and the hopes of millions and billions of people in this country is that it does not suffer the same fate as the Kelkar Committee Report.

I would like to talk briefly about infrastructure now. Rs. 60,000 crore worth of infrastructure projects have been promised to this country. But the Government's role is not of an active investor or a promoter but it is that of a subsidy provider. Infrastructure announcements are great but the Government does not have the necessary investment to put into those projects. Therefore, there is no public investment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unless there is a clear time-bound implementation schedule for each and every single project, there will be no private investment in any of these sectors.

The power situation in the country today is appalling, to say the least. There are crippling shortages across the country between 8 per cent to 12 per cent of demand. If you look at the transmission and distribution (T&D) losses, they stand at 31 per cent on an average. It is 45 to 50 per cent in some States. The total commercial losses on account of theft are one per cent of GDP which amount to Rs. 24,000 crore per year. What is the Government doing about this? Last year with much fanfare the Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme (APDRP) was launched. The allocation for this programme

was Rs. 3,500 crore. That allocation, this year, looking at the huge power crises, has been reduced by 68 per cent to Rs. 1,089 crore. If you look at the Power Ministry, the outlay has been increased by a mere Rs. 1,200 crore to 14668 crore. What are the targets in the Budget Statement? It is said: "We will generate 545 billion units of electricity; 24,000 villages will be electrified."

Where is this money going to come from? The Economic Survey Report has identified that the country needs to double this generation capacity by another one lakh mega watt. This requires Rs. 8 lakh crore worth of investment. Where is this money going to come from? Certainly it is not going to come from the private sector. We need to solve the current imbroglio between generation, transmission and distribution and make sure that every rupee that travels down the line is revenue-oriented that comes back across.

Fiscal consolidation was identified by the Finance Minister as a major issue. Let us look at the fiscal deficits. It has increased from 5.3 per cent to 5.9 per cent; the total expenditure is at an all-time 50-year high at 16.4 per cent of GDP. This deficit figure does not take into account many liabilities. The Finance Minister announced a 'Centre to State debt swap' of Rs. 100 thousand crore over three years. But the interest foregone because of the debt swap has not been taken into account. The LPG and kerosene subsidy will which has been put at Rs. 6,300 crore will increase, due to the increase in oil prices, to Rs. 12,000 crore, which has also not been taken into account in the fiscal deficit figure.

Lastly, the much announced VAT provision of Rs. 700 crore for loss of revenue to States would exceed this amount because the States' sales tax collections are Rs. 93,000 crore.

I would like to commend the Finance Minister on one programme—the LIC Pensions Scheme. However, there is one issue that stands out to stun all of us here—the reduction of age from 60 years to 55 years. In every other scheme in the Government, age becomes the biggest bar to getting any promotion; and at the same time, when a 55-year old politician is too young to be the Prime Minister of this country, he is old-enough to be considered as a senior citizen when it comes to claiming Government-guaranteed pension. The Finance Minister talks of fiscal consolidation. The Ministry of Finance this year has increased the budgetary allocation five times, from Rs. 535 crore to Rs. 2492 crore; and we talk of fiscal consolidation. I would like to quote the Father of our Nation Mahatma Gandhi to the Finance Minister. He said and I quote:

"We must become the change we want to see in the world."

Finally, in conclusion, the Finance Minister said that this Budget is for the common man and his Hindi couplet is this:

[English]

Garib ke pet mein Dana, Grihini Ki Kutiya mein Ana

[Translation]

Let us examine briefly some of the products which have become cheaper for the billions of the people in our country. They are: tyres, air-conditioners, aerated beverages, foreign liquor, motor cars, audio CDs, toys, kitchenware. On the other hand, let us examine some of the articles that have become much more expensive. They are: fertiliser, edible oils, vanaspathi, cement, petrol and petroleum products, pesticides and insecticides. The brief product portfolio that I have put forward among all of you, will, identify to what extent the Finance Minister actually walks the talk. By giving a few sops here and there, you do not solve matters of great and vital importance. By trying to made a person feel good, you do not remove the spectre of thrust, starvation, mal-nutrition and disease. By indulging in populous gimmicks, you do not propel the nation on the path of mainstream development.

[Translation]

Today we recall the slogan raised by Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri—

'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan

We recall that Shrimati Indira Gandhi had said—

Roti, Kapada our Makan.

And this Government says

Khane ko nahin roti, Pahanne Ko nahin Kapada

Hath me nahin Kaam, Har baat mein Kaho Jai Shri Ram.'

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Vijay Singh wants to lay his speech. I give him the permission to do that.

*SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (Moradabad): Hon. Speaker, we congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for not putting undue tax burdens on our citizens and presenting a populist Budget. However, Sir, it appears more conducive to urban demands than rural ones—and that is distressing.

When you told the House that India has the second largest arable land mass in the world, after the U.S., we sat up in our chairs expecting some relief to the farming community—alas, as you progressed we found our euphoria short lived. Fifty crores for fertigation, research, hi-tech horticulture, green food products, bio-technological tools is all you provided. The price of an urban road fly-over or two.

What you appear to have overlooked is that fact that while America may have the largest arable land mass, a miniscule percent of Americans depend on Agriculture as a livelihood, in India about 80% of the population does.

We do hope, Sir, you will keep that in mind and reduce fertilizer and diesel prices to alleviate the suffering of our farmers.

Sugar mills have crores in arrears to pay farmers, we were expecting some relief on that score. Alas, that too—was not forthcoming.

Under the PMGSY scheme, cess on diesel is being used to improve rural roads. Is it enough?

We hope you will ake an additional provision for rural roads, to expedite the connectivity of rural India with the mainstream.

Sir, Moradabad contributes Rs. 2000 crores annually towards the national exchequer in foreign exchange. We have for long been demanding the status of a Special Export Economic Zone and grants to augment infrastructure. We find there has been no provision on that front. We were hoping you would allocate specific funds for creation of an Airport in Moradabad and also fund four laning of National Highway 24— (Hapur to Moradabad. If you do this, I assure you, my town will increase its contribution towards the national exchequer. We do hope, Sir, you will take cognizance of our demands which are legitimate and in national interest.

Lastly, Sir, kindly be generous with the farming community who are the backbone of our nation and continue to toil with an amazing amount of patience for national productivity whilst they are kept out of financial benefits—they so richly deserve, to improve their lot.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): This is the first General Budget presented by hon. Jaswant Singh, which is a unique exercise. Those who interpret it as being based on political realities, can be countered with the argument that a Budget is not merely a statement of the Government's receipt and expenditure, it is more than these basic facts. It is a mixed affair of politics and economics, an entirely different kettle of fish from an Economic Survey, which is considered an economist's view-point.

The Budget must aim at national contentment while at the same time helping to raise the Gross Domestic Product growth rate. The Hon. Finance Minister deserves to be commended for his efforts to take care of all aspects of the complex exercise, offering something to almost everybody. The maximum gainers are those whose annual salary income falls between Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 lakh. If critics see it as a populist Budget, they would be justified in the sense that the much talked about Kelkar recommendations have not influenced his thinking but the BJP's Rajnath Singh panel's views too have not been implemented in their entirety.

The salaried class is the most affected section when the Budget proposals are announced. Their interests have been taken care of. I would just give some instances. By retaining tax exemption on the housing loan interest up to Rs. 1.5 lakh, by giving tax-free income, limit is not enhanced from Rs. 50,000 but the security surcharge has been removed. The salaried class is benefited by income tax free education expenses on two children with Rs. 12,000 limit for each. Education is becoming dearer and costlier day-by-day and this will help most of the families of this country. The Government employees must be happier with the LTC restored. Especially, the senior citizens are benefited by allowing tax exemption on their income up to Rs. 1.83 lakh. Those putting their funds under the Provident Fund and various small saving schemes are going to suffer from March 1st with the interest rate reduced by one per cent. Most State Governments have higher pension liabilities with the pension bills continuously on the rise. Setting up of the Pension Fund Authority may be aimed at tackling this emerging crisis. Care has also been taken to protect the interests of inventors, artists and writers too. The Budget makes their royalty income up to Rs. 3 lakh free from any tax liability.

15.00 hrs.

The high performing software industry has been allowed well deserved benefits. At the same time, people's health care requirements have been addressed with the

*Speech was laid on the Table.

encouragement to the setting up of more and more private hospitals, and a drastic reduction in customs duty on life saving equipment from the present 25 per cent to just five per cent. This would revolutionise the health industry and would transform India into a major health care centre in Asia.

I would draw the attention of the Finance Minister to some of the things from the perspective of Orissa. However, our expectations were much more than what has been offered in the Budget. The Finance Minister has referred to the beneficial impact of the Debt Swapping Scheme which had been started during 2002-03. For a highly indebted State like Orissa, this Scheme reduces our interest burden only marginally. The Budget should have come out with a more comprehensive debt restructuring scheme which could have provided us much needed fiscal space to meet the essential expenditure commitments. This should have been done, at least, for all those States whose debt levels have been reckoned to be unsustainable by the Finance Commission and also by the Ministry of Finance.

Orissa is a State where Centre gives a number of projects and schemes on 50:50, 30:70, and 90:10 sharing basis. But our State is in such a cash-starved situation that it has not been able to implement a number of programmes and schemes because it does not have the adequate money for implementing those schemes. Very recently, I had drawn the attention of this House and also of this Government to Balmiki-Ambedkar Avas Yojana, which is 50:50 sharing basis Scheme. Orissa is unable to implement that Scheme in its totality. The amount of money that is being provided by the Centre, could not be utilised because we are starved of funds.

Now, I come to the debt situation. Very recently a Finance Minister had stated in one of the Assemblies—I need not quote in which Assembly—that the Congress ruled Maharashtra State has a public debt of Rs. 80,000 crore, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are not far behind, Andhra Pradesh's public debt is around Rs. 57,000 crore, and the Centre's debt has risen from a few hundred crores in 1947 to almost Rs. 400,000 crore under Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao's stewardship. The combined debt of the Central Government and the States has shot up to 76 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product in 2002-03 from about 62 per cent in 1991. The debt of the countries like Russia, Argentina, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, and Thailand which are being discussed in many fora—we have been advised that we should look up to those countries to see how they are performing in their economic spheres—is equal to their respective GDPs. Even the United States has a debt of 1.3 trillion dollars,

which exceeds its annual budget. But is it ideal to be followed? An attempt is being made throughout the world in most of the countries,

"Rnam Kritva, Ghritam Pibet"

[English]

The Central Government's debt and other liabilities were stated to reach a whopping Rs. 17,17,764 crore during 2003-04 from Rs. 15,61,775 crore in 2002-03.

There has been a massive increase of Rs 217,985 crore in a single year. The interest and debt service outgo has also been stated to shoot up to Rs. 123,223 crore in 2003-04 from Rs. 115,663 crore in 2002-03. But with the decline in the interest rates, the Centre's cost of raising funds has come down to about seven to 7.5 per cent. May I ask the hon. Finance Minister to consider the interest of the States and pass on some of this to the States? Today, it is being discussed in all quarters across the country that we are a food surplus country. Yet, a number of starvation related deaths are taking place. People are going without food. Why is it so? The Standing Committee on Agriculture in its report has also mentioned that. The Standing Committee on Food and Civil Supplies has also mentioned, in part, about the real situation that is prevalent in the country. People are unable to purchase the food stocks wherever they are available. There is no purchasing power of the people. What attempt is being made to provide money in the hands of the people? This aspect has to be looked into. Ultimately, the Budget is only a mirror that captures the economic vision of the Government. If the image disappoints, then it is hardly the fault of the mirror. However, truth has to be told.

Sir, in conclusion I would say one line. Past experience suggests that other political combines in this country would have hardly delivered better and perhaps would have delivered worst. I support the Budget.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Budget as the General Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister on the 28th of February, 2003 has miserably failed to address any of the major burning problems facing this country. It has failed to address the problems of poverty, unemployment, continuous slow down of the industry, negative performance in the agriculture sector, ailing social sectors including elementary education and public health care. In human development index, we a country of one billion people, rank just above Bangladesh. Even smaller countries like Sri Lanka and Thailand are above us. We should feel ashamed that this Budget has failed to

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

address any of the basic issues that this country is faced with. On the other hand, it has served the interests of the richer sections of the society. This Budget is pro-rich and anti-poor. To say the least, it would lead to further pauperization and more joblessness. It is a recipe for disaster of the Indian agricultural sector and the small scale industry sector. It will lead to de-industrialisation. There may be a cause for joy. You may thump tables and shout. Rich are doing the same. Black money holders are enjoying. Some basic changes have been made in the IT Act and no one now would have to account for the sources of their money. I would come to that. It is a path to more indebtedness and more subjugation to foreign capital and it would have to account for the sources of their money. I would come to that. It is a path to more indebtedness and more subjugation to foreign capital and it would also lead to de-indianisation of the Indian banks.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): We are destined to smile and your destiny is only to cry... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Please listen. You might have seen the magic of P.C. Sarkar but have you ever seen the Finance Minister as Magician.

[English]

It is a sleight of hand. Any magician can envy our Finance Minister; on the right hand he has given something and from the left hand he has taken away something. Cars are cheaper; petrol and diesel are dearer—just balance it. For the senior citizens, interest on small savings has been cut down per cent and they are assured that they will have nine per cent assured income through the proposed new insurance scheme.

What I question in the very beginning is whether the budgetary exercise has any relevance at all. It is not addressing the burning issues and the major problems facing the country. 98 per cent of the budgetary excise is pre-determined in which 51 per cent is towards interest payment and 47 per cent is towards Defence Budget, salaries, subsidies, everything put together. So, only two per cent is left. Has it any sanctity? You say something in the Budget Estimates and change it in the Revised Estimates and then actual figure is very different even from the Revised Estimates. I think the Finance Minister is listening to me; perhaps he is taking down notes.

The Defence Ministry, which is a sacred cow, could not spend the allocated money; they have given the money back. It is not merely a question of financial

management; it is a question of security management also. People are laying down their lives. There is a cry all around in the name of security and even civilian lives are taken away. In the name of security even MPs are put behind the bar and the money which is given to the Defence Ministry could not be spent by them. I am not going into other details about what the CAG has said as to how the Kargil war was used as a pretext for procurement. It is a different issue and it could be taken up on a different occasion. The gap between the Budget Estimates and the Revised Estimates is widening.

Take for example income tax. In the Budget Estimates the income tax receipts were estimated to be Rs. 91,440 crore whereas in the Revised Estimates they came down to Rs. 82,000 and odd crores. In the case of Corporate Tax it was estimated to be Rs. 42,524 crore whereas in the Revised Estimates it came down to Rs. 37,300 crore. In the case of Excise the Budget Estimates figure was Rs. 91,433 crore and in the Revised Estimates it came down to Rs. 87,000 and odd crores. The Minister has said that this time he has made a provision for tax management. The HRD Minister is not present here. We have amended our Constitution making education a fundamental right. In the name of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, Continuing Education and Adult Literacy money was given; may be because he knew that they would not spend the whole amount. In this Budget, this Government has deprived the people of this country of the required quantum of money for elementary education. If you take into account the population growth, allocation for elementary education has been actually reduced. In the case of rural development, it has been drastically cut.

In the Revised Estimates, it was Rs. 15176 crore. It had been brought down to Rs. 10,270 crore. Please listen to me. If I am wrong, you may correct me. In the rural development sector, in the Revised Estimates, the figure was Rs. 15,176 crore. About 75 per cent of the people of this country live in the rural areas. Now, it has been brought down to Rs. 10,270 crore. You congratulate him now!

Coming to *Antyodaya Anna Yojana*, it is said that 50 lakh more families will be provided cheaper food like 35 kilograms for a family at Rs. 2 per kilogram of wheat and Rs. 3 per kilogram of rice. What is the amount given? There are 50 lakh additional families. That means in a family, it comes down to 2.5 crore at the rate of five in a family, and the amount is Rs. 507 crore. How much amount will be given per head? It is a joke with the poor people of this country.

As regards insurance, where from the money will come? Is there any guarantee that it will come at all? I

am questioning this Government. They might have forgotten whatever is said on the floor of the House.

There was an Employment Guarantee Scheme in the name of Jaya Prakash Narayan. I want to know as to whether any Committee has been set up till today, leave alone implementation. In the last year's Budget of 2002-03, it was proposed to set up a separate corporation for agricultural insurance to be promoted by the existing public sector insurance company. Do you know what has happened to that? It is written in the Economic Survey like this:

"The Registrar of Companies had approved the name of the company."

It was a very complex problem to find a suitable name. It is all right. The new company has since been incorporated under the Companies Act. This also is all right. It is yet to obtain registration from IRDA. This is agricultural insurance and they assure the senior citizens of the country about 9 per cent assured income. The public sector insurance companies will prepare a scheme and will give the difference between the market rate of interest and 9 per cent assured income. I am coming to the question that from where they will bring the money. I do not know from where they will bring it.

In the case of poverty alleviation, they say that the number of poor people has come down. There is a controversy about the measurement of poverty. I think the Minister has full knowledge about the differences, controversies, parameters and the larger number of samples on all these issues. There is a strong belief that about half the population in this country, either this way or that way, is nearer to the poverty line. They may be down the line or a little above the line. In such a situation, what is happening to the country? In a country like this, where from will the revenue come? Would it come from corporate tax or income tax or customs or excise duties? Over the years, customs duty has been brought down and down.

It is affecting our domestic industry. It is adversely affecting our small industries and it is affecting our agriculture. It is being said that it is due to our commitment to the WTO. Quantitative restrictions are being removed. We say that we will withdraw subsidy on urea and other kinds of fertiliser. But other countries of the world, like the United States and many European countries, are increasing their subsidy in this name or that name.

We are not protecting our domestic industries through customs. Where from will the money come? I do not

know whether we have full knowledge about it. I had once asked a question as to how many people in this country have income of more than Rs. 10 lakh in a year. Can you imagine as to what would be the figure? It was replied that 22,568 salaried income assesses earn over Rs. 10 lakh; and 35,569 non-salaried income did the same that year. That means it comes to 58,000. It is only in South Delhi these people live, who are the owners of farm houses and who have pet animals, like tigers etc. So, only in South Delhi this much number of people do have an income of more than Rs. 10 lakh.

In such a situation, in the name of liberalisation, in the name of surrendering to the pressures of certain lobbies and richer sections, the income-tax laws are so changed, they are so amended and chapters are so removed, that it generates money which is operating as a parallel economy. Even the other day a Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee was laid on the Table of the House. There are scams after scams. There are series of scams. There are manipulations by the monopoly houses. There is a business house-broker nexus. By investing one dollar, hundreds of dollars have been taken out through the Mauritius route. This Budget has not cared to look at those things. The tax-GDP ratio is hovering around eight to nine per cent. It is the lowest in the world.

It was said that if you bring down the tax rates, there will be more compliance. It is not there. The Indian psyche is different. It is not happening in this country. Even after bringing down the rate of taxes, it is not happening. I want to know from where the money will come for the infrastructure.

This Government has neglected the social sector, like elementary education, and public health care. There is no social welfare for the labour. They are announcing VRS and VHS. The industries are being closed down. They are becoming less competitive because of the import of items. In the developed countries, there is a social security scheme. Whenever there is an appointment, the employer has a responsibility that if at any point of time the man cannot be provided with the job, social security will have to be given.

There is no social security in this country. In a developed country, when one is losing his job, at least some amount of food, medicine and shelter is provided. Here, we find that in the name of reforms, they are selling out everything—even the profit-making public sector undertakings like the BPCL and the HPCL. There is rampant corruption. There is no transparency. In such a situation, the workers, who are losing their jobs, have no social security. I am mentioning to the Ministry of Labour

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

about social security for labour. The allocation was Rs. 490.90 crore in the Budget for the year 2002-03. Now, it has been brought down to only Rs. 62.50 crore. So, the social security is less. Therefore, social sector, education, health care have been neglected.

Sir, this Government has actually declared a war against the farmers. They have no access to agricultural credit. Whatever is being given is being given by the handful of public sector banks. The foreign banks and the private banks are not giving it. Mr. Minister, you may give them permission but they will not cater to the needs of the agriculturists. They are under the pressure of the WTO. There is reckless import. The farmers are not getting the remunerative price. They are committing suicide. In such a situation, you are adding more burden on the agriculturists. After 13 consecutive years of good monsoon, there was only one drought. We find that agriculture is in real distress now. Our population growth has crossed the growth of foodgrains. This is a dangerous signal. The Government has failed to cater to the burning needs of the agriculturists. The time is not far away when a country of more than one billion people will face another massive starvation. Can the Government be an onlooker to such a situation developing in the country? Is not urgent intervention required? This Government has failed to address to the burning needs of the agriculturists in the country.

About the infrastructure sector, a sum of Rs. 40,000 crore or Rs. 60,000 crore for 48 projects or something like that has been allocated. Another Rs. 10,000 crore is provided for Airports, Sea Ports, Convention Hall and for all these things. Where from will the money come? I do not know about it. Only a sum of Rs. 2,000 crore was there from the road cess; this has also been brought down to Rs. 1993 crore. The private sector will not come where there is no quick profit and enough return. It is all talk only. Nothing is going to happen. The Government is borrowing from the international agencies. If it is reckless borrowing—we do have the experience of other countries—it will lead to disastrous situation for a country like ours and it would be put our country into a debt trap.

I now come to the private sector-public sector partnership. It is there in the case of roads and airports. What will happen to the power sector? Nothing has been said about new generation of capacity. We could fulfil only 16,000 megawatts, a portion of our target, in the Ninth Plan. The important point is that one lakh megawatt of power can be generated; it needs to be generated. It requires about Rs. 8 lakh crore. Nothing has been said about the power sector. After the Dabhol experience, the

counter-guarantee is not given. They are not going in for such counter-guarantee for all these things although this Government—the 13-day Government during the launch—had approved the counter-guarantee. We know about the result.

What will happen to power sector? What will happen to large deficits in physical and social infrastructure areas where the private sector will not invest? What will happen to VAT? It is all right that in the process of reforms, such integration may be warranted. But how does this Government propose to meet the loss suffered by the States? It was categorically spelt out on the floor of the House that they would compensate the States 100 per cent for the revenue loss and also compensate States for mandated halving of four per cent of CST. I believe, the Government owes an explanation on certain other things and that is not only on social infrastructure, not only on rural development, not only on neglected social sectors like unearthing black money etc., but also on certain specific issues relating to employment.

Sir, the small scale industries provide largest employment in the country. The small scale industries account for the largest quantum in terms of volume as also in terms of export. Last year, 50 items have been taken out of the Reserved List and this year another set of items have been taken out. Will it help the country? Will it not lead to more unemployment? Can the small scale industry and cottage industry compete with the multinationals who are coming into consumer items production? We earnestly request this Government to reconsider their policy on this issue.

They repeatedly talk about China. They say that we have to compete with China. In China, the philosophy of ancillarisation and encouragement to labour-intensive units has led to reforms along with employment. Here, the problem of unemployment has ζ own along with reforms and 10 years of reforms have led to more unemployment, more denationalisation, negative performance in agriculture, more sufferings to farmers, more suicides and more pauperisation. This is the situation in the country today. So, it is high time that the Government has a re-look at its philosophy of reforms.

Sir, we are not against reforms. There is a misconception that the Left is against reforms. No. A myth has been created that some people are pro-reforms and some people are anti-reforms. This is absolutely baseless. But in whose interests should reforms be undertaken? When we speak about land reforms, that is in the interests of millions of landless people in the country. When we speak about industrial reforms, we say that it should be country-specific. Globalisation is not

a rigid watertight concept. In different countries, according to the needs of each country, the reforms will vary according to the stage of development of the country. China has adopted one path. The Scandinavian countries have adopted another path.

I am just making a mention not of any leftist thinker. The Minister knows it. Some of you know him very well. He is Joseph Stiglitz. He was Chief Economist at the World Bank. Before that he was Chairman of President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisors. He is currently Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia University. He won the Nobel Prize for Economics. That Nobel Laureate writes in '*Globalisation and its Discontents*'.

"But for millions of people, globalisation has not worked. Many have actually been made worse off as they have seen their jobs destroyed and their lives become more insecure. They have felt increasingly powerless against forces beyond their control. They have seen their democracies undermined, their cultures eroded."

That is what I am saying just now. This is happening in our country also. It is high time that we should have a relook at our reforms. I am not telling them only, I am telling this side also who initiated the reforms. We have told the whole House. We have told different sections that we are not against reforms. But the reforms must be oriented or reoriented in the interest of the common people—the farmers, the jobless people and the workers—of the country.

This Budget has miserably failed to address any of the major problems of our countrymen—the common people. It is pro-rich, anti-poor and anti-farmers. So, I oppose it. I shall go on opposing it so long as this Government does not change its policy.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL (Kota): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this budget has been appreciated by all the section of society including economists of the country. Our opposition has appreciate it and they oppose it only for the sake of opposing. Initially it was opposed on a number of flimsy grounds. When they could not find anything to oppose they dubbed it as a directionless budget. Therefore, the budget is unique as it deviates from tradition and the budget presented by the Finance Minister has been appreciated by all the sections within the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is only fair to say that everyone's ambition cannot be fulfilled with the budget.

All the economic ills cannot be solved in one budget. Therefore, we have to keenly observe the direction budget is giving. This budget has a vision. It takes care of every sections of our society, be it a middle class person, a person living below poverty line, a pensioners, a senior citizen, a physically challenged person—all the sections have been attended to. I talk not only about sections—individuals have also been considered. It speaks about the families, houses for them, their economic condition, schooling for their children, their pensions etc. Thus the budget deviates from tradition and it has a vision for individuals and sections. The budget does not just fulfils the formality of tax adjustments but it tries to pave the path of social and economic progress. That is why this budget has been appreciated by all. Even small things have been taken care of. Rajasthan is suffering from famine for the last eight years. There is no fodder. Maru-Gochar development scheme has been formulated for the region. This is a novel thinking which is very important for a region where livestock is an important source of sustenance.

Under Golden Quadrilateral scheme Rs. 60,000 crore are being invested on road. By the year 2007 all the villages would be linked with 'pave roads'. Nobody had even dreamt of it. A person, who goes abroad and comes back after five years, would feel after looking at rural roads and the quadrilateral scheme that India is on its way to become a developed country.

15.41 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

In the Budget, a good effort has been made not only in regard to the development of roads, but for airport, ports and all infrastructure facilities. All classes are happy with it. Therefore, it has been called development-oriented budget. It is a unique mixture of optimism and utilitarianism and this budget reflects fundamental changes. Sir, it appears that the budget is an example of technical expertise and political intellect of our Finance Minister. Therefore, people and country have high hopes from this budget.

Sir, there is an important scheme in this Budget regarding connecting of rivers. Jyotiradityaji was saying that the rate of development has decreased why is it so? It is due to drought. The solution to this problem can also be sought by connecting the river which is a very difficult task because there is a dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and Punjab and Haryana on this issue. But where there is a will, there is a way. If there is a strong determination this task would be completed and job of connecting roads and rivers would

[Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal]

be written in golden letters in the history. The hon. Finance Minister and the Government are having strong determination both these aspects are essential for the progress of the country.

Sir, despite all features in the Budget, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Finance Minister towards Agriculture. Though he had made provision about agriculture in the Budget, the budgetary allocation in regard to Agriculture, animal husbandry and fruit industry has increased even then I would like to say that agriculture contributes to the development rate to a large extent. Agriculture is a backbone of our country. The real India reflects from its villages and therefore, due to continuous division, the agricultural fields have become very small consequently poverty is increasing. If we will pay serious attention towards agriculture, it would be beneficial for the country.

Sir, regarding employment only 9 per cent people are getting employment in organised sector.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 56.7 per cent people are getting employment from agriculture. At present, unemployment is rising due to drought, even then agriculture sector is providing employment to 56.7 per cent of population. If we look into incremental Capital Output Ratio, we find as per the investment to be made to earn one rupee, the agriculture gives maximum profit. If we invest Rs. 7 and 99 paise in mines, we earn one rupee, in industry if we invest Rs. 7 and 77 paise, we can earn one rupee, in power one rupee is earned against the investment of rupees 15 and 43 paise, rupee one is earned in Railways against the investment of Rs. 14 and paise 97, one rupee is earned in communication sector against the investment of Rs. 8 and 33 paise but in agriculture one rupee is earned against the investment of Rs. 1 and 99 paise. Agriculture is a most profitable business and gives immediate output. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Finance towards it.

The Government have launched Crop Insurance. The States as well as Centre has to contribute in it. Most of the States are becoming bankrupt, they are not ready to give their contribution, and the centre is ready to give its share. That is why the Crop Insurance Scheme is not becoming operational. If Crop Insurance Scheme would have been launched in Rajasthan, the people would not have died due to starvation, the condition of people is pitiable due to drought. I would like to request the hon. Minister to pay particular attention in this regard as to how crop Insurance Scheme should be implemented so that it could bring some kind of benefit.

Sir, since 1990 no attention has been paid towards irrigation. Even after 13 years have elapsed but no major project has been set up in regard to irrigation. As per the date, 400 schemes are lying pending, the funds have not been allocated for them. This year budgetary allocation for irrigation has not been increased and even the allocated funds are not fully utilised. Only 28 per cent of budgetary allocations are spend under plan and rest is spent under Non-Plan. Only Rs. 77,000 crore would be spent under these 400 schemes not in one year but in 4 to 8 years. 21 million hectares of additional land would be irrigated with this amount i.e. 77,000 crore rupees. How much of national production would be increased by it. I would like to submit that the hon. Minister should pay attention in this regard. There are many rivers and 'nallahs' in the area from where I hail. First time, it has been affected by the drought. There is a lift irrigation scheme. The Ministry of Rural Development has given sanction to lift irrigation scheme, but the State Government has to pay 15 per cent of funds and State Government is not capable of doing it. It is not ready to take 85 per cent of funds and farmers pay for it. Sir, you too belong to village. You belong to my neighbouring constituency. You understand the problems of my area. Farmers install tube-wells to increase production. Many tubewells have been installed but every year water level goes down by 10-15 feet. Tubewells have dried therefore if lift irrigation scheme is implemented, then there would be no need to install tube-well. There is abundance of water resources in my area but the State Government is creating hurdles in it. Whether the Union Government will leave farmers on the mercy of State Government? Consideration is needed in this regard, because it is related to national production, it is related to upliftment of the farmers, therefore, definite consideration is needed in this regard, it is my submission.

I would like to say in regard to fertilizers that on one side the hon. Minister of Finance has pleased everybody, but on other side he has hurt the farmers. After all, where that subsidy goes? Subsidy is given to companies and factories and every company records its production as 100 per cent to get subsidy. Every company is taking subsidy from Rs. 4000 per metric tonne to Rs. 16,000 per metric tonne on chemical fertilizer, on the same time Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation is not taking subsidy of even single penny. They are taking subsidy on the name of farmers, the farmer is being defamed. If the probe is conducted, big scams will come to light. Today, the situation is such that if the fertiliser is imported and sold in domestic market, the Government will get benefit of 1000 crore rupees. The subsidy of 12 thousand crore rupees is being given every year to these companies. Therefore, some way out to this problem should be

evolved, so that fertilisers should be sold in open market and subsidy should be directly given to the farmers but at present subsidy is going to these factories. Everybody is raising objection, the foreign countries, WTO and America are pressuring us to reduce subsidy. In USA, 33 per cent subsidy is given to the farmers. They themselves are giving subsidy but are pressuring us not to give subsidy to the farmers. Due to subsidy the Green Revolution came to India and today our godowns are full of foodgrains. If farmer is discouraged, it results would be devastating, therefore, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Finance Minister that when everybody is happy, then why the farmers are being displaced for little subsidy. A definite consideration is needed in this regard. I would again like to submit that this is the best budget, which is being praised by the entire country...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanji, U.P.): Whether the budget is of capitalists or farmers?

SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: He will say this only. He cannot be pleased by anything. Therefore, I do not give importance to what he says.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I have welcomed the rail budget.

SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: You might have been successful in getting a train introduced, hence the praise would have been showered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no need to reply him.

SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: I thank the hon. Finance Minister for such a good budget and hope that he would certainly pay attention towards the agriculture and the farmers.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I consider the budget presented by the Jaswant Singhji on February 28, 2003 as anti-farmer and anti-labourer and vehemently oppose the budget.

Budget should have an order of priorities and the top priority be accorded to the villages poor workers, common men, irrigation and other things linked to the life of a common man. Our's is an agricultural country. I am of the opinion that agriculture has been neglected not only in this budget but in all the budgets presented by the Government. The total budgetary outlay for this year is Rs. 4,38,795 crore which include a planned outlay of Rs. 1,20,924 crore and non-planned outlay of Rs. 2,53,935 crore Budgetary deficit is Rs. 1,93,637 crore which would have to be met through raising loans. We have been

talking of containing unnecessary expenditure and adopting austerity measures. We can take an example that to earn a rupee for Government coffers, three and half rupees have to be spent. This is the kind of budget which has been introduced.

I am of the opinion that non-planned expenditure is 64 per cent and the planned expenditure is 24 per cent. Out of this, 24 per cent, 14 per cent comprise of certainly sponsored schemes and 10 per cent are State schemes. The condition is such that if one sixth of our total national income is spent by the Union Government alone. The amount of loan is continuously increasing which was Rs. 62,903 crore in 1998-99 and in the year 2002-2003 it is Rs. 1,12,865 crore which is certainly a cause of concern.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, promises are made in every budget. 103 promises have been made in the year 2000-2001 out of which only 48 promises could be fulfilled. The budget of 2002-2003 was presented by Shri Yashwant Singhji in which only 50 promises were kept out of the total 87 made...*(Interruptions)*. Everything is all right according to the Government. The assurances given and the rhetorics for the poor made in the budget reminds me of a couplet "Vada karke aur bhi mushkil mein dala aapne, jindgi mushkil thi, ab marna bhi mushkil ho gaya." This is being practised all through these budgets. The single point programme of this Government is to take pro-rich and anti-poor measures.

Our's is an agriculture based country. 94 per cent of total labour force in the country is comprised of non-skilled and 6 per cent skilled labourer. Agriculture sector is the largest employment generating sector in the country but it has been continuously neglected in the country. The Finance Minister said that the private banks would be opened in the rural sector. I would like to say very humbly that the cooperative banks were set up in the country after independence with a view to provide assistance to the farmers.

16.00 hrs.

These banks have been closed in the last ten years. How can a farmer get the loan and assistance? The Government has not increased the budget of Indian Council of Agriculture Research and I would like to submit that the experiments conducted in the name of agriculture remain confined to the laboratories only. The farmers should get the benefit of these research. All the seminars and discussions take place in Five Star Hotels and air conditioned rooms and unless we hold these discussions in the remote area because these are meant for the welfare of the people of these areas. They cannot be benefited. The benefits of the scheme are reaped by the Caucus of certain persons who have some vested

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

interests. Agriculture did not get the desired protection in our country. The budget presented by Finance Minister only seems to revolve around the industrial houses reforms in tax administration and WTO. An outlay of Rs. 3866 crore has been made for agriculture. Rs. 443 crore are proposed to be spent on irrigation and Rs. 8181 crore on rural development. I would like to know as to why such attitude is being shown in providing benefits to the sectors which deserve maximum allocation? I would like to read the para 72 of the budget speech of hon. Finance Minister. India has the world's largest cultivable land which is lying unused due to lack of irrigation facilities. The area of our cultivable land is second to America. We should understand the significance of these statistics. Both these have not been paid any attention and these are our biggest assets.

I would like to submit that 37 per cent land of our country is under irrigation and the rest depends on monsoon and nature. No arrangement for providing irrigation facilities in these areas has so far been made. Ten irrigation projects from the First Five Year Plan have been lying pending. We do not pay adequate attention to the irrigation. It is really unfortunate that despite the availability of vast reservoirs of water, country has been facing drought. If we try to divert water flow towards the dry areas we can achieve a lot of success on this front. However, it is really unfortunate that despite the heaviest rainfall in Cherapunji there is a problem of drinking water. There is a need to pay attention towards all these aspects. Animal husbandry is the second largest employment generating sector after the agriculture sector in the country which is providing employment to 20 million people and has further provided employment to unemployed persons. An allocation of only 1.1 per cent was made for this sector under the Ninth Five Year Plan and our friends from BJP were appreciating this budget. I would like to assert that the people of rural areas need to be apprised of the fact that only an allocation of 0.6 per cent has been made for animal husbandry sector under the Tenth Five Year Plan. Country has a short fall of fodder to the extent of 60 per cent and 20 per cent of husk requirement. The people in Government do not understand the problem of the people associated with the animal husbandry.

Hence there was a need to further boost the industry. Though the MP's from BJP and Congress had been delivering their speeches but I do not consider it an issue confined to party politics. The question of farmers is not a question confined to party but a question concerning the entire country. I only know that hon. Ministers has served the armed forces. You have been connected to the villages also but increase in the prices of fertilisers

and diesel has evoked sectors all over the country. The Members of BJP who represented the rural areas in the Parliamentary party meet of BJP were constrained over the fact that a heavy increase in the prices of fertilisers and diesel has been made. The prices of diesel has increased by 25 per cent in this financial year. This should be rolled back.

Indian products are unable to compete in international market owing to the high cost. On one hand, you are increasing the prices of diesel, urea, sewing machine, fertilisers and cement etc. on the other, price of cars are being lowered. What message does it convey to the farmers and the poor? The cost of agriculture inputs have been increased while the price of car have been decreased. I would like to know as to why did not you decrease the price of tractors and other equipment useful for the agriculture and farmers? I would like to know as to what message does it send to the public?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, unemployment is the biggest problem in the country. Hon. Prime Minister has also boasted of providing employment to .70 lakh people. I would like to tell the House that the employment opportunities have been increased by 2.67 per cent and the unemployment grew at the rate of 5.99 per cent in the country between 1984 to 1994. While the employment grew at the rate of 1.07 per cent between 1994 to 2000 and the unemployment grew at the rate of 7.32 per cent. What does it reveal? Mr. Chairman, Sir, the unemployment has been increasing in our country and the Government are not taking any step to check it.

Leave aside the issue of generation of employment opportunities, but the hon'ble Finance Minister had said that there will be no income-tax upto 5 lakh rupees on amount given under VRS. It clearly indicates that the Government intends to attract people towards VRS-it means only this, and nothing else. It means that even people having jobs will be deprived of their jobs. The Government should take effective steps to solve the problem of unemployment. The basic reason behind tension prevailing in the country is unemployment. Parents educate their children so that they may get jobs and economic condition of family may improve, but inspite of making all efforts when youth do not get jobs, they are forced to take the path of violence.

Nobody can advocate violence in this country. But, I feel there is no other reason except unemployment for the tense atmosphere prevailing in the country.

As far as roads are concerned, the Union Government have sanctioned 40,000 crore rupees for

construction of roads. I would like to thank the Government for this, but what has been done for the maintenance of old roads. Maximum number of roads constructed after the independence, have never been repaired...*(Interruptions)* If we had not done it, will you also do the wrong. Sir, please make him understand. As, the new roads are being constructed, the Government should also allocate funds for the repairing of old roads. There are many roads, on which even pedestrian can not walk. Repairing of these roads has been given any consideration in the budget.

Sir, the Government have given tax rebates to the private hospitals to improve medical facilities. Life saving drugs have been proposed to be exempted from excise duty besides, import of related equipments would also be exempted from duty. An insurance scheme has been introduced for people living below the poverty line. One person has to pay one rupee per day, if the family is of 5 members, he has to pass one and a half rupee per day, and if the family is of 7 members, then 2 rupees per day as premium is taken it means the family of 7 members has to pay Rs. 60 as the premium. 30 per cent people of rural areas have monthly income of Rs. 327 and their main problem is to get square meal. The Government is giving favours to private hospitals. Is it guaranteed that the health facilities would become available to common man by giving concessions to the private hospitals. Have we ever paid consideration towards Government hospitals? Medicines are not available in Primary Health Centres. You will not find staff over there, doctors go there only to get salary. If anybody fall ill, he is not certain that he will get the aid at Primary Health Centre. No efforts have been made to improve the condition of those centres- A person from rural area can not afford to get treatment at Sir Gangaram Hospital, Apollo or Escorts Hospital of Delhi. Visiting these hospitals mean he should have 5-7 lakhs rupees otherwise he can not get treatment in these hospitals. In real terms there is a need to improve hospitals of Government sector.

Sir, due to Government policies, piece of essential items is highest in our country in comparison to other countries of the world; for example, the prices of essential commodities have increased from 0.1 to 1.3 percent, from April to December, 2002, in Belgium, Japan, Canada, Netherland, Spain, Germany, European countries and America. In Germany growth rate is 0.1 percent. But in India, this growth rate is at least 2.1 per cent. The essential commodities purchased by the common man are more expensive in our country than other countries of the world. Since, Government have signed WTO, it has been trying to persuade the private sector to reduce cost of production in order to compete with international

brands. The Government should present an example in this regard. The company tax is more in our country than other countries of the world. It is 28 to 35 per cent in America, England, Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, and Malaysia. It is 35 per cent in America and 28 percent in Malaysia, but in our country earlier the company tax was 48 percent which has now been reduced to 37 percent. If we impose more tax, and expect them to compete, it is not possible.

Last year 4900 crore rupees were allocated in the budget for primary education and literacy. This time, the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development has asked for allocation of 7096 crore rupees from the hon'ble Minister of Finance, but out of funds allocated for education, 1600 crore rupees have been allocated for mid-day meal and around 3200 crore rupees have been allocated for 'Education for All' programme. Shri Jaswant Singh has sanctioned a very little amount for 'Education to all' programme. The condition of education is pitiable in our country. 87 percent students drop out of school before completing intermediate. Much is being talked about information technology, but it will benefit only a particular class and common man can not be benefited from it.

Hon'ble Minister of Finance, it has published in today's newspaper that people of hon'ble Finance Minister's own village are not happy with this budget. That village may be having cottage industry. I am not aware about it, but it has been published in the newspaper that the budget speech of hon'ble Finance Minister has not been able to please the people of his village. It is not important, how much we have progressed, but important point is that in which direction we are leading, if we are not moving on right path, we do not know our destination, what we intend to do, what are our priorities, to what extend we want to give justice to the poor, what steps are to be taken to remove unemployment—if all these things are not decided, then I understand that this budget will not cause much benefit to the poor. My humble submission is that the Government should at least check corruption. Schemes being formulated should be transparent. The issue of MPLAD is raised again and again. I would like to say that the Government should pay serious consideration towards this.

It is the supreme duty of every Government to do justice with the poor. The criterion set during the British rule for providing assistance on the question of flood and drought are being followed the same way. After bearing the loss of lakhs of rupees, the villagers get Rs. 50-100 or Rs 150 aid. There is a need to change those criterion. Steps should be taken for the welfare of the poor and not rich. "Sou mein sattar admi philhal jab nishad hain, dil per rakh kar hath ka hiye desh azad hai. Kothion se

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

mulk ki unchaan mat napiye, Asli hindustan to footpath per abad hai.”

I am confident that the Finance Minister will roll back the increase in prices of fertilizers and diesel in particular so that farmers may feel that it may have been a mistake in budget. otherwise Shri Jaswant Singh ji is not anti-farmer. The hon'ble Minister should take initiative in this regard. This is my only submission.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the debate on the General Budget.

Sir, I want to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for his kind gesture. He had presented the Budget of 2003-04. What we feel is that one cannot please everybody. But at the same time we feel that this is a balanced, growth-oriented and welfare-oriented Budget especially in the social sector.

On the infrastructure sector, of course, the Government has tried its best because without infrastructure we cannot move anywhere.

Then, on the education sector, the hon. Finance Minister has given great importance especially for the children. He had announced tax exemption upto Rs. 12,000 on children education under Section 80G.

On the health sector, for physically handicapped; on the *Antyodya Yojana*; and on the *Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana*, he has given the maximum amount. We are happy for that.

Sir, one can easily realise this, and I do not think that our country's situation is bad. Every time, we have to expect that there would be some odds, there would be some difficulties. But we have to overcome those odds and difficulties. We have to play a very vital role to pull ourselves for the future ahead. I firmly believe and—as and as rightly said by our hon. President in his Address—that within 20 years, India will be self-reliant and self-sufficient because of its potentially, attitude and activities. I am also proud to say this.

It is a fact that ours is a developing country. The population is a great factor for any country's economy and growth. In this respect, I would request the hon. Finance Minister—though it is not related to the Finance Ministry; it is related to the Government and everybody

is concerned about it—to take all possible steps to control the population of India. If we cannot control the population, it will be a disaster for us.

Now, there are concepts—cross-border terrorism, parallel economy, smuggling, drugs trafficking. All are inter-linked. Sometimes, cross-border terrorism is so powerful that they can win over not only a country but they can win over the country from the economic point of view. That is why I say that the Government must take firm steps to stop cross-border terrorism. It is also necessary for them to stop infiltration.

Sir, I had raised this issue several times earlier also. I would mention some names also, hon. Finance Minister, Sir. In the North Bengal, parallel economy is going on. The Bhutanese currency is under circulation in every part of North Bengal. Instead of Indian currency, they are utilising the Bhutanese currency. If you go to a Bank, if you go to any State Government office or if you go to any Central Government office, you would see only the fake currency going on. I cannot imagine that in our country a foreign currency is running.

I think, the Government must send a team from the Reserve Bank of India and investigate the matter and find out the truth. It is correct, the Government must take all care to restore the normalcy.

Sir, North Bengal is the gateway of the North-Eastern Region. But in the North-Eastern Region, the insurgency is going on. The North-Eastern Region is the gateway of Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and China.

So, my first point to the Government would be to control the explosion of population. My second point to the Government would be to control infiltration and cross-border terrorism. There is an urgent need to control India's population growth. I do not feel that only the setting up of Commissions will sort out the problem. If there is a will, there is a way. So, the Government may convene an all-party meeting and take everybody into confidence in sorting it out as to how to control the population growth.

Sir, in terms of population, we are the second largest country in the world after China. China is at number one position and we are at number two position as regards population.

Even if you count our neighbourhood, then India, Pakistan and Bangladesh will automatically be there within the first ten. This is the situation.

So, whatever the Finance Minister tried, he tried his best. But our country is a vast country; and 100 million people belong to this country. Maximum people are poor people; they are common people. We should not divide people like this. But we have to protect the interests of the common people, the lower middle class and the middle class people; they are the real backbone of our country.

I must say that under the leadership of Shri Jaswant Singh, our foreign exchange reserves worth about 75 billion; and we are proud of that. He has reduced customs duty and on the export front also, it is not bad. But I must say that in some areas, he should reconsider. We are talking about fertilizer. In our country we have seen that there are rich farmers and poor farmers. The maximum number of farmers is poor; and they belong to lower middle class and middle class.

May I request the hon. Finance Minister to do one thing? I know that it will be difficult for him and he cannot satisfy everybody. The Government has the prerogative and it has its compulsions; we, as public representatives, have our prerogative and our compulsion.

Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation, Durgapur Fertiliser Plant, Barouni fertiliser plant, etc. have been closed down. In the case of fertiliser, we have a problem because of GATT agreement. It is not done by this Government; but the earlier Government signed the GATT or WTO agreements. So, we have a problem in the area of agriculture.

Now, China dominated what we had dominated earlier—the domestic industry or the agriculture industry. Earlier our farmers used to produce more rice and used to supply to Bangladesh at Rs. 10 a kg. Even now, the people of Bengal used to produce rice and supply it to different parts of neighbouring Bangladesh. But now our farmers cannot have competition because China is giving rice at Rs. 3 a kg. China has captured all the markets, not only India. India has of course been captured, but at the same time, they captured the markets of Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, etc. with the result our farmers are in a great stress and are in a problem.

I will request the hon. Minister to take care of the farmers and the domestic industry because we have to go in for competition. Nowadays, we are in a competitive age, but when we have to go in for competition, we have to encourage our farmers and we have to encourage our domestic industry.

Otherwise, unemployment problem will be there. Even now, the number of unemployed youths is very high.

How to solve the unemployment problem? If we do not have 'Remove Unemployment' programme, we cannot solve this problem. You have to consider the fact that foreign funds are coming into our country; we have cross-border terrorism; we have smuggling problem, etc. to destabilise our country. There are so many sources from where it is happening. It is a very easy option to capture the unemployed youths because they do not have anything with them. So, I request the Government to do something for the unemployed youth. To discuss this problem, I request you to convene a Special Session of Parliament, you can have proposals from all sides of the House, and this Government can give such an opportunity. In the case of education, a Constitutional Amendment Bill is there; education is a fundamental right of the citizens of this country. Like that, 'right to work' must be the right of unemployed youth. In this connection, to give effect to that, a Constitutional Amendment Bill is needed. For this, the Government has to take care of this and the Government has to think about it very seriously. We cannot destroy whatever potentially we have because India is India; India has the potential; they can lead the world. So, we have to see the actual problem at the grassroots.

Grass roots belong to all castes, creeds and all sections of people. I think, the interest on small savings is an area that needs attention. Nowadays, every industry is on the verge of closure. We are hearing about disinvestment. Earlier the retirement age was 60 or 58, but now because of VRS, or closure of industry, people retire at a young age of 35 years or so. The Government has started the insurance scheme and is giving 9 per cent interest on savings for people in 55 years age group. If age is the criteria, no doubt, for senior citizens we welcome it. For argument sake, if in my constituency a number of people opt for VRS, all of them will be unemployed at the age of 45 year. Can we extend this scheme for those who though do not retire voluntarily but have to retire because their industry is getting closed? What is to be done? Industry after industry is being closed down. What is the way out? There is no way out. I feel that we should save money, but every year the interest rate on small savings is getting reduced. Earlier it was reduced by 1.5 per cent and now it has been reduced by another one per cent. A common man, especially, saves money for future but if the interest on this is reduced every year, why should people save money at all?

I have talked to a number of teachers, journalists, senior citizens, housewives, common people, and all of them have requested me to convey their feelings in this regard to the Finance Minister. I know, it is very difficult

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

but the hon. Minister has to solve the problem. They feel that after retirement they run their homes only from these savings. But now what is the option left to them? This is a serious problem.

I believe that this Government can recover money out of huge NPAs. It is an area where about Rs. 1,26,000 crores are lying with a few people. This country belongs to 100 crores of people. It is a matter of shock that a few hundred people take loan from the bank for their own interest and do not repay it, resulting in heavy burden to the common people. I can understand the tax administration system. A man has to pay tax to Central Government, State Government, Municipalities and *Panchayats*. The Government should have a uniform tax restructuring system. Those who want to save money should be allowed to save it. If we are safe and sound, our economy will be safe and sound. So, black money and Non Performing Assets are the areas where the Government has to pay more attention.

I feel sorry to say that when you can tax the common people, why can you not tax the political parties which are amassing assets like anything? They are having *benami* properties worth crores and crores of rupees. They were 'zero' earlier but have now become the 'heroes' Why should the political parties get that advantage?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Now the Parties in Uttar Pradesh have started to take commission...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Akhilesh ji, I have not interrupted your speech. Please do not interrupt me too. Let me put my point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Akhilesh ji, please keep quiet.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Let me put my views please.

[English]

Sir, charity begins at home. I would request the Minister to start with the Trinamool Congress. When you are taxing the common people, you should also tax the political parties. In the name of political parties, some managers and manipulators are doing politics in this country. They do not have the feelings for the common people. They have double standards and they are hypocrites. I am not saying this for all, but there are so

many like this. The Government has to take care of that. If you do not do this, the future would not excuse us.

Secondly, I feel that the Government is giving money for every purpose. I raised this question in the morning also. The Minister is very nice. Even though he did not reply to me, yet I know that he appreciated what I had said. That is why, he said that he is concerned about it. The Government is giving money but there are no audited accounts. The C&AG Report criticised it. It said that the money was sent for the specific purposes but it was diverted like anything. The development funds are being utilised for the political purposes, for their particular interest, and for their individual interest. Where are the audited accounts? If a common man takes money from the bank, he has to pay income tax and other taxes. He has to submit the audited accounts and everything. But what are we doing?

This money does not belong to any individual. The Government is giving money to the State Governments and other organisations. There must be some monitoring and accounting system. It is because transparency is very much needed. It is the public money. We need accountability also to strengthen transparency. I think the Government must take the audited accounts. I am giving you the example of my State Government. There are other State Governments also. I have heard that they have taken Rs. 76,000 crore as foreign debt, but they are not able to give payment to the employees, DA to the Government employees, and salary to the teachers. They are taking money from you but they are utilising it only for their individual purpose. Some State Governments have become totally bankrupt. Why do you not declare the financial emergency? In our Constitution, it is very much there. The political emergency is an emergency and financial emergency is also an emergency. It is the public money. The Government should inquire which are the States which have submitted the audited accounts and which have not submitted the audited accounts. I am not talking about a particular State; I am talking about all the States. There must be some monitoring system. If we do not have good financial management, it would not be possible for the Finance Minister to revive the economy.

When the Budget was placed, my friends from the Communist Party said that this is anti-poor and anti-farmer. I want to ask them what they are doing in their State. Where has the money gone? They are giving concessions to the multinational companies. I am not against them. But they are encouraging the multinational companies there but are criticising them here. What is their standard? Why do they have double standard? Why are they hypocrites? I do not understand this. That is why, I would

request the Government to take care of the monitoring and financial management system. If there is no management, there would be no financial stability and if there is no financial stability, the country would not have any stability.

Sir, I have requested the Finance Minister in regard to urea, fertiliser, small savings, NPA, unemployment, cross-border terrorism, black money, and the problem which has been created by China for our farmers. I do not want to take much time of the House. My last request to the Finance Minister would be that Indian economy is an economy which should go forward. It should not go backward.

That is why, the hon. Finance Minister may take into consideration the conditions of a few States for the overall interest of the country. At the same time, he should consider giving relief to the common people. He should not consider it a roll back. Sometimes if you think for the common people, they would bless you, they would bless the Government. That is why, this is a Government of the people, by the people and for the people. If you tend to miss the people, then you would miss everything, of course—you can afford to miss the people who are opportunistic.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please see that there is no quorum in the House. The present government have made practice to run the House without quorum. I request you to check it.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The bell is being run.

16.25 hrs.

[*Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now there is quorum in the House. Shri Ramesh Chennithala may speak now.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please run the House. Finance Minister is sitting here and discussion on Budget is going on...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: It is her responsibility to make quorum in the House...(Interruptions) Sir, our

Members have also cooperated...(Interruptions) After arrival of two Members from my side quorum is completed in the House...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Akhilesh ji, thanks a lot for your cooperation...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ramesh Chennithala would speak.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not provoke him. Now, let us hear Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the question of quorum amounts to provocation, then I feel that it is our little knowledge...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Akhilesh ji, Ramesh Chennithala ji is your friend, is it not so?

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I am sitting here for my friend only...(Interruptions) Knowledgeable people like him have given shelter to corrupt people. Entire country is mocking him...(Interruptions)

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Knowledgeable person like you is no where in the world...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have requested you to keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Ramesh Chennithala says.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh. The Budget is only a mirror that captures the economic vision of the Government. If the image is disappointing, then it is hardly the fault of the mirror.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

Through this Budget this Government has given the vision, the economic vision of the NDA Government. Certainly the Budget is anti-poor, anti-farmer, anti-industry and anti-small scale sector. This Budget is for the corporate sector and multinational-companies. This Budget is pro-rich and pro-affluent. There is little impact on reviving growth, investment and restoring the Government finances to health.

Sir, I am totally disappointed with this Budget because of the following reasons: (1) The absence of a credible fiscal consolidation strategy; (2) Inadequate emphasis on measures to improve the financial condition of the States. Many of the States are in deep debt. Yesterday, the Chief Justice of Madras High Court made a reference to the State Government's Exchequer. Maybe, the Judiciary has no power to comment on the economic situation of a State. But in the Chief Justice has clearly stated that there is a need for a financial emergency in the State. This is the case of almost all the State Governments in the country. (3) The absence of a time-table for labour reforms which will protect the minimum rights of the working class...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister and the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission are making brave noises time and again about the eight per cent growth. The actual growth in the last year is 4.4 per cent. A country like India, even if it just sleeps, can achieve more than 5.5 per cent growth rate. This shows the dismal picture of the economy. This shows the directionlessness of the Government. This shows the mismanagement in the economic scenario.

The hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget speech, observed an eloquent silence on this topic. There is a down turn in the economy. According to the Finance Minister, it is due to three reasons. They are: (1) The global uncertainty due to the Iraq crisis; (2) Severe drought which is prevailing in various parts of our country; (3) Cross-border terrorism.

Sir, these three problems will be continuing for another at least two or three years. These three problems are not going to end. As per the reports, the drought situation in the country will be continuing and will become worse in the coming years.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a lot of noise in the House.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, the reports that are coming from Rajasthan and other parts of the country give an indication towards the terrible conditions of the

drought situation. There is a lot of demand for huge relief activities in these areas. That means, in coming years the drought condition is going to worsened.

Going by our past experience, cross-border terrorism may continue and escalate. Pakistan is trying to create trouble in the border areas.

17.00 hrs.

It is giving all kinds of support to cross-border terrorism. Because of this reason, in the coming days, the cross-border terrorism and terrorist activities will be very much on the higher side in the Asian region. Nobody knows what will happen to the Iraq crisis. In this context, the Union Government should have thought of a strategy or a plan in spite of the unavoidable hurdles to consolidate the economic growth of this country. The Centre's finances have been deteriorating for the past several years and the Budget this year does not do much to stem the rot. By seeing these conditions, the severe drought condition, the increasing cross-border terrorism and also the Iraq crisis, the Government and the Finance Minister should have thought of a comprehensive plan to combat these kinds of issues. The Minister should have thought over to consolidate the economic growth in our country. Unfortunately, the Finance Minister has totally failed in this vital aspect.

The Finance Minister has made only a feeble attempt at raising the revenues for expanding the tax base. This is going to have a very adverse impact on the economy. The situation may even become worse because of the overall failure of the major sectors like agriculture, industry etc.

I have an apprehension. This Budget has a potential to push up inflation for the following reasons: one, the fiscal deficit is likely to cross six per cent of the GDP which will be quite alarming; and, second, a huge commitment like the debt swap compensation for Value Added Tax Scheme, will come into effect. This scheme will come into effect from April this year. A lot of other schemes have been listed in the Budget. The Government has already announced that from April onwards, the Value Added Tax Scheme will be in force. The State Governments are all prepared to pass this legislation. There are the other schemes also. So, where is the money coming from to meet all the expenditure? Either the Government has to ask the RBI to print notes or the Government has to use the huge foreign exchange reserve which now stands at US \$ 20 billion. I would like to know from the hon. Minister and the Government what will be the Government's strategy to overcome these difficulties. Mr. Minister, I would like to know from you

whether you are going to direct the RBI to print more notes or you are going to use the foreign exchange reserves which we are having. So, the Government should tell us clearly about this. Because of this reason, I have an apprehension that in the coming days, we are going to witness a high rate of inflation in our country which is going to affect the common man and the poor people.

Next, the public sector banks are going to be handed over to the foreign investors. The steps taken by the Central Government is in that direction. This is very unfortunate. In 1969, to fulfil the social obligations, to help the poor people in this country, who are deprived of any kind of an assistance from the banks and the financial institutions, the late-lamented leader Shrimati Indira Gandhi nationalised the banks in our country. From that time onwards, the poor sections of the society are getting at least some kind of help from the banks and the financial institutions. Now, the situation is totally changing. The public sector banks are now going to be handed over to the foreign investors...*(Interruptions)* I would tell you about this. Let me explain the position. Earlier, the voting was limited to 10 per cent.

So, earlier, those who wanted to purchase shares could only buy 10 per cent of shares. Now, that cap has been removed and any number of shares can be purchased by anybody in this country. Moreover, a Bill is pending before the Standing Committee on Finance which provides for lowering the Government equity from 51 per cent to 33 per cent. That means, all the public sector banks will be privatised and along with that, there is a proposal in the Budget to increase the limit of FDI in private banks from 49 per cent to 74 per cent. The privatised public sector banks can be easily picked up by foreign investors. That is my apprehension. The Government has taken a series of steps to help the private investors. These are calculated steps to help them and it is a conspiracy to help the foreign investors to take over all the important public sector banks in our country. Even after nationalisation of the banks, the bank officials and the managements are not helping the poor people. They are not giving loans to the poor, the deserving and needy people of this country. Now, by the removal of this cap and enhancing of the percentage of FDI, these banks are going into the hands of private, foreign investors. What will happen to the poor people? What about the social obligations that the public sector banks are supposed to fulfil? What about the spirit of the nationalisation of banks? So, this Budget is anti-poor, this Budget is totally against the interests of the poor and the common man in this country.

With regard to agriculture, my colleagues have already explained about the situation in the agricultural sector.

The Finance Minister has ignored the warning given in the Economic Survey about the farm sector. The Economic Survey has clearly given warnings namely, (1) changes in the crop support price, (2) changes in the procurement policy, (3) water storage and management and sustained priority to research on raising low yields in edible oil and pulses. Interestingly, the private and public investment is coming down drastically. The Finance Minister has not paid any attention towards this sector.

Sir, the Finance Minister is talking about the second agricultural revolution. If the Finance Minister is not taking the warnings given in the Economic Survey seriously, how can the second agricultural revolution be achieved? Moreover, the Finance Minister has failed to boost the confidence of the farmers who constitute 80 per cent of the population of this country. The levying of cess on diesel is going to affect the poor farmers. It is going to affect the common man, especially in the State of Kerala which is considered to be a consumer State, because every item is coming from other States. So, the increase in the prices of diesel and petrol is going to affect us more severely than anybody else. Of course, it will affect the entire population of the country, but as a consumer State, Kerala is going to be affected very badly.

The increase in the prices of fertilisers and pesticides will very badly affect the farmers. So, how can we achieve the Second Green Revolution in this country? My question is this: Is the Government contemplating to give more strength to agrarian sector? There is no market for farm produce. The farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. They are not getting enough support from the financial institutions. Rural credit which is highly essential for the promotion of agricultural operations is completely denied by the banks.

Shri Sudarsana Natchiappan is here. We are examining the cash flow to the agrarian society by various banks. The picture is very dismal. In the meetings of the Standing Committee, we examined various banks regarding the rural credit. There is a dismal picture. Even after the directives from the RBI or the Government of India, almost all the banks are not complying with such directions. As a result of that, the poor farmers in the rural areas are totally denied the capital. They are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. How will they survive? The agrarian society is in distress. The problems are mounting up. The Government is not paying any attention to that aspect. On the contrary, the Government is increasing the price of urea, pesticides and imposing cess on diesel, etc.

The increase in the prices of petrol and diesel is becoming an order of the day. They are increasing, it

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala] every alternate month. In between, the Minister of Petroleum had given some concession regarding diesel. Now, it has already been overruled. More cess has been introduced. As a result of that, the agrarian society is suffering. The farmers are suffering. They are not getting adequate prices for their produce. Because of that, the farmers are committing suicides. A lot of such incidents are taking place in the rural areas because of the huge debt which is to be repaid by each and every farmer to the banks and other cooperative institutions.

How can we achieve an agricultural revolution? The second agricultural revolution could be achieved only by infusing confidence among the agrarian society and the farmers. Unfortunately, the present Government has totally failed on this aspect.

Now I will talk about drought conditions. I am coming from a State where successive floods and droughts have been taking place. The other day, our Minister of Finance, Minister of Revenue and all other MPs met the Prime Minister. Even though three successive droughts have taken place, we have not got a single paisa from the Central Government. The State of Kerala has been in the grip of severe droughts and floods successively. During the period from May to July, 2001, the floods occurred. The total loss incurred was to the tune of Rs. 550 crore. The assistance sought for in the memoranda was Rs. 552 crore. But not a single paisa has been given to the State of Kerala. During the period June-July, 2000, a severe drought was experienced in the State of Kerala. The total damage suffered was of the order of Rs. 1,035 crore. We asked for that much amount but not a single paisa has been given. In 2002, from 1st to 22nd October, the flood situation was grave. The total loss was assessed at Rs. 145 crore. But not a single paisa has been given. Why such a discrimination towards the State of Kerala? Out of 14 districts, 12 districts were declared 'drought-affected' but not a single paisa has been given.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just to caution you, there are as many as seven Members from your side who would like to speak. You have to conclude now. Otherwise, they may not at all get the time to speak.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: I am coming to the point. A discrimination is shown by the Central Government towards Kerala. Even though so many States got the assistance, Kerala has not got a single paisa even after we suffered due to successive floods and droughts. So, I request the hon. Minister to consider this aspect very seriously and give some assistance to our State.

The reduction in the interest rates on small savings and Public Provident Fund will hit the common man badly. On the other hand, the stock market players have been given concessions in the form of withdrawal of dividend tax. That shows the attitude of the Government. It shows that the Government is totally supporting the rich and the affluent people. But there is a callous attitude towards the poor and the needy people.

Sir, the removal of the long-term capital gains tax will only help the healthy and affluent sections of the society. The hike from five per cent to eight per cent in the Service Tax would negate the benefit of the Income Tax concession for the salaried class. It has been projected in the Budget that salaried class, the Government employees got everything. But the fact is that the hike from five per cent to eight per cent in the Service Tax would negate the benefit which is given to them. On the one hand he is giving something and on the other hand he is taking away that. That is what is happening in the case of Government employees and salaried class people.

Sir, no serious attention has been given to generate more employment opportunities. It has been described and I do not want to go in detail. But the situation is grim and thousands and thousands of people are coming out of public undertakings and other industrial units because of the disinvestment process. Then VRS is there and even compulsory retirement is there and thousands are coming out of jobs and the Government is not creating any job opportunities.

Sir, where are we living? The other day the Prime Minister of the country said that we fulfilled the promise which was given to the people of the country that we would create one crore jobs every year. In any State, can we say that the people, especially the youngsters, the educated youth got any employment opportunity? The employment opportunities are coming down.

The major employment potential is in the small-scale and cottage industries, which are perishing in our country. Recently, the reservation for the SSIs in respect of 75 more items has been made by this Government. With this, the small scale industries are going to suffer. The cashew, coir and arecanut are the basic and traditional industries. They are suffering and thousands are becoming jobless.

Finally, this Budget shows the attitude of the Government. This Budget is not growth oriented, is not going to generate more employment and this country is not going to go forward with this Budget. In his Budget

Speech, while concluding, the hon. Finance Minister said, 'India, that is on the move'. Sir, India is not moving forward under the NDA regime. On the contrary India is moving backward to an era of darkness. The people of the country will not sit idle. They will come forward and give a befitting reply to this Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

17.18 1/2 hrs.

[*DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA in the Chair*]

First of all, I would congratulate hon. Finance Minister for presenting a balanced budget keeping in view the adverse condition arising out of economic recession at global level, crisis prevailing in the gulf as also grave problems in the country. Facilities have been provided under this budget in every field of the country, for which all the Members of the House should definitely extend their thanks to the hon. Minister of Finance. Ministry of Finance also deserve praise.

Sir, we have problems even after 50 years of Independence. Problems have cropped up since 1947 to 1997. We have completed mere formalities in the name of resolving the problems and development. These problems have aggravated during the last four years as a result of which an initiative has been taken to resolve these problems in the last two or three budgets and efforts in this regard have also been made in the present budget. Earlier, it was a trend of the governments in our country that they used to make nominal and symbolic efforts in the name of development and efforts were never made to sort out the problems of development completely.

Sir, people from the opposition are objecting to the present budget under compulsion. But the fact is that the present budget is balanced, in the interest of the people as also far-sighted.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, many of the Members in the House belong to the farmers families. I also belong to that. We all know that three four years back farmers in the villages used to pay Rs. 2000-3000 or sometimes even upto Rs. 5000 to get an LPG connection. We all belong to the farmer families and are very well aware of the condition of people coming from the rural areas to cities. It was really very difficult for them to get LPG, but now this problem does not exist due to the welfare policies of the Government.

People from villages used to wait for a long time to get telephone connection. What to talk of villages, even in a city like Delhi, a few years back one could get a telephone connection even after spending 10 thousand rupees. Some of my colleagues were talking of employment. I would like to bring to their notice that four lakh PCOs were set up in our country from 1947 to 1998. One PCO provides employment to atleast one person. Since 1998 the number of the PCOs has increased to seven lakh in our country. Now one can imagine that four lakh PCOs were set up in 50 years while seven Lakh PCOs have been set up only in four years.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contal): Please tell us about telephone connection also.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: I am not talking about telephone connections. I am talking of employment.

If you have gone through the budget, you must have known that there would be many opportunities of employment as a result of revolution in telecommunication sector, we can assess it. After going through the Budget, he must have come to know that how we are going to spread a network of telecommunications in the villages. Custom duty has been reduced from 25 per cent to 15 per cent in this budget on many capital items being used in manufacturing components by the telecommunications and IT sector. Custom duty on optical fibre cable has been reduced from 25 percent to 20 percent. Import duty on raw materials specified for manufacturing e glass meant for optical fibre cable has been reduced from 30 percent to 15 percent. Generosity shown in the budget would definitely play a significant role in expansion of telecommunications revolution in villages.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was listening the speech of Deputy leader of opposition, Shri Shivraj V. Patil. He said that today foodgrains in abundance is available in the country, but it is not properly being utilized. Although he used these words with a view the criticism, but this criticism proves that there is huge quantity of foodgrains in the country. As we are, this House as also the entire country knows that it is the result of hardwork of farmers and good policies of the Government. You must be knowing that three or four years back we were dependent on the foodgrains from America and we used to wait for its arrival. I remember that even during the Prime Ministership of hon. Gujral Sahib, we had to import foodgrains. Thereafter, during the Prime Ministership of Hon. Atal Bihari ji also, in 1997-98 and 1999-2000, we had imported wheat for around rupees 2930 crore, now India has emerged as the biggest producer of wheat during the last two years and wheat worth Rs. 1100

[Shri Radha Mohan Singh]

crore has been exported till date. Rice worth Rupees 17,000 crore has also been exported since 1997-98. Today India is exporting foodgrains to the 30 countries. Milk, sugar, wheat, rice and cotton are being produced in surplus. More than six crore tonnes foodgrains are available in the country and there is no adequate storage facility to preserve it and it is getting rotten.

Today if there is drought anywhere in the country then it is not a matter of concern, but several persons are dying of drought. Several such deaths occurred in Rajasthan due to drought. There is enough foodgrain there but distribution system has shortcoming somewhere certainly and the State government is accountable for it. This Government have not taken symbolic measures for development but have shown concrete results of the step taken on this front. Even the Members of opposition accept it. Patilji also praised the Government for undertaking the golden quadrilateral road development scheme and proposed river linkage schemes and he had reiterated on funds mobilisation for these schemes but he contradicted himself by opposing the increase of 50 paise on diesel. Today's politics is different wherein on one hand he favours resource mobilisation and on the other also says as to why the increase in prices of diesel has taken place.

The achievement of this Government on development front is very much before us. The issue of foodgrains was being discussed. Antyodya scheme had been launched in the country in the last year's budget for one crore poor families as foodgrain in abundance was available in the country. Several persons are being benefited thereunder. Nobody took care of them during the last 50 years. The concern for them was shown by only this Government. 50 lakhs families are proposed to be benefited under the scheme in the present budget. Eight crore people of one and a half lakh families of the country did not use to two square meals a day. This is the first government since independence which cared for them. These eight crore people never realised the significance of independence in the previous 50 years. This Government have made them realise the importance of independence. You might have seen that the government have done a great job by making an allocation of more than Rs. 500 crore for those people under this year's budget. The Government really deserves congratulations for taking this welfare step for these people. Besides, Antyodya certainly sponsored schemes like Mid Day Meal scheme, Annapurna scheme and food for work etc. are proving as boon for the villages today.

This House would certainly be astonished to learn a few things. Last time all MPs from Bihar when it was affected by flood, had met to the Prime Minister, he had allocated one lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains free of cost for Bihar but the inefficient government of Bihar lifted only 7615 metric tonnes foodgrains. The Government of India is providing free foodgrains under Mid Day Meal

Scheme but Bihar Government does not have resources to meet cost of transportation. Hon. Patilji was saying that surplus foodgrains lying in FCI godowns are not being utilised. Had he been present here I would have told him that it is the allies of Congress who are not lifting the foodgrains. They are not even lifting free foodgrains. If the targeted people in States do not get the benefit of the Government scheme then it seems there is either some lacuna in the system or it is due to corruption.

Right now, the discussion on the support price proposed to be given by Government of India is going to take place. I have visited Bihar and there are 100 FCI centres in the State. Subsidy worth crores of rupees for the farmers is being provided by the government but there are gross irregularities in the functioning of the procurement centres. Thousands of fake organisations and cooperative committees have been set up and they are taking loans in the name of fake farmers or getting themselves certified by district magistrate and district cooperative officer. The support price announced by the government of India for the farmers is being provided to the middlemen by the Bihar government. Rice worth Rs. 60 crore was procured last year. If investigation is conducted in this regard that whether this money went to the farmers or not and how did middle men get this money, the entire cooperative department of Bihar would be found guilty to be imprisoned.

Many friends in the House have talked about agriculture and the farmer. This is true that the price of fertilizers have been increased by 1 to 2 percent in this year's budget but being farmers we should also know that this increase of 1 to 2 percent in fertilizers is due to the increase by 44 percent in the price of Naphtha which is used for manufacturing of fertilizers. Which country in the world can remain unaffected by this increase? India is also a party of world community. The recent hike of 35 percent in the price of crude oil in international market and by 44 percent in Naphtha which is used in producing the fertilizer has effected our country also.

We should also read the budget to understand the concern of hon. Finance Minister for the farmers. Hon. Finance Minister has introduced the new scheme of providing hitech technology, improving horticulture and providing improved fertilizers to the farmers. Increase in fertility, bio technology, use of modern equipments. Production of hitech green manure and the hightech technology like green house would be the silent features of the scheme. This scheme is certainly going to prove as a boon for the farmers. I would like to know whether the farmers would not get the benefits of this subsidy worth 50 thousand crore rupees. Out of Rs. 50 thousand crore the subsidy worth Rs. 28 thousand crore on foodgrains, 12,700 crore on fertilizers and subsidy of 9 thousand crore rupees on the LPG, kerosene, and other petro products after the abolition of the Administered Price

Mechanism is being provided by the Government. As Hon. Finance Minister has said that if the critics of the budget divest half of their energies wasted in budget criticism, to ensure the benefits of subsidy to the targeted people, then the country and the farmer will get benefit more and not through their criticism and opposition.

Hon. Finance Minister has presented a pro-farmer budget and have made the provisions of opening banks in rural areas and providing loans to the farmers through post offices. It is the first government since independence to take such step for the farmer in the country...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address to the Chair.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Half an hour has been given to the Members on that side and only 10 minutes are being given to those of this side.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not half an hour, as many other Members of your party are to speak, you can take the entire time if you want, I do not have any objection but other Members would not get an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: I want to say only that the people who remained in the powers for 50 years did not bother for the condition of roads in rural areas, power condition, whether pure drinking water is available or not, whether school building exists or not, whether education is being imparted or not and when such persons who failed to take care of these things for the 50 years call this government as anti farmer it does not behave them. I am of the opinion that they should be ashamed to say such words because they failed to show any concern for them for 50 years.

Roads be it rural or highway, would be constructed. More budgetary allocation has been made for developing roads, railways, dockyards and parts and strengthening infrastructure in the last three years and under this year's budget. The government have tried to realise the dream of making India a developed country in the present budget. The declaration of 48 new road projects with an estimated cost of Rs. 40 thousand crores with the length of 10 thousand kilometres has been made in this budget.

Surcharge of 50 paise/per liter will be imposed on diesel and motor spirit for the development of North-South and East-Western corridor. An additional income of Rs. 26 thousand crore would be generated through this sur-charge. Similarly, Golden Quadrilateral Project would be completed by 2003 which will be an year ahead of its scheduled time. The work regarding linking of each and every village with pacca road is also in progress.

Besides, the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojana, the work regarding brick laying on roads and construction of culverts is also going on in villages under Sampooran Gramin Rojgar Yojana.

Similarly, as far as health sector is concerned if we look at the budget of pervious years, we will find that this is the first budget in which a concern has been expressed regarding the health of common people. Some of my friends were saying that the concern is being shown for the people of upper and lower classes but no attention is being paid towards the middle class people. But a concern has been expressed for the common people of India in this budget. A budget package in textile sector would provide facilities to the people. Several steps have been taken for animal husbandry and sugar industry. As far as the arrangements made for the sugar industry is concern, the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Finance together will make efforts to solve the problems of sugar industry. However, the problems of sugar industry can not be solved without the cooperation of State Government.

So, far as farmer is concerned, Union Government have increased the support price of sugarcane by Rs. 5. However, Bihar Government is not in a position to pay on the basis of that support price. It is a matter in which State Governments should definitely extend their cooperation.

Another issue which is the root cause of our all problems is illiteracy. Do the members of opposition party accept this fact? Soon after our independence education should have been made the fundamental right for the children between the age group of 6-14 years. It should have been implemented within 10 years, however, no Government tried to do so during the last 50 years. It is the present government of National Democratic Alliance which have made this provision. Besides, Government have allocated an additional amount of Rs. 700 crore in the budget or 2003-04 for education drive with a view to universalization of primary education. There is a clear indication in this budget that Rs. 1929 crores have been allocated for the purpose of Education for all drive while last year it was Rs. 1199 crore. This programme was launched by the present Government in 2000 with the aim to educate all the children by 2003 through schools or any other alternative arrangements.

In the end, I have one more important issue. There are 2.50 lakh Gram Panchayats, 6 thousand Panchayat Samitiyan and 600 district panchayats in the country. 10 years ago on 22nd and 23rd December, 1992 Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha passed 73rd and 74th amendment in which provision were made to make the Panchayats and municipalities as local self government bodies. It was a historical step. If we go through the accounts of last 10 years, we will find that the people who had established these local bodies, are trying to prove them worthless.

[Shri Radha Mohan Singh]

But the fact remains that the Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies and bureaucrats are trying to grab the legitimate rights of local self governments. Whereas we want public participation therein. But we are not being listened? No State Government is giving importance to the recommendations of State Finance Corporation. States do not have panchayat cadre system. I am also a member of Parliament, but we have to accept the reality. Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies and bureaucrats want that the budget meant for centrally sponsored schemes should not be brought under the ambit of panchayats or else it would keep a check on their arbitrary attitude of working. District Rural Development Agency should be activated otherwise bureaucrats would have no say. There are several schemes which are being implemented by the officers and overseers, they are in the hierarchy of bureaucracy. Hence it is clear that politicians, bureaucrats and contractors have complete control over these schemes and they are taking advantage of these schemes. We have adopted Panchayati Raj System but I would like to submit to hon'ble Finance Minister and the Government that the funds are not provided through Panchayati institutions to the centrally sponsored schemes, and for that reason members of Parliament are being criticized. MLALAD scheme is being misutilized. When local bodies like panchayat and municipalities have been formed then what is the need of this scheme. Why do we provide crores of rupees to Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies. What is the criteria for economic development and social justice? If the funds given to MPs and MLAs under LAD scheme is withdrawn only then this objective can be achieved. That fund should be given to panchayats and municipalities. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Members have raised almost all the points and have drawn the attention of the Government towards them. Some members praised the budget while some others criticized it. Budget is the mirror of Government policies. This Government have been presenting the budget for the last 5 years. I do not know as to why the Finance Minister has been changed suddenly. It seems that the Government was not satisfied with the performance of previous Finance Minister and felt the need to replace Mr. Yashwant Singh with Mr. Jaswant Singh. But it does not matter. People of the country were hopeful of getting some favours in this year's budget with this new change, however, if we go through the budget minutely we will find that it is the same old budget, there is nothing new in it. The new thing is that this budget has been presented by the new Finance Minister. Every year, it is discussed in the House that our Fiscal deficit is increasing day by day. Both sides are expressing concern over it. Fiscal deficit is increasing regularly. It

was Rs. 1,45,466 crores last year but this year the hon'ble Finance Minister has estimated the deficit of Rs. 1,53,637 crore. Every year this deficit is shown in the budget. Ultimately, who bear the burden? It is the people of the country who are bearing it. We should consider this point cutting across the party lines. We should consider that as to what extent we can bear deficit, there should be a limit of it. We should tell the people the logic behind this deficit because ultimately the citizens of this country especially the poor people are being burdened due to this Fiscal deficit. My submission is that farmers of our constitution have made a provision for the consideration of such issues but even after elapsing 54-55 years the government kept on changing but still this House do not have any right to take decisions to control the Fiscal deficit, it is the Government who decides about it. When the Government were formed, it was apprehended that such situation can arise, when revenue-loss may continue to increase, we would have to check it. It has been mentioned in article 292 of Constitution.

[English]

"The executive power of Union extends to borrowing upon the security of the Consolidated Fund of India within such limits, if any, as may from time to time be fixed by Parliament by law and to the giving of guarantees within such limits, if any, as may be so fixed."

[Translation]

It has been mentioned in our Constitution but till now, no legislation has been enacted in this regard. I am not blaming any Government for this. Once a party had introduced bill in this regard, but what happened to it. I am not aware Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar has said:

[English]

"That the issue of fixing the limit on the borrowing power of the Central Government by Parliament has come up for examination time and again before the Estimates Committee and Public Accounts Committee. No legislative action to fix a limit on borrowings has so far been taken, during the debate in the Constituent Assembly on 10th August, 1949 on this subject, covered under Article 292, draft Article 268", Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar said."

[Translation]

But my submission is that, these were the views of that time and are even today we have the provision for it in our legislation. I would like to know how long we will continue to directly burden this country. Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Finance Minister is present here, I would like to urge him to pay consideration towards this Bill. These kinds of bills have been constituted and framed in many countries of the world. The House is empowered to take decision, when revenue loss continue to increase.

Therefore, it is required, because revenue loss is continuously increasing. I would like to submit to the Government to pay attention in this regard.

The hon'ble Minister has presented the budget in such a way that everybody is expecting to get something, hoping to set their financial situation strengthened, whether it is middle class or upper class. But is it so? The hon'ble Minister has given rebate of Rs. 2955 crore rupees. This loss has been compensated by imposing service tax and by connecting other areas. The provision for collection of tax of three thousand crore rupees has been made in the budget. Alongwith it, how much rebate or relief would be given to the population of more than 100 crores with the amount of Rs. 2955 crore rupees—is also to be considered. It is clear that the budget has been presented in a way that it appears rebate has been given. But according to me, the people of this country have not gained anything from this budget.

This budget is similar to last year's budget. Only some figures have been changed. The situation of direct taxes is similar to that during the last year. This is no change in this regard. 60 thousand crore rupees have been allocated in budget to change the infrastructure. I would like to ask whether 60 thousand crore rupees are sufficient for changing the infrastructure. How could the infrastructure be changed with this meagre amount? Amount of 4443 crore rupees was allocated for rural development in the budget for the year 2002-2003 and in present budget also provision of 4443 crore rupees has been made. There is no difference in amount. We have not progressed. In regard to irrigation also, last year's budgetary allocation was 443 crore rupees and the same amount has been allocated in this year's budget. Similarly in case of transport also, last year provision of 32 thousand crore rupees was made, and this year, in 2003-2004, 28 thousand 84 crore rupees have been allocated. The amount has been reduced. Last year, 32 thousand 41 crore rupees were allocated to communication sector, and this year only 28 thousand 784 crore rupees have been allocated. Allocation in this regard has also been reduced. Similarly, allocation has also not been increased in health sector. What change can be brought in economic situation with 60 thousand crore rupees is to be considered. With regard to health care facilities we are still where we were last year.

Sir, health sector has been proposed to be privatized to bring improvement into it and that would be through insurance scheme. Would the person getting Rs. 150 per month as old age pension be able to contribute one rupees daily for this scheme and whether he would be able to take care of his health? I would like to submit that laxity has been shown with regard to providing health care facilities. Adequate funds have not been allocated to health sector in the budget. I believe that Health and Gross Domestic Product or economic growth are related to each other. The people of country having strong economic position, would definitely be having good health.

People will have good health in a country where more investment is made on health. I would like to say that health is a very important sector, if a person who does not have money becomes heart-patient or kidney patient, he is certain that his death is near. He cannot afford to go hospital. Negligence has been shown in health sector. In the budget less allocation has been made in this regard, and the matter should be reviewed. Allocation in this regard should be increased, whenever supplementary budget is presented.

Everybody objected to the hike in the prices of fertilizer. After all, what sin has been committed by the farmer? What is the condition of farmers in the country? The condition of the poor farmers who earn their livelihood through agriculture, can be imagined. The hon'ble Minister has not done the right thing by burdening the farmers and imposing cess on petrol. You can well imagine the condition of farmers in these circumstances. The farmers have been burdened due to increase in the prices of fertilizers which needs to be withdrawn. This budget is anti-farmer. The farmers should be provided help when they are in trouble. It was a general feeling that people of Bharatiya Janta Party are anti-farmer and pro-capitalists. The same is reflected in this budget.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I extend my thanks to you for giving me a chance to speak. I have risen to discuss on General Budget. In normal terms, the Budget deserves admiration. Hon Minister of Finance has presented this budget keeping in view the present conditions. The decision for expending rupees 60 thousand crore in infrastructure seems to be taken for strengthening the villages and poors. Hon. Members from both the sides discussed the issues in their own way.

Hon. Tiwari ji was making his speech just sometime back. I definitely agree to the point he made that out of the budget of Rs. 4 lakh 38 thousand 795 crore, Rs. 1 lakh 20 thousand 974 crore have been allocated under planned Head and Rs. 2 lakh 53 thousand 935 crore have been allocated under non planned head. This is a great difference, which is not right. On the one hand we have decided to lead the country on the path of development while on the other, we are allocating two or two and a half times of the amount under non planned Head. This should be changed. The Government have inherited it from their predecessors. Efforts have been made to change it through the present budget. This is Fifth budget presented by the coalition government. Government have tried to take decisions in regard to many areas. Exchequer deficit is Rs. 1 lakh 53 thousand 637 crores and that too is on the increase. The government have taken decision to change it...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is about to be 6.00 o'clock. We may have problem on Monday so it would be better if the hon. Member concludes in two-three minutes. I would

[Mr. Chairman]

extend time of the House for that period. I would like to seek the consent of the House that whether the House be extended for five minutes so that the hon. Member could conclude.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Vishakhapatnam): Sir, we may continue it on Monday...*(Interruptions)* Today there is a cricket match also...*(Interruptions)*

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is the last speaker for today and he will conclude in five minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude in five minutes as the House has given consent for five minutes only.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wanted to make submission that unless we do away with the practice of spending two and a half rupees on a scheme instead of one rupee only then the present budget would lead the country to a balanced development. It would be a better budget if we change it. Still it is a good budget. The Government have emphasized for strengthening the infrastructure and in particular the hon. Minister has given comprehensive rebate to the labour intense textile sector. Through you, I would request him that in this sector required labour for preparing yarn, cotton and shirts etc., which gives employment is needed Hon. Minister gives the slogan that he would give employment to every person. I, therefore request that this business be made intense labour profession by providing more rebate. I welcome the rebate given by hon. Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to remind the hon. Minister that during budget speech comparing to America with regard to irrigation, he said that we have the maximum irrigated land in the country, while we have only 33 percent irrigated land in the country and 67 percent land is non irrigated. A sum of Rupees 433 crore have been allocated in the Budget for flood affected areas which is very less. This needs to be increased. There is a need to tackle the problem of flood and drought in this area.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is on account of paucity of time, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards my State, Bihar. We mere expecting that package

for Bihar would be discussed in the present Budget, but this did not happen. Hon. Minister should give clarification in this matter. After division, a commitment was made that Bihar would be given a package. I hail from North-East Bihar. Every one knows that the river originating from Nepal cause devastating flood in Bihar and due to which normal life becomes difficult there. There have been demonstrations before Parliament and movements have been launched in this regard. A delegation from Bihar government including MPs also met the hon. Prime Minister. Hon. Finance Minister knows that desilting of Advada group of rivers Bagmati, Kamla Balan, Gandak, Kosi etc. has not been undertaken for the last 100 years. The Government had also formulated a scheme in this regard and talks were held between India and Nepal that de-silting of these rivers be undertaken. Efforts be made to implement the talks being held with Nepal immediately so that flood could be prevented. This would lead Bihar to the path of development. If the government do not make arrangements to control foods in North Bihar then the schemes formulated for the development of Bihar will go on in vain.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would request that the ho. Minister, in his reply should mention about a permanent solution to the problem of floods in Bihar. He should also make it clear that the roads along the border of Northern Bihar to be included in the infrastructure.

In the end, Mr. Chairman Sir, I extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Through you, I would request the hon. Minister of Finance that he should provide a special package for Bihar as also make arrangement to control the floods. With these demands, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 10th March, 2003 at 11 a.m.

18.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, March 10, 2003/Phalguna 19, 1924 (Saka)

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